

Subject choices of students 2017

Subject choices of comprehensive school pupils

English the most studied language in comprehensive school

According to Statistics Finland, English was the most commonly studied foreign language in comprehensive schools in the autumn term 2017. Among students in grades 1 to 6, in all 71 per cent and of students in grades 7 to 9 almost all studied English. Eighteen per cent of students in grades 1 to 6 and 93 per cent of students in grades 7 to 9 studied Swedish as a foreign language.

Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2017

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Total	Share of pupils in grades 1-6 %	Share of pupils in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	245 541	16 206	60	.	261 807	71.1	.
	Swedish	3 311	12 454	51 019	.	66 784	18.1	.
	Finnish	18 215	1 203	2	.	19 420	5.3	.
	French	2 966	4 446	23	.	7 435	2.0	.
	German	3 212	11 336	77	.	14 625	4.0	.
	Russian	1 139	1 148	.	.	2 287	0.6	.
	Spanish	697	4 211	.	.	4 908	1.3	.
	Italian	0	0	.	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	5	237	.	.	242	0.1	.
	Other	399	123	0	.	522	0.1	.
Grades 7-9	English	163 490	12 978	193	82	176 743	.	99.5
	Swedish	1 533	12 036	150 789	6	164 364	.	92.5
	Finnish	9 044	1 156	208	2	10 410	.	5.9
	French	1 628	3 566	167	4 445	9 806	.	5.5
	German	1 691	7 452	264	9 422	18 829	.	10.6
	Russian	528	1 695	.	1 865	4 088	.	2.3
	Spanish	169	1 104	.	3 489	4 762	.	2.7
	Italian	30	0	.	108	138	.	0.1
	Sami	2	52	.	5	59	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	.	400	400	.	0.2
	Other	166	14	8	38	226	.	0.1

Nearly all pupils attending grades 7 to 9 studied both English and Swedish or Finnish either as mother tongue, or as a compulsory, optional or elective foreign language. German was studied by 11 per cent and French by 6 per cent of the pupils attending grades 7 to 9, mainly as an optional or elective foreign language.

A total of 368,027 pupils attended grades 1 to 6. 188,449 of the pupils were boys and 179,578 were girls. A total of 177,607 pupils attended grades 7 to 9. 91,049 of the pupils were boys and 86,558 were girls.

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Appendix table 1. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2017, boys

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Boys total	Share of boys in grades 1-6 %	Share of boys in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	125 693	7 795	34	.	133 522	70.9	.
	Swedish	1 558	5 692	26 400	.	33 650	17.9	.
	Finnish	9 314	586	1	.	9 901	5.3	.
	French	1 181	1 687	10	.	2 878	1.5	.
	German	1 472	5 416	29	.	6 917	3.7	.
	Russian	511	448	.	.	959	0.5	.
	Spanish	300	1 917	.	.	2 217	1.2	.
	Italian	0	0	.	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	2	101	.	.	103	0.1	.
	Other	178	68	0	.	246	0.1	.
Grades 7-9	English	84 150	6 223	94	43	90 510	.	99.4
	Swedish	671	5 235	78 156	1	84 063	.	92.3
	Finnish	4 600	556	98	1	5 255	.	5.8
	French	666	1 236	65	1 215	3 182	.	3.5
	German	773	3 283	134	3 804	7 994	.	8.8
	Russian	225	657	.	769	1 651	.	1.8
	Spanish	77	455	.	1 157	1 689	.	1.9
	Italian	30	0	.	29	59	.	0.1
	Sami	1	22	.	4	27	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	.	162	162	.	0.2
	Other	76	8	4	14	102	.	0.1

Appendix table 2. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2017, girls

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Girls total	Share of girls in grades 1-6 %	Share of girls in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	119 848	8 411	26	.	128 285	71.4	.
	Swedish	1 753	6 762	24 619	.	33 134	18.5	.
	Finnish	8 901	617	1	.	9 519	5.3	.
	French	1 785	2 759	13	.	4 557	2.5	.
	German	1 740	5 920	48	.	7 708	4.3	.
	Russian	628	700	.	.	1 328	0.7	.
	Spanish	397	2 294	.	.	2 691	1.5	.
	Italian	0	0	.	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	3	136	.	.	139	0.1	.
	Other	221	55	0	.	276	0.2	.

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Girls total	Share of girls in grades 1-6 %	Share of girls in grades 7-9 %
Grades 7-9	English	79 340	6 755	99	39	86 233	.	99.6
	Swedish	862	6 801	72 633	5	80 301	.	92.8
	Finnish	4 444	600	110	1	5 155	.	6.0
	French	962	2 330	102	3 230	6 624	.	7.7
	German	918	4 169	130	5 618	10 835	.	12.5
	Russian	303	1 038	.	1 096	2 437	.	2.8
	Spanish	92	649	.	2 332	3 073	.	3.6
	Italian	0	0	.	79	79	.	0.1
	Sami	1	30	.	1	32	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	.	238	238	.	0.3
	Other	90	6	4	24	124	.	0.1

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