

# A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO PASSING THE YKI TEST



| SAY HELLO TO YOUR  
| FINNISH CITIZENSHIP

Lidiia Salo  
Tareque Mahmud

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## **What is it and who is it for?**

The goal of this book is to give a step-by-step guide to preparing for the Finnish YKI (Yleinen Kielitutkinto, or National Certificate of Language Proficiency). By providing a framework for success, it's a perfect guide for anyone who's thinking of taking the test in the near future or who is already preparing for it.

The YKI test can seem overwhelming to many at first. You may be worried about all the information you need to process and where to start, but don't be – you're in the right place. This comprehensive guide ensures you have all the information ready at hand.

This book will allow you to focus on the language learning itself and not get lost spending hours trying to find the relevant information about how to prepare for the YKI test. Step-by-step we'll guide you, ensuring that your learning is going in the right direction to achieve the best results possible.

A few things to know:

- This is NOT a Finnish grammar book. You won't be tasked with completing complex grammar questions.
- It's a one-stop shop for all your questions related to how to prepare for the YKI test.
- This guide instructs you on what to study, how to study, and where you can find additional study materials with many links to resources online.
- Also, it includes many tips from Finnish teachers and from those who have experienced the test first-hand and who've achieved success.

**Every time you see the term 'YKI test' in this book, it refers to the YKI test in the Finnish language and for the intermediate levels (B1–B2 in CEFR).**

## **How to read this book?**

In this book, you'll come across many hyperlinks that can take you to various websites for additional information. Don't feel the need to click on everything though. First, focus on the main content to grasp the core ideas and concepts. In this way, you'll be less likely to get distracted.

All of the links have been compiled at the end of the book on a single page, making it easy to explore them at your own leisure. There you can easily jump to any of the pages directly.

The book is also available in Russian and Spanish, which you can find on the YKI Pass website.

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# STEP 1

Find motivation  
to pass the YKI test

# 01

In this chapter, you will discover why learning Finnish is important in the first place and what are the reasons for passing the YKI Test. You will also be able to assess whether you are ready for the different parts of the test.

## **1.1. Why learn Finnish, isn't speaking English enough?**

Are you living in Finland and wondering whether you should learn Finnish? It's a common question for many people in your situation. Of course, it depends a lot on your situation, work commitments, your friend groups or your sense of belonging in a place. Perhaps you are just tired of starting every conversation with "Do you speak English?" Let's explore some of the reasons learning Finnish may be beneficial to you.

- It can make you feel like you belong to Finland
- You can earn respect from Finnish people
- It gives you more confidence to handle everyday situations like arranging appointments
- It shows your respect for Finnish culture
- You may better integrate into Finnish society, better understand the culture, customs, jokes, and memes
- It can help a great deal when your children begin daycare or school by being able to communicate with teachers and other parents
- It can enable you to be accepted for many jobs
- It can help you with networking and job opportunities
- It provides the basis for applying for Finnish citizenship

So, while it's possible to get by without Finnish in certain situations, learning the language can open up many doors. Plus, you'll experience a greater sense of belonging and feel more at home.



## 1.2. What is a YKI test?

YKI stands for Yleinen Kielitutkinto [1], which, in English, is the “National Certificate of Language Proficiency”. It's a language testing system used by the Finnish government to evaluate your readiness to use various languages.

Similar to many exams you may already be familiar with, such as Cambridge PET, FCE, CAE and exams such as IELTS and TOEFL, it evaluates your skills in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

There are 3 levels: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced [2].

- The Basic level has a minimum grade of 1 and a maximum of 2, which is equivalent to A1 and A2 in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).
- Similarly, Intermediate level has a minimum grade of 3 and a maximum of 4, which is equivalent to B1 and B2 (CEFR).
- Finally, Advanced level has a minimum grade of 5 and a maximum of 6, equivalent to C1 and C2 (CEFR).

### 1.3. Why does passing the YKI test matter?

The YKI test is a common requirement for those who want to apply for Finnish citizenship. The test checks how well you know Finnish to make sure you can communicate effectively in everyday situations.



*It's not a grammatical test, but it's a test of using Finnish in everyday life.*

– Mari Kokkonen,  
Finnish language teacher.

Getting this certificate can increase your chances of finding work or getting a study place. For example, many universities require at least a B1 level of Finnish language proficiency. Nursing is one such example [3]. Moreover, some employers might ask for it as evidence of your language abilities, particularly when applying for jobs that require proficiency in Finnish.

It's important to note that the YKI never expires [4]. So once you pass it, you'll have a valuable credential that you can use for years to come. Plus, it's a great confidence boost to know that you've achieved a certain level of language proficiency in Finnish and you'll find that it motivates you further to keep learning.

## 1.4. When is your YKI test sufficient for a citizenship application?

Congratulations on deciding to apply for Finnish citizenship! Perhaps you've already lived in Finland for the required number of years, and now you just need to show that your language skills are good enough. Or, maybe you're currently preparing for the test and are curious to know whether your language skills are sufficient.

Despite there being many different ways to show evidence of your language level, the most common is to take the YKI test in Finnish at the intermediate level. You need to have at least grade 3 (B1) in the following combinations to be accepted for Finnish citizenship [5]:

- Speaking + Writing
- Listening + Writing
- Reading + Speaking

For example, you may get a grade 3 (B1) in both the Speaking and Writing parts, but you may have got a score lower than 3 in the Reading. Fear not, this will still be a valid submission. Another thing you may do is to combine two separate certificates to cover the above requirement. For example, you pass the Speaking only on the first attempt but pass the Writing on the second attempt. These can be combined to form a valid submission [6].

Bear in mind that you do need to take the whole test, including all four components, to get the certificate [4].

Another way to prove your language skills are sufficient for the citizenship application is if you have studied and completed your basic, upper secondary school, vocational school or university-level education in the Finnish language [5].

## 1.5. How do you know you are ready to take the YKI test?

There is no good or bad time to start preparing for the YKI test. Also, there is no one rule that fits all. It depends on individual needs, motivation, the time you have available, current life situation and other personal factors. Many start preparations early on in their language learning journey, while others take a longer step-by-step process to feel confident enough to pass the test.



*If you're one of these people who has been struggling with the Finnish language and have already been studying it a lot and you feel like you just don't have the confidence to take the test, I would say that you probably could pass the test if you really take it. You just need to practice the test samples.*

– Eesme, YKI Test-Taker.

Finnish language teacher Mari Kokkonen has written a blog post [7] that tells you how to work out if your YKI test knowledge is good enough to apply for Finnish citizenship. She gives real-life examples to show what it's like to get a grade 3 (B1) in different test combinations. These examples should help you see where you're at right now and what you need to do to get the required level.

### **Speaking + Writing (both grade 3)**

You can express how you are

You can guide someone about which bus to take to get to your house

You can write a message to your child's teacher

You can fill out a standard form

You know how to write an invitation to your Finnish friend

## Listening + Writing (both grade 3)

You understand what your neighbor is saying to you

You understand Selkouutiset or Easy News

You understand instructions when your supervisor tells you what to do at work

You know how to write a message to a neighbor or a colleague

You can write a review for a local store

You can write a complaint about bad service

## Reading + Speaking (both grade 3)

You can discuss any ailments or illnesses to a doctor

You know how to express your opinion

You understand the message from your housing cooperative

You understand what the teacher writes about your child

You can search for information on the internet in Finnish

You can send a package to your home country from a local post office

You can request a prescription renewal online

You can use online banking to check transactions

You can navigate your online banking in order to pay a bill

You understand what information to write in a form

You understand what is written in Selkouutiset or Easy News



*If you have used Finnish for some years and maybe you're not confident, try the test because, at the end of the day, you only need to get 30 to 50% of your answers right, and you can actually pass. You don't need to achieve 80 or 100%. So you might be good enough to pass, even if you don't think that you're good enough.*

– Vuong, YKI Test-Taker.

With these criteria you should have a better understanding of how to check your readiness for the YKI test. Nevertheless, don't feel discouraged if you don't qualify in all areas yet as this simply means that more practice is required. The YKI test is just a language test. If you practice it enough, you will pass. [Chapter 4.2](#), later on in the book, will provide links to many practice tests.

## STEP 2

Familiarize yourself  
with the YKI test

02

As previously mentioned, the test has four parts:

- Speaking
- Writing
- Listening
- Reading

You'll see different question types in each part. These include multiple-choice, true/false, and open-ended questions. Each part has a time limit, and the exam usually takes around 5 hours to complete [8]. Normally, the Speaking and Listening parts take place in the same room, a kind of language lab that has listening equipment, whereas the Writing and Reading parts may use a different room [8]. The recommended order for the parts of the test is reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Organizers are allowed to change the order if they have a good reason, but this is the recommended and most common sequence.



*Before every exam, it's important that you understand what the exam is about, what's being evaluated, and what the tasks are. Without that understanding, it's very difficult to know how to manage your time during the exam.*

– Eszter, YKI Test-Taker.



## 2.1. Speaking

The Speaking part lasts about 25 minutes, including preparation time [9].

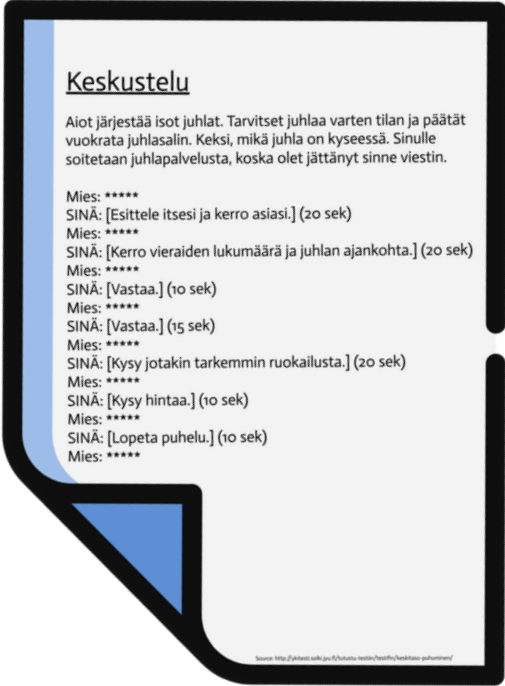
During the Speaking Test, you'll be in a classroom with other people taking the test. You'll sit in front of a computer or other recording device which is wired to headphones. You'll have a task book for instructions and task questions. Also, you'll listen to some instructions and questions in your headphones. When you speak, your answer will be recorded and later sent off to be graded.

**That means you don't have to answer questions in front of an examiner** like in other tests, for example, IELTS or TOEFL.



There are four different tasks, some require you to react to short questions in real-time while others ask you to speak about a topic for 1-2 minutes. The goal is to communicate effectively and naturally in situations that simulate real-life scenarios.

Here are some examples of the speaking test:

- **Kertominen:** Kertominen means telling about something. You might be asked to talk about an important person in your life and why the person is important to you. You'll have a minute to prepare and a minute and a half to speak. Remember to talk the whole time!
  - **Keskustelu:** Keskustelu means dialogue between two people. You might pretend to call a party service to rent a venue for a big party. You'll have a dialogue with a recorded voice, introducing yourself and asking about prices. Follow the guidelines in the task book to understand what's required.
- 
- Keskustelu
- Aiot järjestää isot juhlat. Tarvitset juhlaa varten tilan ja päätät vuokrata juhlasalin. Keksi, mikä juhla on kyseessä. Sinulle soitetaan juhlapalvelusta, koska olet jättänyt sinne viestin.
- Mies: \*\*\*\*\*  
SINÄ: [Esittle itsesi ja kerro asiasi.] (20 sek)  
Mies: \*\*\*\*\*  
SINÄ: [Kerro vieraiden lukumäärä ja juhlan ajankohta.] (20 sek)  
Mies: \*\*\*\*\*  
SINÄ: [Vastaa.] (10 sek)  
Mies: \*\*\*\*\*  
SINÄ: [Vastaa.] (15 sek)  
Mies: \*\*\*\*\*  
SINÄ: [Kysy jotakin tarkemmin ruokailusta.] (20 sek)  
Mies: \*\*\*\*\*  
SINÄ: [Kysy hintaa.] (10 sek)  
Mies: \*\*\*\*\*  
SINÄ: [Lopeta puhelu.] (10 sek)  
Mies: \*\*\*\*\*
- **Tilannetehtävät:** It means situational task. In this task, you will respond by speaking to several common life situations. For example, you are late to meet your friend, so you call your friend and tell, "you are late as well as the reason for being late." Usually, you have 30 seconds to listen to the prompt and read the instructions, after which you are expected to speak. The duration will be clearly mentioned in the task book, so you must carefully follow the instructions.
  - **Mielipide:** In the Mielipide task, you share your opinion about a certain topic. You can choose one topic from 2-3 options. One example question can be – do you think money is important in life, why or why not? There is no right or wrong answer for the Mielipide task. You just need to express your personal opinion about the topic within the given time. Usually, you have 1-2 minutes for preparation and 2 minutes to speak.



*Practice speaking quickly using a timer at home. You must answer the questions within 20 to 30 seconds, sometimes even just 15 seconds. So, practice getting things out quickly. I did this exercise with my Finnish partner. I would give him a list of questions and set the timer for 15–20 seconds. I would speak, and then I would ask him, "Did you understand what I said?" It wasn't about correcting every mistake; it was about being understood and keeping it within the time limit. I practiced this repeatedly without second-guessing myself.*

Anonymous YKI Test-Taker.

You won't have much time to think, so try to answer every question and speak as much as possible. **Don't worry too much about making mistakes; it's better to say anything at all rather than keeping silent.**

You won't lose marks for being wrong, as long as the examiner will understand the intention. Avoid giving extremely short answers, like answering just "yes" or "no" and remember to speak loudly and clearly.



*In the Speaking part, the recording says something like "Hey, how are you doing?" And then it's your turn to talk. I think what was hard about that was how it goes a lot faster than I was expecting. So I started talking very slowly, and then before I knew it, it's like, "Okay, next question." Then I realized, okay! I have to talk a little faster. So you have to manage your time effectively because it's hard to guess how much time you have left to give your response. You just have to get something out.*

– Eesme, YKI Test-Taker.

**During the test, other people may be speaking at the same time which could be distracting for some.** Be aware of this and practice speaking in similar noisy environments to prepare for this.

You can find official examples of the Speaking part here - [Speaking](#)

## 2.2. Writing

The writing test takes 55 minutes and you will be required to complete three to four exercises [9]. You will write two messages, one formal and one informal, and an essay where you share your opinion about a given topic.

The formal sections may include things such as applying for a job, making a complaint about service, giving feedback to someone or writing a report. The informal sections are more likely to include things like messages to friends or colleagues, or needing to invite someone to a party for instance. Pay particular attention to the question as the type of writing required will be mentioned. It will state letter, text message, email, application letter or invitation card.

When you're writing these texts, it's important to think about who you're addressing them to. The way you write will be different if you're writing to a friend or to an employer. Remember that all texts need to have a clear start and end. In informal messages, you can begin with a friendly greeting like "Moi (Hi)!" or use the person's name. But for more formal texts, it's best to end with "Terveisin (Best Regards)" followed by your full name.

The Opinion task is often considered one of the most important tasks in the writing section. It is also the longest section. It's vital to allocate your time accordingly. It's common for people to spend more time writing the first and second parts and later they find that they have little time available to write the Opinion task.

Unlike other tests such as the Cambridge Exams, you won't be using a computer but instead, writing with a pencil and paper. As you practice the writing parts, consider writing by hand, so you can get used to doing it this way.

Here are some examples of topics you might be asked to write about:

- **Informal:** Write an invitation letter to your friend for your birthday party. Ask your friend to bring a towel if they want to go to the sauna and ask if they have any food allergies.
- **Formal:** You want to fix your bathroom. Write an email to your building's property manager to ask permission.
- Share your **opinion** on one of these topics:
  - A. Is it better to take care of a small child at home or at a daycare
  - B. Do you think modern fashion is too vulgar?



*One of the writing tasks was to write a letter to a friend in another country or a colleague, thanking them for hosting you. You had to come up with the situation and describe the things you did during your visit and what you were thankful for. Another task involved writing to a health authority and complaining about the service I had received. And there was also a task where I had to write instructions for my colleague, who would be taking over from me at work.*

– Fiona, YKI Test-Taker.

By the way, all the questions will be asked in Finnish and **NOT** in English. So it's important to understand what is asked in the question for you to give the best answer possible.

You can find official examples of the Writing part here – [Writing](#)

## 2.3. Listening

The listening part takes 40 minutes and has about 7 tasks [9]. You'll listen to four different recordings, such as short dialogues, radio programs, commercials, and interviews. Remember, you'll hear each recording twice. You'll get some time to read the questions before you hear the recording.

You'll need to understand language spoken at normal or slightly-heightened pace. Make sure to answer all questions, even if you're unsure. Marks are not taken away for incorrect answers. Listen carefully to the instructions on the tape and in your answer booklet. Keep in mind that although the recordings focus on everyday situations, you may hear different dialects and slang words. Question types are usually true/false, multiple choice and open-ended questions.



*For the listening task where you need to write down the answers, that was very difficult for me. I didn't have enough time to put down all the notes, and by the time I had the chance, I'd forgotten what it was about. Practice taking notes while listening to get better at this.*

– Eszter, YKI Test-Taker.

You can find official examples of the Listening part here – [Listening](#)

## 2.4. Reading

The Reading part takes 60 minutes. In it, you'll read about six different texts and answer questions about them [9]. The types of texts you might encounter include letters, emails, adverts, newspaper articles, and stories. You'll answer multiple-choice questions, true-or-false questions as well as open-ended questions.

Practice exactly how much time you spend completing each task. Plan your timing carefully because if you spend too much time on one part, you might not have any time left to answer other parts. Try to answer all the questions even if you are not 100% sure.

You can find official examples of the Reading part here - [Reading](#)



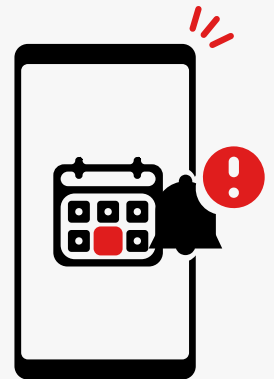
# 3 STEP

Secure your spot:  
how to register for  
the YKI test

# 03

YKI test registration can be a bit of a tricky process, but don't worry, just follow the simplified process below. The YKI test takes place around 6-7 times a year, depending on location. If your city doesn't organize the test, you'll need to travel to the nearest one that does. You can find out this information by clicking this [page](#).

When it comes to registering for the test, it's very important to plan in advance. If you plan to take the test soon, there is very good chance the next test date is already fully booked. Thus, if you're even a little bit mentally prepared to take the test, set a reminder in your phone for when the next registration opens up. You don't have to be fully prepared for the actual test before you register. It is a good technique to register early, so, it gives you the motivation that you need to start studying seriously.



It's important to note that there's a limit to how many people can take the test within a center, and this varies from place to place. In some, the limit can be as low as 8 people. Due to this, you need to register as soon as registration opens to secure your place. Registration opens at 10:00 on the registration date [10], so be ready with your laptop!

The registration process is quite simple. You can do it in English and it takes about 10 minutes to complete the form online. If you have Finnish online banking, the process is even easier as it automatically enters your personal information. But, if you don't have it, you just need to provide your email address and they'll send you a link to the application form.

Once you submit the form, you'll receive an email with a payment link. The fee for the intermediate level YKI test in 2024 is 176€ [11] and you have 8 days to make the payment online. Remember to do this within the given time as, if you miss this deadline, your registration will be automatically cancelled and another person from the waiting list will take your place. You can watch this [video](#) for a clear explanation of how to register for the test in Finnish.

If you miss the registration deadline altogether, you can apply to be on the waiting list in case someone cancels their registration or misses the payment. Another option is to check for available spots in a city close to you. You may have to travel but this con may outweigh the pro of not having to wait an extra few months.

# STEP 4

Get ready  
for the YKI test

# 04

In this chapter, you'll learn how and where to practice for the YKI Test, as well as how to specifically prepare for the Speaking, Writing, Listening, and Reading parts.

## 4.1. Where to practice the YKI test



*I would recommend that everyone take studying seriously. It's not about how many courses you do; it's about your mental preparation. With Finnish, if you don't have the willingness to learn, it's hard to get focused and maintain high levels of motivation. Stick to a schedule and a plan and try to fit things in when you can.*

– Vuong, YKI Test-Taker.

If you've done language tests before you'll know that there is an overall structure. The better you practice these structured answers, the more likely you'll be ready on the day. MOCK tests are a fantastic way to engage with the material and become accustomed to what is required. There are several platforms that provide samples of the tests which will be detailed below.

### 1. University of Jyväskylä

On this university site you can practice all four parts of the YKI test. They also provide some useful advice on what needs to be done before the test and during the test.

### 2. YKItreenit from YLE

YLE provides tasks for two parts of the YKI test. They have 20 Listening tasks and 61 Reading tasks for you to practice. You can also check how well you know Finnish words by taking vocabulary tests.

### **3. Menossa YKlin**

Here, you can test how well you know Finnish vocabulary and grammar, and whether it's enough to pass the YKI test.



*It seemed like the samples available online were harder than the actual YKI Test. So, if you can perform well on those, it's a good indication that you will do well on the test.*

- Eszter, YKI Test-Taker.

### **4. Kotisuomessa**

Kotisuomessa provides tasks similar to the ones you will have in the YKI test's Listening and Reading parts. They are divided into several topics: home and family, everyday life, shopping, healthcare, work-life, and so forth.

### **5. Osaan suomea**

This is a fantastic page where you practice all four parts of the test. You can also find video instructions on how to register for the exam.

### **6. YKI Harjoitus – YouTube channel**

Videos through this link include Speaking and Writing tasks. For the Listening part, there is a dialogue just like in the real test with the exact time pauses needed for you to answer the questions. In the Writing part, make sure to check out the sample answers to show you how to best do this part.

### **7. Suomikoulujen tuki**

Here you can take vocabulary tests as well as do parts of the Reading and Listening. The Listening part has 28 different subjects on offer, so plenty to get your teeth into.

## 8. YLE's learning pack:

YLE has a learning pack with listening and reading exercises at the B1 level. The exercises cover topics common in the YKI test. It includes real-life examples of audio and video, such as clips from radio or TV, making it fun and relatable. You get instant feedback on your answers, which makes it useful for tracking your progress.

Also, you may wish to follow different Facebook groups where others are sharing their experience after participating in the test. These are just a couple to get you started:

1. [YKI Pass: a supportive community of Finnish language learners](#)
2. [YKI Test Practice and Apply for Finnish Citizenship](#)
3. [Finnish YKI Test 2021](#)

## 4.2. Preparing for speaking



*If you are living in Finland, the whole world is your classroom.*

– Mari Nikonen,  
Finnish language teacher.

The speaking part of the YKI test expects you to be able to use Finnish in your daily life, things such as speaking in a supermarket, planning a party with Finnish friends, or visiting a doctor.

But how can you really begin to practice speaking in these ways, in preparation for the test? Maybe you're not living with Finnish speakers, or your partner is not Finnish. Let's look at some suggestions:

### 1. Everywhere

Yes, it's true. You can practice Finnish in cafes, supermarkets, with your friends or colleagues, or engage in small talk with strangers. However, if you live in a big city, people may switch to English when they hear your accent. If you politely ask to continue speaking in Finnish, most people will be happy to do so. It might feel embarrassing at first, but it'll help you remember new words and expressions faster.



*When I go to the pharmacy, for example, I just keep speaking Finnish, even though they know my Finnish is not perfect. Most of the time you'll find the Finns continue speaking Finnish to me and they don't switch to English.*

– Eesme, YKI Test-Taker.



Starting out, you may not sound so fluent, but that's perfectly okay. People will understand that you're making an effort. What matters most is your commitment to speak the language. That's the attitude you need to have to get started. Progress can seem slow when learning a new language, but keep at it and you'll see improvement.



*Speak Finnish as much as you can with everybody that you can, whether it's a two-minute conversation in a coffee shop or a chat with your colleague for 5 minutes during a break.*

– Fiona, YKI Test-Taker.

## **2. Language cafes**

Language cafes, or “kielikahvilat”, are a great way to get chatting. Many other foreigners visit these cafes. That’s why it's important to choose one where the facilitators play an active role. If you don't like the atmosphere in the first language cafe you try, don't give up. There are plenty of other options to choose from. Check the library nearest to your home, as there may already be a number of events already on offer. Click this [link](#) to see if your city has a language cafe (this website is only in Finnish and Swedish, so try to navigate it as best you can or try translating the page in your browser).

Another alternative is to check the Red Cross website in your city, as many of their offices organize language cafes too.

### 3. Hobbies

Starting a conversation in Finnish becomes easier when you engage with people who share similar interests. For instance, if you enjoy hiking, you can find opportunities to speak Finnish with fellow hikers. Other such examples include yoga classes, cooking classes and chess clubs. To discover hobbies in the region of Uusima, you can visit [ilmonet.fi](http://ilmonet.fi). They offer a wide range of courses in various subjects like art, handicraft, health, and music. You can also check your local municipality website to see what's happening.

### 4. Church

You can appreciate the peaceful and welcoming atmosphere that churches provide, even if you're not religious. Churches in Finland are often more modern compared to those in other countries and, of course, being religious is not a prerequisite. Check your nearest church and ask if there are language-learning opportunities, or if you can volunteer with the aim of meeting like-minded individuals.

### 5. Language Exchange

You can offer to teach your native language in exchange for practicing Finnish with native Finnish speakers. Several websites offer such services, for example [mylanguageexchange.com](http://mylanguageexchange.com). On this website, you can select the language you want to practice and the language you can offer in exchange. You can also choose the age range and the country of the people you want to talk to. There are many options available to find Finnish speakers.

Alternatively, the "[Each One Teach One](#)" program is run by the Center for Multilingual Academic Communication in Finland. In this program, students learn about each other's languages and cultures. Students meet regularly, usually once or twice a week, and can spend as much as 20 hours aiding each other in their language endeavors. They also assign homework, just to keep you that extra little bit busy.

## 6. Looking for a friend

You can also search for a friend online at [kaverihaku.net](https://kaverihaku.net). Here, you have the option to search for friends of various ages from all across Finland.

## 7. Brave idea

There's an older Finnish lady who goes to cafes, orders coffee, and places a small sign on her table that says in Finnish: "You can join me as a friend." Would you give it a go? You might make a new friend or, at the very least, practice the Finnish language with people from all walks of life.

Initially, speaking Finnish can seem challenging and mentally draining. It's completely normal for this to happen, but it will improve with time. If you start feeling overwhelmed, you can set time limits with your language partner. Ask them to speak Finnish for 15 minutes, and afterward, you can switch back to a language that you feel more comfortable with. This approach can help you manage the difficulty and gradually build your language skills.

### 4.3. Preparing for writing

Many test participants highlight that the Writing part of the YKI test was one of the most difficult, though it's the only part you can truly prepare for in advance. Done right, you can have around 70% all-figured-out and ready written down on the page. Let's see how you can go about it.

To begin with, any essay, email, informal letter, or any written text, has a structure. Usually, it starts with greetings (letters), or an introduction (essay), includes filling phrases and ends with some form of sign-off (letter) or conclusion (essay). All of these expressions can be memorized in advance.

Here is a list of sentence starters for you to consider, all written by Hanna Männikkölahti in her "Random Finnish Lesson" blog [12].

- Luin lehdestä, että... – I read in the newspaper that....
- Olen sitä mieltä, että... – I'm of that opinion that...
- Olen varma, että... – I'm sure that...
- Ajattelen, että... – I think that...
- Luulen, että... – I think that... (but I'm not sure!)
- Olen kuullut, että... – I've heard that...
- Olen lukenut, että... – I've read that...
- Olen huomannut, että... – I've noticed that...
- Olen kerran nähnyt, kuinka... – I've once seen how...
- Olen aina miettinyt, miksi... – I've always wondered why...
- On mahdollista, että... – It's possible that...
- Voin olla väärässä, mutta... – I may be wrong, but...
- Totta puhuen – Telling the truth...
- Rehellisesti sanottuna – Honestly said, ...



*I had the structure or spine of the essay and I found that I could adapt it to any topic. I also learned a lot of connecting words, such as 'because of this' and 'taking this into consideration.' Another thing that really helped me was using Finnish idioms.*

– Maria, YKI Test-Taker.

Following this, write and memorize three example texts: formal, informal, and an opinion piece. Write them down as many times as it takes for you to remember the texts with all the correct spellings, ä's and ö's. When you are given a YKI test task, try to use as many phrases as you can remember.

Suppose you memorized a text about your washing machine that broke down and, in the test, you got given a task to complain about a sauna in your home that was not reaching an adequate temperature. The structure will essentially be the same, and so much can be copied from memory – just remember not to talk about your washing machine!



*You should read a lot. Read to be able to write. It gives you a model of sentences. How words are used in a sentence.*

– Mari Kokkonen,  
Finnish language teacher.

Or, let's say you memorized an opinion piece about "Why driving a car is better than using public transport." Then you get a task asking, "Should we use trains rather than fly when we go on holiday?" It may seem like these two tasks are completely unrelated and have nothing in common. Be smart about it and you can reuse a lot of your memorized phrases.

In fact, a lot of the same arguments can apply, such as the environmental impact, and what would be a greener option etc. What more, the majority of your linkers will remain the same, phrases you use to give your opinion (I think...), contrast (however, on the other hand...) or reason (because, due to...).

Thirdly, use the words that you already have a strong grasp of, write short sentences, and use the vocabulary provided in the task on the day of the test. Don't be afraid of making mistakes; what's important is that the examiner understands your message. Grammar is not a priority in the YKI Writing part [13].



*At level 3, we are not aiming for perfection; there can be lots of mistakes. It's important that you make yourself understood. Your object doesn't always need to be in the right case for you to pass the YKI test.*

– Mari Kokkonen,  
Finnish language teacher.

Also, consider using the book "Kynä Käteen," which is mentioned in the Chapter [5.2](#). It covers grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure, and it's good for practicing writing.

To conclude, do not leave any of the tasks empty; write at least something, even if you are not sure it's correct. You will make it!

## 4.4. Preparing for listening

When it comes to improving your listening skills in Finnish, there are many possibilities. A general piece of advice is to explore topics that genuinely interest you and check what's available online. There are numerous videos and audios available on platforms such as YouTube, TED Talks, TikTok and also a huge amount of podcasts.

To get you started, here is a list of Finnish podcasts you might find useful:

### 1. Gimara podcasts

Gimara is a language learning platform that offers blogs, study materials and courses. Their podcasts cover various topics such as "Spoken Language on a Bus", "10 Important People," and "Work and Study." These podcasts are great, as they focus on a particular theme which can help when memorizing new vocabulary.

### 2. Finnishpod101

Finnishpod101 is a language learning platform that offers short, easy-to-digest audio lessons (Finnish with English translation), as well as vocabulary practice and assessments. You can listen to lessons from absolute beginner to advanced levels.

### 3. Opi Suomea Podcast

Opi suomea is a podcast and blog in easy Finnish. It's best suited for intermediate to advanced learners. The main topics include daily life, travel, language learning, and studying as well as many other interesting themes.

#### **4. Random Finnish Lessons**

This is a podcast by Hanna Männikkölahti, a Finnish teacher who also writes books in Easy Finnish (books aimed at language learners). In this podcast, Hanna talks about different topics, interviews people with interesting jobs and hobbies, and answers questions from listeners.

#### **5. Podcasts from YLE**

YLE Areena Podcast offers a variety of shows on news, culture, society, entertainment, and more. These podcasts are primarily created for Finnish speakers and are not specifically tailored for language learners. But, if you do feel brave, the reward is that you get to learn from real-life conversations.

You can also listen to [Yle Uutiset Selkosuomeksi](#), where you can watch and listen to daily news broadcasts in easy Finnish on Yle TV. This means you can stay up-to-date on what's happening in Finland and around the world while also improving your listening skills.

#### **6. Podcasts from Podtail**

Through Podtail, you can listen to the latest episodes of your favorite podcasts without the need for an app, directly through browser on your phone or laptop. You can find the top 100 most popular podcasts in Finland right now by following the link above.



## 4.5. Preparing for reading

While it is not as hard as some of the other parts of the exam, according to many who've taken the test, you still need to practice the Reading part in detail in order to find success. Let's take a look at how you might go about improving this skill.

### 1. Easy Finnish (Selkosuomi)

One helpful way to practice for the YKI test is to read something in easy Finnish or "Selkosuomi." This means the sentences and words are simplified, not like in say complicated legal documents. There's a dedicated chapter with links to all sources where you can find texts in Easy Finnish/Selkosuomi ([Chapter 5.3.](#))

### 2. [YLE YKItreenit](#)

YLE provides around 61 exercises for Reading practice. You can answer true and false questions after each reading passage to test your comprehension.

### 3. Harjoitus tekee mestarin 4 book

This book is designed for practicing YKI Reading and Writing. The first part of the book contains many reading comprehension texts with YKI standard questions. We would recommend searching online to find this book, or you may wish to check your local library.

### 4. [Suomikoulujen tuki](#)

Suomikoulujen tuki offers 23 exercises for reading comprehension, categorized into easy, moderate, and difficult levels. You can start with the easy exercises and gradually progress to the more challenging ones.

Remember, Reading regularly is not only important for the Reading part, but it's also vital for everything else as it is the main way to build vocabulary. As you read, highlight new words and think of systems to help you remember them like using flashcards (either digital or on paper). More will be discussed on vocabulary in the next chapter.

# STEP 5

Study additional materials

# 05

## 5.1. Work on vocabulary

When it comes to studying a new language, building a wide range of vocabulary is essential. This is because words are the building blocks for any language. Learning new words can be particularly challenging when it comes to the Finnish language, as it has Finno-Ugric origins with very few similarities shared with Latin-based languages.

Don't worry; there are many methods that can help you to improve your active vocabulary. Flashcards are a great starting place.

How do flashcards work? Well, it's pretty simple. If you want to do it yourself, grab a piece of card or paper and cut it into pieces about the size of a match box. Write the word you want to learn on one side of the card, and its definition on the other side and you're ready to go. Practice by reversing the card to see if you've guessed it correctly. Try adding the more difficult ones back to the top of your pile, or mid-deck, so you can practice them more than vocabulary which you found easier. Also, try to link your packs of flashcards by theme.



*What has helped me most is creating lists of new words. I write them down on my phone or in a notebook, grouping them into verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions. Especially when starting to learn a language, this method is very helpful. Even with just five verbs and five nouns, you can go a long way. You'd be surprised!*

– Fiona, YKI Test-Taker.

If you prefer a more tech-savvy approach, there are plenty of vocabulary-learning apps you can use. Some of the most common are listed below:

### **1. Anki:**

Anki is a flashcard app that allows you to create custom decks. Here's how it works: write in your vocabulary, review your daily words, and rate how easy or difficult they were to remember. You will then see the more difficult words sooner than the easier ones.

### **2. Memrise:**

Memrise is a flashcard app that uses a lot of unique features to enhance each flashcard and improve your Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing skills simultaneously.

### **3. Quizlet:**

With Quizlet, you can access a vast collection of user-generated flashcard sets or create your own.

### **4. Yle Kielikoulu:**

Here you can watch films, series, as well as news, and learn Finnish vocabulary. You can pause videos and translate words you don't know. By storing them in your learning diary on the platform you look them up again. Depending on the film/news/program you can even choose different difficulty levels. There's both a web version and an app available.

So, whether you prefer the traditional pen-and-paper method or want to explore the world of language-learning apps, flashcards are there to boost your learning potential.

Remember, practice makes perfect! Challenge yourself or ask a friend to test your knowledge using flashcards until you've mastered them. With consistent effort, you'll be amazed at how quickly you progress.

If you're seeking a shortcut, check ready-made [YKI flashcards](#) created by YKI Pass. They contain phrases hand-picked by Finnish language teachers that will help you pass the YKI Test.

## 5.2. Study these books to prepare for the YKI test

As well as the online links already mentioned, you may find a book the better option for you. Here are some suggestions:

**1. Kynä Käteen:** "Kynä käteen" is a good book for improving writing in Finnish. It provides clear explanations and exercises; it covers grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure. Whether you want to prepare for the YKI test or want to enhance your writing, this book is a must.

**2. Ykäänkö vai ykiinkö:** "Ykäänkö vai ykiinkö" is another excellent choice that helps you to prepare for the YKI Test. The book has speaking and writing exercises that are in a similar form to those used in the YKI Test.



*Ykäänkö vai ykiinkö is a very good practice book, made just for the YKI Test. It has speaking and writing parts.*

– Mari Kokkonen, Finnish language teacher.

**3. Suomen Mestari 3 & 4:** If you've already studied Suomen Mestari 1 & 2, you may wish to continue with books 3 & 4 to take your YKI test preparation to the next level. These books are designed specifically to help you reach B1-B2 levels of Finnish proficiency. The books cover grammar, vocabulary, and cultural insights and include practice materials.

**4. Harjoitus tekee mestarin 2-4:** The "Harjoitus tekee mestarin" book series 2-4 include language exercises and day-to-day situations and are designed for those who are preparing for the YKI Test. The fourth book, in particular, has many YKI standard Reading and Writing exercises.

**5. Samalla kartalla 1–3:** The “Samalla Kartalla” series consists of three books, with the first two books featuring reading texts that are useful for the YKI test preparation. These books are wonderful if you want to learn how to further express your thoughts in Finnish. There are plenty of dialogues and interviews that are suitable as reading exercises or can be used when working in pairs.

**6. YKIä Kohti:** “YKIä Kohti” is one of the few books currently available that is dedicated to preparing you for the YKI test in Finnish. The book has nine chapters. Each chapter covers common topics like home and living, culture, travel, and society. There are exercises for reading comprehension, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking. There are also tips for preparing for the test in the book.



### 5.3. Practice Finnish with Easy Finnish

When you first start reading and listening in Finnish, it can be pretty intimidating if you don't know many Finnish words. As always, don't panic, there's an easy way to get started. You can try using "Easy Finnish" or "selkosuomi." These study materials use simple words and sentences that are easy to understand.

One great source to practice reading and listening is [Yle Selkouutiset](#), also known as Easy News. You can read and listen to the news at the same time, which can improve two skills at once. They update the news every day, so there's always something new to read and listen to.

Another option is [Yle Uutiset Selkosuomeksi](#), where you can watch and listen to daily news broadcasts in easy Finnish on Yle TV. These are fantastic ways to stay up-to-date with what's going on in Finland and around the world.

You can also try [Selkosanomat](#). They have similar materials to Yle Selkouutiset, and they even have an interesting section called [Uutisia Kuvilla](#) where you can read news presented with images. You may find it helpful as you are less reliant on the dictionary each time you come across a new word.

To improve your vocabulary and reading skills for the YKI test, you may also wish to read storybooks in easy Finnish. Check out these [books](#) by Hanna Männikkölahti, the author of the [Random Finnish Lesson Blog](#). You can even join her [Easy Finnish Book Club](#) on Facebook.

You can also check your local library for books in easy Finnish (Selkokirjat). The library might have a dedicated section for these books. Alternatively, you can request a book in easy Finnish from your online library, or by visiting your local library.



Image: Sello library, Espoo

For listening practice, Easy Finnish is also used in many podcasts. We would recommend: [Selkouutisten Arkisto](#), [Random Finnish Lesson – A Podcast in Easy Finnish](#), and [Opi suomea! – Podcast](#). You'll find both new and older episodes that are both fun and educational.

## 5.4. Check out these courses for YKI test preparation

Depending on what type of learner you are you may wish to take a specially dedicated course. A big advantage is that you will be guided by a professional and you can ask questions anytime you need to. They will also make sure you are fully aware of the structure of the test, getting you ready for exam day! Below are some suggestions on how to find your perfect course:

### 1. Finnishcourses.fi

You can find YKI courses on the [Finnishcourses.fi](https://finnishcourses.fi) website, offered in Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Turku, Tampere, and Oulu. The website also has online courses, allowing you to participate from anywhere in the world.

### 2. Kansalaisopisto.fi

In Finland, the Kansalaisopisto or Adult Education Center offers classes in various subjects like languages, IT, arts and crafts, music, sports, cooking, and well-being. It's open to everyone, regardless of age or educational background. There are 175 of these centers spread out over the country. Click this [link](#) to see what's in your local area.



*I joined a course called Intensivinen YKI kurssi at the Helsingin Aikuisopisto. This course was only for three weeks but was super intensive. We only practiced for YKI. This course requires A 2.2 or B1 level Finnish but I think I was A 1.2 at that time. I thought, why not try! At least I can understand what the teacher says and I can express some of my own ideas. I passed the YKI test right after the course.*

– Vuong, YKI Test-Taker.

### 3. Opistopalvelut

You can also find YKI courses by searching for "your city name" + "opistopalvelut" on Google. Many cities advertise their YKI-related courses through [Opistopalvelut.fi](https://opistopalvelut.fi).

Try "[Helsinki+opistopalvelut+google](#)" or "[Kuopio+opistopalvelut+google](#)." Once you open the page, use the keyword "YKI" to find courses related to the test.

Some cities may offer YKI courses throughout the year, while others may arrange them once or twice a year. In either case, it's best to plan ahead to guarantee your spot.

## 5.5. Learn Finnish by watching movies and series

This is a fantastic and entertaining way to practice and can mean taking a hobby you already have and adapting it into an engaging learning experience. By watching Finnish movies or series you not only have access to a range of modern vocabulary, but you can also hear a number of different accents and even dialects.

Let's take a look at some options:

### 1. Pirjo

"Pirjo" is a comedy series available on Yle Areena. The episodes are very short (up to 5 minutes in length) and very amusing, showing the life of Pirjo, a middle-aged woman. In her case, simple life situations turn out to be weird, funny or even embarrassing.

### 2. Wingman

An awkward comedy about two guys, Juhis and Tommi, who find themselves in bizarre and odd situations. Daily life poses surprising challenges to this dynamic duo, as things often escalate leaving them with difficult choices to make. The episodes are 9 minutes long.

### 3. Modernit miehet

Translated as Modern Men, this is one of Yle's most popular comedy series! Characters Matti, Jarkko, Tuomas, and Pete struggle with the challenges of being Scandinavian men. At the end of the day, it's their friendship which binds them together.

### 4. Kimmo

Thirty-year-old Kimmo works hard but lacks direction in life. He ends up working as a telemarketer for a gossip magazine and meets the woman of his dreams, Ulla. The only problem is Ulla is married and a mother.

## 5. Aki Kaurismäki Movies

Aki Kaurismäki is a famous film director from Finland. His movies have a unique style, humor, and minimalistic aesthetic. He often tells stories about regular people facing tough situations in life. You should start by watching "The Man Without a Past." It's a touching movie about a man who loses his memory and starts a new life in Helsinki.



*If I were to start the YKI Preparation journey from the beginning, I would watch more TV.*

– Maria, YKI Test-Taker.

## 6. Moominvalley

The magical Moomin Valley animation series is one for the whole family. In the series, you go on adventures with characters in a world full of happiness, laughter and are witness to many exciting moments. The themes of the episodes also teach a lot about humanity, family and friendship.

## 7. Master Cheng

This is a 2019 Finnish Rom-Com. The story is about Cheng, a Chinese master cook who travels to the small village of Raattama in Kittilä, Lapland, with his son. Cheng's cooking brings significant changes to the lives of local people and helps cure various ailments.

## 8. Couch potatoes

Finally, 'Couch Potatoes' is a TV series on Yle TV2 based on the comments and reactions of TV viewers living in different parts of Finland. They discuss the previous week's programs. The program is filmed in 12–14 different home theaters, where families and groups of friends gather to watch TV and share their thoughts.



*Just by turning on Finnish TV, you can get a lot out of it. And if you see a movie that comes on TV and it's in English, there'll always be Finnish subtitles. So even if you follow along with the subtitles, you'll probably find that this really helps.*

– Eesme, YKI Test-Taker.

## **5.6. Follow Finnish language bloggers online**

A very modern way, and a way which is gaining popularity, is to check out some Finnish language bloggers and/or their YouTube channels.

### **1. Ask a Finnish teacher**

"Ask a Finnish Teacher" is a blog by Mari Nikonen where she answers many language-related questions that students put forward to her. For example, if you want to learn Finnish and don't know where to start or what kind you should use when taking the YKI test: puhekieli or kirjakieli, her blog covers this and many other questions.

### **2. Finnished YouTube Channel**

A good YouTuber to check out is one called Finnished. She speaks Finnish in her videos, which are usually between 3 to 10 minutes long. She's somewhat of a language guru herself and has implemented a language-learning system in her videos. She covers various topics like coffee, going to the sauna, Finnish weddings, and provides subtitles in both Finnish and English.

### **3. Random Finnish Lessons**

"Random Finnish Lessons" is a blog by Hanna Männikkölahti. It's easy to follow because she provides an English translation to her Finnish text. She covers several YKI test topics, such as easily-avoidable mistakes in the Speaking part. Also, she has written many books and has numerous podcasts available all in Easy Finnish.

### **4. Gimara YouTube Channel**

Gimara's Youtube channel has many videos dedicated to YKI test preparation including recorded live classes, free lessons and tips to succeed on the day.



## **5. A Finnish Language Blog**

"A Finnish Language Blog" does exactly what it says. There, you'll find idioms, funny content, and hopefully, a lot of learning materials. The blog is updated regularly but does not have specific YKI-related resources.

Maybe take a quick look at all of these, and then find the one that is most suitable.

## **6. YKI-treenit Youtube channel**

The YouTube channel has YKI test sample questions. At the end, the answers are given, which can be very useful, for example, to understand how to respond in the speaking test.

# 6 STEP

Follow important  
guidelines and avoid  
mistakes during the  
YKI test

06

The day of the exam has finally come! Let's hope you feel well-rested, prepared for what is ahead and that your head is full of useful Finnish phrases.

Let's look at a few practical things you might want to consider on the day itself.

## **1. Arrive on time**

It might sound obvious but please do give yourself plenty of time. If you're late, you will not be allowed to participate in the test. Some test centers can be quite disorganized, with many people and different groups, making it unclear where to go and what to do; for this reason it's best to arrive early, get yourself signed in, get accustomed to the new surroundings and calm your nerves.



*I was taken aback by the level of chaos during the test. Initially, it was unclear where we needed to go because there were multiple groups on different floors.*

– Anonymous YKI Test-Taker,



*The coordinators didn't always seem to be sure where we were going next. And of course, if they are unsure then the participants are unsure. Be prepared for a certain amount of disorganization, at least in my experience.*

– Fiona, YKI Test-Taker.

## 2. Bring official documentation

You will need to prove your identity on the day of the exam. Accepted documents include a passport, ID card with a photo (issued by an EU country), alien's passport, refugee travel document, or a Finnish Defense Forces ID card with photo [14].

To be on the safe side, a passport is always the best option. Please note that a driving license or residence permit are NOT considered official documents and cannot be used to verify the identity of the candidate.

Finally, check that your document has not expired. Expired documents will not be accepted.

## 3. Bring food and water

The test will take around 5–6 hours so consider stocking up on some food. Keep it simple: some nuts, pieces of fruit, maybe even some dark chocolate, which studies have showed can help improve attention, verbal learning and memory.

Bananas are a great option too. They contain vitamin B6, which promotes the production of valuable neurotransmitters [15].

Bring plenty of water and stay hydrated throughout.



*You don't have enough time to go out of the test center and buy a proper warm meal. So, if it's cold that day, you'll feel cold and hungry. So that would be my tip: bring something warm to drink.*

– Fiona,  
YKI Test-Taker.

#### 4. A pencil and an eraser

Usually, you will be provided with a pencil and an eraser at the test center [14].

However, consider bringing a pencil sharpener. The test center might have them as well, though it's worth playing it safe and bringing one along.



*One thing I wish I had had was a pencil sharpener.  
I needed to write a lot, and I had to sharpen my pencil  
multiple times.*

– Eszter,  
YKI Test-Taker.

#### 5. Digital devices

Basically, any device that has access to the internet or can be used to communicate with another person outside of the test room or take pictures is prohibited.

This includes phones, smart/analog watches, tablets, earphones, or any electronics of a similar nature. These devices will be taken away from you for the entirety of the test (including the breaks) and returned to you after the test is completed [14].

#### 6. Choose your center wisely

Just because the center is close to where you live, it doesn't mean it's necessarily the best option. Many who have taken the test have said that test centres vary greatly. Some are fairly calm, while others are more chaotic.

Read as much feedback from others about the test centres to get a good picture of the atmosphere you can expect.

## 7. Dress up warm

As you have likely noticed, Finland is cold, sometimes even in summer and very often indoors. Don't waste energy trying to keep yourself warm and shivering on the day of the test. Take enough warm clothing so you can feel comfortable and perform to the best of your abilities.



*I also remember it being really cold. I dressed up warm because I knew we would be sitting for many hours, but still, I was freezing inside. I would advise dressing in layers and bringing hot water or tea in a thermos.*

– Fiona,  
YKI Test-Taker.

## 8. Don't cheat

Cheating includes the use of any study materials during the test or bringing electronic devices into the test. You are also not allowed to speak to other participants during the test or look at their answer sheets. Also, do not try to copy or take exam materials with you.

If you cheat, attempt to cheat, or assist someone with cheating, you will be immediately disqualified, and you won't be allowed to take a test again in that language for the following 6 to 12 months [14].

## 9. Participate in all the parts

You should participate in all the parts of the YKI test to get the certificate. Just to be clear, if you only participate in the Listening and Speaking parts and then leave the building, you will fail the whole test and not receive the certificate [14].

## **10. Familiarize yourself with the answer sheets**

Familiarize yourself beforehand on how to fill out your personal details on the answer sheet. This could save you valuable time on the day of the exam. You can check the instructions given by the YKI authority [here](#).

# STEP 7

Wait for the result  
and get ready to  
celebrate

# 07



Congratulations! You did it! You finished the test and gave it your very best. Now it's time to rest and await the results.

If you have changed your address while waiting for the YKI test certificate, please inform the University of Jyväskylä as soon as possible by sending an email to [yki-info@jyu.fi](mailto:yki-info@jyu.fi) [4].

It'll take at least two months [4] for the test center to process your results and send you the certificate by mail to your home address. It'll include the results for all four parts of the YKI test, stating either 3 or 4 (passed) or "lower than 3", which would mean you have not passed on that occasion.



Yleiset  
kielitutkinnot

**TODISTUS**

**[Redacted Name]**

on osallistunut Yleisten kielitutkintojen  
suomen kielen keskitason tutkintoon

Suorituksen perusteella kielitaito on arvioitu osatiloittain seuraavasti:

PUHEEN YMMÄRTÄMINEN	3
PUHUMINEN	3
TEKSTIN YMMÄRTÄMINEN	3
KIRJOITTAMINEN	3

Tutkinnon kunkin osatilan hyväksytystä suorituksesta voi saada tasoarvion 3 tai 4. Arviointi perustuu kuuteen taitotasoon, jotka on kuvattu todistuksen kääntöpuolella ja jotka vastaavat Eurooppalaisen viitekehksen (EVK) taitotasoasteikkoa.

Tutkinnon järjestäjä:  
Helsingin aikulopisto

**[Redacted Name]**  
johtaja



Tämä tutkinto perustuu yleisistä kielitutkinnoista annettuun lakiin 964/2004 sekä asetuksiin 1163/2004 ja 1109/2011.

Remember, you can take the test as many times as you wish until you succeed. In case you need to retake the exam, there's no need to wait. You can simply book the next date which is available to you.



*It's also important to remember that the YKI test is just a language test. Even if you don't pass, what's the worst that can happen? Nothing much at all. You can always take the next test.*

*One of my students attempted the test 16 times before succeeding on the 17th attempt. Don't lose hope.*

– Mari Kokkonen,  
Finnish language teacher.

If you wish to appeal your results, you can do so, but only within the first 14 days after receiving the certification. The appeal process is a paid service unfortunately, meaning you are required to pay 50 euros per part of the exam, or 200 euros if you want all four parts remarked. If it shows that the examiners were the ones to make a mistake and your mark goes up, you'll receive a refund for the appeal fee.

Remember, even when you get your long-awaited results, it doesn't have to be the end. Language learning can be a long and wonderful process which can continue for decades. You should see it simply as another successfully climbed step on the language ladder as you make your way to the very top!



*If you are living in Finland, you're missing out on so much if you don't speak the language. You can have a much deeper and more rewarding life by speaking Finnish. However, the language itself isn't an unattainable goal; it's something you can enjoy. Speaking, reading, and learning new words can be rewarding and enjoyable. Find what inspires you to learn Finnish and keep at it.*

– Mari Kokkonen,  
Finnish language teacher.

## Thank you for reading this book

The English version of the ebook is free to download for everyone. Also, you can find the translation of the ebook in **Russian** and **Spanish** on our [www.ykipass.fi](http://www.ykipass.fi).

To learn more about YKI Test tips and tricks, visit our [website](http://www.ykipass.fi). If you wish to share your opinion or provide feedback regarding the book, please write to us at [contact@ykipass.fi](mailto:contact@ykipass.fi).

## List of links mentioned in this book

### Step 2: Familiarize yourself with the YKI test

#### 2.1. Speaking

[Official examples of the speaking part of the YKI test](#)

#### 2.2. Writing

[Official examples of the writing part of the YKI test](#)

#### 2.3. Listening

[Official examples of the listening part of the YKI test](#)

#### 2.4. Reading

[Official examples of the reading part of the YKI test](#)

### Step 3: Secure your Spot: how to register for the YKI test

[Search for information on the location and schedule of the YKI test](#)  
[Step-by-step process of the YKI test registration in Finnish](#)

### Step 4: Get ready for the YKI test

#### 4.1. Where to practice the YKI test

[University of Jyväskylä](#)

[YKItreenit from YLE](#)

[Menossa YKlin](#)

[Kotisuomessa](#)

[Osaan suomea](#)

[YKI Harjoitus YouTube channel](#)

[Suomikoulujen tuki](#)

[YLE's learning pack](#)

YKI test communities to follow on Facebook

[YKI Pass: a supportive community of Finnish language learners](#)

[YKI test practice and apply for Finnish citizenship](#)

[Finnish YKI test 2021](#)

#### 4.2. Preparing for speaking

[Check if your city has a Language Cafe](#)

[Look for hobbies](#)

[Language exchange: \[mylanguageexchange.com\]\(https://mylanguageexchange.com\)](#)

[Each One Teach One language exchange in Finland](#)

[Looking for a friend online in Finland](#)

#### 4.4. Prepare for listening

[Gimara podcasts](#)

[Finnishpod101](#)

[Opi Suomea podcast](#)

[Random finnish lessons](#)

[Podcasts from YLE](#)

[Podcasts from Podtail](#)

#### 4.5. Prepare for reading

[YLE YKItreenit](#)

[Suomikoulujen tuki](#)

### **Step 5: Study additional materials**

#### 5.1 Work on vocabulary

Flashcard apps

[Anki](#)

[Memrise](#)

[Quizlet](#)  
[Yle Kielikoulu](#)

Ready-made flashcards online

[YKI flashcards](#)

### 5.3. Practice Finnish with Easy Finnish

[Yle Selkouutiset](#)  
[Yle Uutiset Selkosuomeksi](#)  
[Selkosanomat](#)  
[Uutisia Kuvilla](#)  
[Books in Easy Finnish](#)  
[An Easy Finnish book club](#)

### 5.4. Check out these courses for YKI test preparation

[Finnishcourses.fi](#)  
[Kansalaisopisto.fi](#)  
Opistopalvelut: [Helsinki+opistopalvelut+google](#)" or  
"[Kuopio+opistopalvelut+google](#)."

### 5.5. Learn Finnish by watching movies and series

[Pirjo](#)  
[Wingman](#)  
[Modernit miehet](#)  
[Kimmo](#)  
[Aki Kaurismäki Movies](#)  
[Moominvalley](#)  
[Master Cheng](#)  
[Couch Potatoes](#)

## 5.6. Follow Finnish language bloggers online

[Ask a Finnish teacher](#)

[Finnished youtube channel](#)

[Random finnish lesson](#)

[Gimara youtube channel](#)

[A Finnish language blog](#)

[YKI-treenit Youtube channel](#)

## **Step 6: Follow important guidelines and avoid mistakes during the test**

[The YKI test official answer sheet](#)

## Sources

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## About the authors



**Tareque Mahmud** is a co-founder of YKI Pass. He is a serial entrepreneur. Originally from Bangladesh, he moved to Finland in 2009 to study at Saimaa University of Applied Sciences to study International Business. He served in the Finnish army for a year, managing all the conversations in Finnish, and he passed the YKI Test on his first attempt. In his spare time, he enjoys talking to friends about learning the Finnish language and entrepreneurship.

Email: [tareque@ykipass.fi](mailto:tareque@ykipass.fi)

**Lidiia Salo** is a co-founder and CEO of YKI Pass. As a foreigner in Finland, she studied Finnish for 5–7 hours a day for a year. Now, she feels like she belongs, even in a room with 15 people speaking Finnish. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, Tibetan meditation, and talking to her Finnish mother-in-law, Salme. She successfully passed the YKI Test on her first attempt after living in Finland for a year.



Email: [lidiia@ykipass.fi](mailto:lidiia@ykipass.fi)

**END OF THE BOOK**