

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #1 Welcome to Finland!

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INTRODUCTION

Gina:Hi everyone, Gina here! Welcome to FinnishPod101.com! This is Absolute Beginner Season 1, Lesson 1 - Welcome to Finland!

Paula:Hei! I'm Paula!.

Gina:In this lesson, you'll learn about how to greet someone and introduce yourself in Finnish.

Paula:The conversation takes place at the airport. We have a young Australian exchange student who has just arrived in Finland. The mother of her host family is meeting her at the airport.

Gina:They have never met before, so they will be speaking standard Finnish.

Paula:Okay. Let's listen to the conversation!

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Gina:So, Helen came to Finland as an exchange student. What do you think happened between her and Liisa besides what we heard? Did they shake hands, hug each other, kiss each other on the cheek, or what?

Paula:They probably just shook hands. That's the norm between people who don't know each other well in Finland.

Gina:No kissing on the cheeks?

Paula:No, Finns don't do that. Even hugging is mainly restricted to relatives and close friends, especially girls.

Gina:What about boys and men?

Paula:Well, they usually stick to handshakes among themselves, but they may hug women who are close to them. Friends usually don't shake hands, though.

Gina:Hmm. Let me see if I can pull this together. If you don't know the other person,

shake hands unless you're both young. If at least one of you is a woman and you are close friends, you may also hug one another.

Paula: Exactly. It's also good to keep in mind that apart from formal situations, where you do need to shake hands, it's often perfectly acceptable to keep your distance and just greet the other person. You can also let the other person go first and follow their lead.

Gina: Okay, good to know. Let's get to the vocabulary now.

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Gina: Let's have a closer look at the usage for some of the words and phrases from this lesson.

Paula: This time we'll only be looking at the phrase 'Hyvää päivää'.

Gina: Literally, that's "good day" in English, and it's the standard daytime greeting.

Paula: That's right. It has the words 'hyvä', or "good", and 'päivä', or "day". As you may have noticed, it's not 'hyvä päivä' but 'hyvää päivää'. The last vowel in both words is long. That's because the words take a certain case ending, but we'll look at that more closely in later lessons. For now, just learn this as a set phrase.

Gina: When would you use this greeting?

Paula: Well, you can use it for most of the day, maybe from 11 in the morning or noon until about 6 or 7 pm.

Gina: And what would you say in the morning?

Paula: 'Hyvää huomenta', which is literally "good morning". You can say 'Hyvää huomenta' up until noon.

Gina: What about in the evening, then?

Paula: In the evening, you would say 'Hyvää iltaa'. 'Ilta' is "evening" in English. When you're going to bed, you say 'Hyvää yötä'. Again, 'yö' is "night" in English. 'Hyvää yötä' is not strictly speaking a greeting, though, because you don't say it when you meet

people, only when you are going to bed or taking your leave late at night.

Gina: In the dialogue, Helen omitted the first word. Is that common?

Paula: Yes, it's very common to say just 'Päivää', 'Huomenta', or 'Iltaa'. With 'Hyvää yötä', though, you often say 'Öitä' rather than 'Yötä'. 'Öitä' is the plural form of 'yötä'.

Gina: Is there a difference in politeness?

Paula: Well, maybe a small difference, but nothing you should worry about, really.

Gina: OK, sounds simple enough. Let's go to the grammar.

GRAMMAR POINT

Paula: In this lesson, you'll learn about the phrase *Minä olen A*, which is literally "I am A". First, we have the pronoun *minä*, or "I". Then we have the first person singular form of the verb "to be" - *olen*. Last, we replace the A with our name or something else we want to say about ourselves.

Gina: How was this phrase used in the dialogue?

Paula: Both Helen and Liisa used it to tell the other person their name. So they said 'Minä olen Helen' and 'Minä olen Liisa'.

Gina: OK. So how would you introduce yourself?

Paula: 'Minä olen B'. I just put my name after 'Minä olen'.

Gina: That's simple enough. What else can you put in place of A?

Paula: Well, you could have your profession there.

Gina: So how would you say "I am a teacher"?

Paula: *Minä olen opettaja*.

Gina: Anything else you can have there?

Paula: You can also have an adjective there that describes your state, such as “happy”, sad, surprised, hungry, and so on.

Gina: I see. How would you say “I’m happy.”?

Paula: Minä olen iloinen.

Gina: Why don’t we have a little quiz for our listeners?

Paula: Sounds like a great idea.

Gina: OK, listeners! I’ll say a sentence in English, and you should try and say it in Finnish using this pattern. Say it out loud, because it’s very important to get into the habit of saying things in Finnish as early as possible.

Paula: We’ll give you a few seconds before I give you the correct answer.

Gina: OK, let’s go! First sentence - “I am Jukka”.

Paula: Minä olen Jukka.

Gina: Here comes the second sentence - “I am a doctor”.

Paula: Here’s a hint for you - “doctor” is ‘lääkäri’ in Finnish.

Paula: Minä olen lääkäri.

Gina: One more sentence - “I am hungry”.

Paula: A hint - “hungry” is ‘nälkäinen’ in Finnish.

Paula: Minä olen nälkäinen.

Gina: Well, how did you do? Did you get them all right?

Paula: I hope you did. Just remember the pattern ‘Minä olen A’, and you’ll be able to introduce yourself and say many more things about yourself.

OUTRO

Gina: That's it for this lesson. Next time we'll learn to talk about other people, so stay tuned. In the meantime, make sure to check the lesson notes.

Paula: Thanks for listening! Hei hei!