

# Subject choices of students 2016

## Subject choices of comprehensive school pupils

---

### Majority of comprehensive school pupils study English

**Corrected on 28 June 2017.** The corrections are indicated in red.

According to Statistics Finland, English was the most commonly studied foreign language on grades 1 to 6 of comprehensive school in the autumn semester of 2016. Seventy-one per cent of the pupils attending grades 1 to 6 studied English either as a compulsory or optional foreign language. The percentages of pupils studying other foreign languages remained at 18 per cent or below.

## Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2016

Corrected on 28 June 2017. The corrected numbers are indicated in red.

|            |                  | 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          | 240 669                | 15 646               | 48                     | .                    | 256 363 | 70,5                            | .                               |
|            | Swedish          | 3 265                  | 13 268               | 50 209                 | .                    | 66 742  | 18,4                            | .                               |
|            | Finnish          | 17 401                 | 1 112                | 12                     | .                    | 18 525  | 5,1                             | .                               |
|            | French           | 2 949                  | 4 641                | 17                     | .                    | 7 607   | 2,1                             | .                               |
|            | German           | 2 951                  | 11 198               | 18                     | .                    | 14 167  | 3,9                             | .                               |
|            | Russian          | 1 080                  | 1 588                | .                      | .                    | 2 668   | 0,7                             | .                               |
|            | Spanish          | 576                    | 2 627                | .                      | .                    | 3 203   | 0,9                             | .                               |
|            | Italian          | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | .                    | 0       | 0,0                             | .                               |
|            | Sami             | 5                      | 238                  | .                      | .                    | 243     | 0,1                             | .                               |
|            | Other            | 429                    | 78                   | .                      | .                    | 507     | 0,1                             | .                               |
| Grades 7-9 | English          | 161 051                | 12 969               | 161                    | 27                   | 174 208 | .                               | 99,4                            |
|            | Swedish          | 1 556                  | 10 971               | 149 401                | 17                   | 161 945 | .                               | 92,4                            |
|            | Finnish          | 9 027                  | 1 025                | 200                    | 63                   | 10 315  | .                               | 5,9                             |
|            | French           | 1 442                  | 3 683                | 146                    | 4 763                | 10 034  | .                               | 5,7                             |
|            | German           | 1 589                  | 7 696                | 279                    | 9 292                | 18 856  | .                               | 10,8                            |
|            | Russian          | 532                    | 1 467                | .                      | 2 193                | 4 192   | .                               | 2,4                             |
|            | Spanish          | 117                    | 1 050                | .                      | 3 155                | 4 322   | .                               | 2,5                             |
|            | Italian          | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | 114                  | 114     | .                               | 0,1                             |
|            | Sami             | 0                      | 47                   | .                      | 9                    | 56      | .                               | 0,0                             |
|            | Latin            | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | 390                  | 390     | .                               | 0,2                             |
|            | Other            | 137                    | 14                   | 38                     | 35                   | 224     | .                               | 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 363,450 pupils attended grades 1 to 6. 186,108 of the pupils were boys and 177,342 were girls. A total of 175,330 pupils attended grades 7 to 9. 89,634 of the pupils were boys and 85,696 were girls.

Data on the language choices of students studying comprehensive education elsewhere than at comprehensive schools (2,556) are published in the database table of these statistics.

# Contents

## Tables

### **Appendix tables**

Appendix table 1. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2016, boys (Corrected on 28 June 2017)...4

Appendix table 2. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2016, girls (Corrected on 28 June 2017)...4

# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2016, boys (Corrected on 28 June 2017)**

**Corrected on 28 June 2017.** The corrected numbers are indicated in red.

|            |                  | 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          | 123 477                | 7 716                | 19                     | .                    | 131 212    | 70,5                          | .                             |
|            | Swedish          | 1 607                  | 6 069                | 26 172                 | .                    | 33 848     | 18,2                          | .                             |
|            | Finnish          | 8 936                  | 530                  | 9                      | .                    | 9 475      | 5,1                           | .                             |
|            | French           | 1 157                  | 1 726                | 6                      | .                    | 2 889      | 1,6                           | .                             |
|            | German           | 1 368                  | 5 350                | 7                      | .                    | 6 725      | 3,6                           | .                             |
|            | Russian          | 460                    | 642                  | .                      | .                    | 1 102      | 0,6                           | .                             |
|            | Spanish          | 252                    | 1 153                | .                      | .                    | 1 405      | 0,8                           | .                             |
|            | Italian          | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | .                    | 0          | 0,0                           | .                             |
|            | Sami             | 1                      | 105                  | .                      | .                    | 106        | 0,1                           | .                             |
|            | Other            | 196                    | 37                   | .                      | .                    | 233        | 0,1                           | .                             |
| Grades 7-9 | English          | 82 742                 | 6 190                | 73                     | 9                    | 89 014     | .                             | 99,3                          |
|            | Swedish          | 679                    | 4 741                | 77 235                 | 9                    | 82 664     | .                             | 92,2                          |
|            | Finnish          | 4 527                  | 532                  | 90                     | 30                   | 5 179      | .                             | 5,8                           |
|            | French           | 558                    | 1 267                | 53                     | 1 340                | 3 218      | .                             | 3,6                           |
|            | German           | 702                    | 3 471                | 151                    | 3 862                | 8 186      | .                             | 9,1                           |
|            | Russian          | 226                    | 595                  | .                      | 856                  | 1 677      | .                             | 1,9                           |
|            | Spanish          | 53                     | 404                  | .                      | 1 060                | 1 517      | .                             | 1,7                           |
|            | Italian          | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | 38                   | 38         | .                             | 0,0                           |
|            | Sami             | 0                      | 13                   | .                      | 4                    | 17         | .                             | 0,0                           |
|            | Latin            | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | 162                  | 162        | .                             | 0,2                           |
|            | Other            | 62                     | 7                    | 15                     | 8                    | 92         | .                             | 0,1                           |

**Appendix table 2. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2016, girls (Corrected on 28 June 2017)**

**Corrected on 28 June 2017.** The corrected numbers are indicated in red.

|            |                  | 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          | 117 192                | 7 930                | 29                     | .                    | 125 151     | 70,6                           | .                              |
|            | Swedish          | 1 658                  | 7 199                | 24 037                 | .                    | 32 894      | 18,5                           | .                              |
|            | Finnish          | 8 465                  | 582                  | 3                      | .                    | 9 050       | 5,1                            | .                              |
|            | French           | 1 792                  | 2 915                | 11                     | .                    | 4 718       | 2,7                            | .                              |
|            | German           | 1 583                  | 5 848                | 11                     | .                    | 7 442       | 4,2                            | .                              |
|            | Russian          | 620                    | 946                  | .                      | .                    | 1 566       | 0,9                            | .                              |
|            | Spanish          | 324                    | 1 474                | .                      | .                    | 1 798       | 1,0                            | .                              |
|            | Italian          | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | .                    | 0           | 0,0                            | .                              |
|            | Sami             | 4                      | 133                  | .                      | .                    | 137         | 0,1                            | .                              |
|            | Other            | 233                    | 41                   | .                      | .                    | 274         | 0,2                            | .                              |

**Corrected on 28 June 2017.** The corrected numbers are indicated in red.

|            |         | 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 | 78 309                 | 6 779                | 88                     | 18                   | 85 194      | .                              | 99,4                           |
|            | Swedish | 877                    | 6 230                | 72 166                 | 8                    | 79 281      | .                              | 92,5                           |
|            | Finnish | 4 500                  | 493                  | 110                    | 33                   | 5 136       | .                              | 6,0                            |
|            | French  | 884                    | 2 416                | 93                     | 3 423                | 6 816       | .                              | 8,0                            |
|            | German  | 887                    | 4 225                | 128                    | 5 430                | 10 670      | .                              | 12,5                           |
|            | Russian | 306                    | 872                  | .                      | 1 337                | 2 515       | .                              | 2,9                            |
|            | Spanish | 64                     | 646                  | .                      | 2 095                | 2 805       | .                              | 3,3                            |
|            | Italian | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | 76                   | 76          | .                              | 0,1                            |
|            | Sami    | 0                      | 34                   | .                      | 5                    | 39          | .                              | 0,0                            |
|            | Latin   | 0                      | 0                    | .                      | 228                  | 228         | .                              | 0,3                            |
|            | Other   | 75                     | 7                    | 23                     | 27                   | 132         | .                              | 0,2                            |

## Inquiries

Vesa Hämäläinen           029 551 2594  
Director in charge:  
Jari Tarkoma

koulutustilastot@stat.fi  
www.stat.fi  
Source: Education. Statistics Finland