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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 1: How to Say "Thank You!" in Finnish Kiitos.

LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination may be, manners are a must! And in this respect, Finland is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be teaching you a simple phrase that is bound to come in handy throughout your trip to Finland. We can't stress this enough, a little a bit of language can go a long way!

In Finnish, "Thank you" is kiitos. Kiitos. Let's break it down by syllable: kii-tos. You can emphasize kiitos by adding paljon, which literally means, "a lot." You could say kiitos paljon, which would be equivalent to "Thanks a lot," a more polite expression than just kiitos. Again: Kiitos paljon. Let's break it down by syllable: Kii-tos pal-jon. Now let's see it once again: Kiitos paljon.

In Finnish, there are other ways to express one's gratitude but they are all variations using kiitos, which is a noun, and the adverb paljon, which can make the construction more polite to mean, "Thank you very much."

There will be occasions where you will really want to show your appreciation and politeness. During occasions such as these, you can use the adverb paljon and kiitoksia, which is a plural and partitive case of the noun kiitos. So, "Many thanks" in Finnish is Paljon kiitoksia. Let's break it down by syllable: Pal-jon kii-tok-si-a. Now let's see it one more time: Paljon kiitoksia. The first word paljon ("a lot") is used to make the phrase more polite. This is followed by kiitoksia, which literally means something like "thanks." Now let's hear it one more time: paljon kiitoksia.

PHRASES

Finnish	English
Kiitos paljon.	Thanks a lot.
Paljon kiitoksia.	Many thanks.

VOCABULARY

Finnish	English
kiitos	thank you
kiitoksia	thank you
paljon	a lot

QUICK TIP

By far, kiitos is the most common way to say "Thank you." Use the more polite version kiitos paljon sparingly, in very special situations like when you have been helped a lot by somebody. Remember, when in doubt, keeping it simple is always your safest bet. You don't have to worry about formal or informal situations; kiitos can be used with just about anyone, anywhere, and anytime. You say kiitos when the waiter brings your food or drinks, when the clerk in the hotel takes your luggage to your room, and when somebody welcomes you or congratulates you. No matter his/her profession or age, kiitos will always be an appropriate response.

QUICK TIP 2

If you are around friends, you might hear shorter versions of kiitos, like kiitti. This means "thanks," or "cheers." It is mostly used among young people and is very informal. If you know the people well enough, feel free to throw one of these in—your knowledge of informal Finnish will surely be appreciated.