Latin

Cross-curricular – Languages
Latin … in Finland!

INSIDE INFORMATION

- Finland is in Scandinavia. It's next to Sweden, Russia and Norway.
- The capital is Helsinki.
- Finland is a big country but only 5.3 million people live there.

1 Read the text and choose the best title for it.

1 School children in Finland want more Latin 2 The news in Latin 3 Latin isn't a dead language

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In Finland they speak Finnish and a few people speak Swedish. But another language is popular there too, and that language is Latin.

Here's an example of Latin's popularity. A Finnish university professor called Tuomo Pekkanen has a radio programme where he reads the news every day … in Latin. The title of the programme is *Nuntii Latini*. There are only one or two programmes like this in the world. 75,000 people listen to it, for example on the Internet. The programme receives letters from listeners in about 50 countries.

When he is making his news programme there are sometimes words which are difficult for Pekkanen to translate because, as you probably know, the Romans didn't have television, computers, emails or lasers, for example. But Pekkanen says that he can talk about any story on the news by inventing a few new Latin words if necessary.

And Professor Pekkanen doesn't just translate the news into Latin. He also translates the words for songs. And he isn't the only one. Dr Jukka Ammondt, another university professor, loves Latin and he loves the king of rock and roll, Elvis Presley. So what does he do? He sings Elvis in Latin. 'The legend of Elvis Presley lives forever, and it is of course very important to sing Elvis Presley's songs in the Latin language because Latin is the eternal language,' he says. So songs like *I can't help falling in love* become *Non adamare non possum*.

Elvis Presley

There is an important tradition of studying Latin in Finland. There was a Latin congress there recently and people had no problem talking in Latin. Nowadays English is the language which people all over the world use to communicate. But before English it was Latin. Tuomo Pekkanen says that around 15 million people in Europe speak or understand Latin. That's not bad for a 'dead' language.

WORD BOOSTER

Match the words and definitions.

1	legend	a	big meeting of experts
2	eternal	b	with no end
3	congress	c	at the present time
4	nowadays	d	very famous person

2 Read the text again and complete the sentences.

1 Tuomo Pekkanen is a professor who reads .....
.....

2 Jukka Ammondt is a professor who sings .....
.....

3 Finland is a place where there is .....
.....

4 Latin is a language which around .....
.....

3 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

1 There are many programmes like *Nuntii Latini* in the world.
.....

2 It can be difficult to translate the news because there are not always Latin words for modern things. .....

3 Jukka Ammondt thinks there is a logical connection between Latin and Elvis Presley. .....

4 Today Latin has the same function as English. .....

4 What about *you*?

1 Do you, or did you, study Latin? Do/Did you like it?
.....
.....

2 Do you think it's a good idea to study Latin? Why/Why not?
.....
.....