

Reading

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

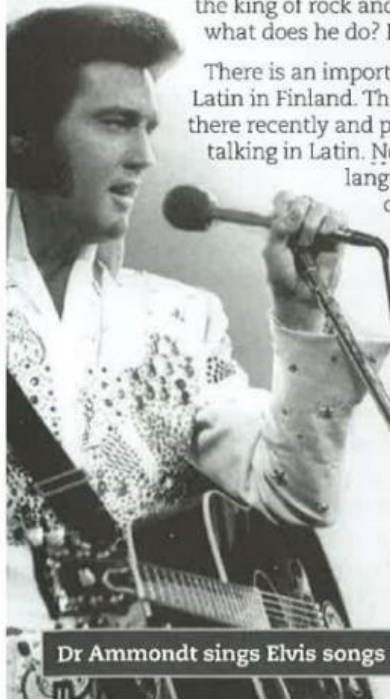
- a** School children in Finland want more Latin
- b** The news in Latin
- c** Latin isn't a dead language

What language do people speak in Finland? Finnish? That's true, but some people there also speak Swedish. And there is another language that people speak in Finland which is a little more unusual – it's Latin! In some countries students can learn Latin at school, but it's quite rare for people to speak or listen to this language. They usually write it or translate it. However, in Finland it's a bit different. They can hear it on the radio!

A retired Finnish university professor called Tuomo Pekkanen started the radio programme where his wife, Virpi, reads the news every day on the national radio station ... in Latin. The title of the programme is Nuntii Latini and it gives information about five or six short news items before the main news is read in Finnish. Professor Pekkanen started this in 1989 because he believes that understanding Latin is an important part of everyone's education. There are only one or two programmes like this in the world, but the Internet is making them available to lots and lots of people around the world. Thousands and thousands of people listen online and the programme receives a lot of letters from people 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 any modern technology like television, computers, emails or lasers. But Pekkanen says that he can talk about many stories on the news by inventing a few new Latin words if necessary.

But 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 Ammond, another former university professor, loves Latin, too and he loves the king of rock and roll, Elvis Presley. So what does he do? He sings Elvis in Latin!



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 believes that around 15 million people in Europe speak or understand Latin today. That's not bad for a 'dead' language.

Dr Ammond sings Elvis songs in Latin.

2 Read the article again. Are the sentences True (T), False (F) or is the information Not Mentioned (NM) in the text?

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1 Some people in Finland speak more than two languages. | T/F/NM |
| 2 Students can get quite a lot of practice speaking Latin. | T/F/NM |
| 3 Tuomo Pekkanen's main job was presenting the news. | T/F/NM |
| 4 The news broadcast in Latin is on television. | T/F/NM |
| 5 Pekkanen's wife started reading the news in Latin over 20 years ago. | T/F/NM |
| 6 Many countries want to copy Pekkanen's idea. | T/F/NM |
| 7 Some words related to modern technology are difficult to translate. | T/F/NM |
| 8 Pekkanen sometimes makes up words for the news programmes. | T/F/NM |
| 9 Dr Jukka Ammondts worked at the same university as Tuomo Pekkanen. | T/F/NM |
| 10 Ammondts is not an Elvis fan, but many Latin speakers are. | T/F/NM |

4 Match the words (1–6) with the definitions (a–f).

- | | | | |
|--|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1 former | _____ | 4 nowadays | _____ |
| 2 items | _____ | 5 available | _____ |
| 3 congress | _____ | 6 rare | _____ |
| a unusual | | | |
| b at the present time | | | |
| c about something someone did in the past | | | |
| d news stories, pieces of something or objects | | | |
| e big meeting of experts | | | |
| f everybody can use it | | | |

5 Complete the sentences with the words from 4.

- Many scientists attended the _____.
- These birds are very _____ in the UK.
- There were five _____ in my shopping bag.
- Everything is more expensive _____.
- Bill Clinton is a _____ US president
- Information is _____ for free on the Internet.