I <3 Finland

I have now lived in Finland nearly a year as an exchange student and Finland has become almost a second home to me. My host family feels like a second family. This is a wonderful country, but I feel Finland hasn’t properly been marketed around the globe yet. I find this surprising as in my view Finns are otherwise well-educated, well informed and knowledgeable. Still, it’s true that Finns are generally known to be quiet and like to keep a low profile wherever they go. I personally think this rings true to some extent, but once you get to talking to them at a get-together, for instance, you will soon realize that Finns have a great sense of humour and sarcasm, too. So, why keep this country such a secret? There are a quite a few upsides to living here after all.

**// Question 1**

For one thing, Finland boasts one of the best living standards in the world. Finns are very pragmatic and the simplest of issues are taken care of, which is not always the case, even in many developed countries. For example, it is very easy to clean windows in Finland as most windows open inwards. In some developed countries many window-cleaning companies earn their livelihood simply because windows open outwards and people are too afraid to lean out of their windows if they happen to live on the 14th floor, for instance! And you’ll always get hot water, no matter when you feel like taking a shower! **// Question** **2**

Secondly, Finland is a country with high moral values and honesty. As an example of honesty, I could mention a recent test where Helsinki residents returned 11 of the 12 wallets that were purposely dropped. Can you believe those statistics? I mean, almost every single wallet found its way back to its rightful owner! Being law-abiding is even taken to extremes in some issues in my opinion at least. I couldn’t believe it when I saw for the first time that people in Finland don’t cross the street on a red light even when there are no vehicles in sight, not within a 300-meter radius! Now I ask you, why on earth? Who do they think is going to run them over? The invisible man?! **// Question 3**

However, not everything is rosy in Finland. First and foremost the biggest thing to give you pause is the language. There are many jokes about the difficulties in coming to terms with the Finnish language like: "Which is the most heavenly language? Finnish, because it’ll take an eternity to learn!" The second important issue would have to be the weather. I mean, honestly, winter takes almost half a year and it can be +7 degrees at Midsummer! Also, social life in Finland, or more precisely the lack of it, is what makes it a very challenging place to live. Even the people living in the same apartment building hardly talk to each other and young people move away from their childhood homes as soon as possible. Unlike in most countries, you will find most of the university students, for instance, living in student apartments despite the fact that their parents' beautiful house is located nearby. But all this having been said, I’d say living in Finland is wonderful and I’m so happy my exchange student year experience took me to this remote corner of the world! **//** **Questions 4 and 5**

5 x 2 = 10 pistettä

**Choose the correct alternative according to the text.**

1. How does the author describe Finns?

A. You might get the wrong impression when you first meet them.

B. They have the know-how to market their country.

C. Finns have a great sense of humour but don’t let it show.

2. What does being pragmatic mean?

A. Even a simple thing may develop into an issue.

B. Everyday matters are taken care of.

C. There’s always a good supply of hot water for various purposes.

3. What’s said about Finns being law-abiding?

A. Sometimes foreigners tend to exaggerate how honest Finns are.

B. Finns like to uphold the law no matter what.

C. All lost items will be returned to their rightful owners eventually.

4. What’s said about the Finnish language?

A. It sounds simply heavenly.

B. If you take a pause from your busy schedule, you’ll learn it, sooner or later.

C. It’s a tough nut to crack.

5. What’s social life like in Finland?

A. The cold weather makes it challenging.

B. Young people tend to leave home early to have a better social life.

C. You might find yourself with not much of a social life.

**Fill in the gaps based on the prompts given in Finnish.**

**Valentine's Day**

1. What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you love me?

2. Why \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you happy?

3. Look, Jules and Mimi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in the garden!

4. Timothy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Sarah for years now.

5. I thought I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you they are a couple.

6. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ together forever.

7. When \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

8. John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Love City Radio in the US Virgin Islands.

9. Mum blew me a kiss, but I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_it.

10. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_tango for two hours when Jose proposed to me.

1. saa

2. suudelma ei tee

3. ovat suutelemassa

4. on ollut rakastunut

5. olin kertonut

6. pysyvät

7. heidän vauvansa on syntynyt

8. työskentelee

9. en saanut kiinni

10. olimme olleet tanssimassa

\_\_\_/10p

**Fill in the sentences based on the prompts in Finnish.**

**I love Finland (1)**

1. I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Finland if didn’t live here already.

2. If I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to Finland, I suppose I would have to learn some Finnish, too.

3. As soon as our flight\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we’ll notice how quiet everything is.

4. We\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for the cold weather before we come here.

5. Tom\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ black sausage if he had known what it was made of.

1. muuttaisin

2. muuttaisin

3. laskeutuu

4. täytyy valmistautua

5 ei olisi ostanut

\_\_\_/5p

**Fill in the gaps based on the prompts given in Finnish.**

**Rules, rules, rules**

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the rules of all the games that you play? What **2.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,if you 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a game with strange rules? If somebody **4.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you to find ten pieces of the same fruit as quickly as possible, **5.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to the forest or the nearest shop right away? Three men 6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they **7.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all the rules but they   
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that there was one, final rule after you 9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the fruit to the game master. What 10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in your view?

1. Tiedätkö

2. tapahtuisi

3. pelaisit

4. olisi pyytänyt

5. olisitko juossut

6. ajattelivat

7. tiesivät

8. eivät tienneet

9. olet tuonut

10. voisi sääntö olla

Choose the best alternative.

**The centuries of Olympic Games**

Olympic Games are events that attract global **1.** **addition / attention / adaption** year after year thanks to their unique atmosphere and good **2.** **individuality / spirit / show** among the athletes. Millions of **3. ordinary / original / everyday** children **4. look up / look up to / look into** the athletes, such as Usain Bolt, and dream of becoming just as successful as them. People are following the twists and turns in the process of electing host cities **5. also / as well / as well as** athletes trying their best to achieve results good enough to grant them the right to **6. fight / compete / competition** at the Olympics. However, few people know about all the fascinating facts behind the concept. Here is some interesting trivia that might just surprise you. The Olympic Games are such a huge global event that we all should know a bit more about them, **7. shouldn't it / aren't we / shouldn't we**?

Most people know that the Olympic Games were first celebrated more than **8. thousands / a thousand / thousand** years ago in ancient Greece and that people aren't **9. knowing / don't know / know** much about the absolute facts behind them. Interestingly enough, the original Olympics **10. were not only / are not only / have not only** been an athletics event, but they also included religious ceremonies in honor of the Greek god Zeus. If you are a modern-day sports fan, it **11. may be / would be / would have been** difficult to imagine something like that. The place ended up being Olympia which was known as a sanctuary of Zeus. As we can guess, the name for the Games originated there. Officially, the first modern-day Olympic Games **12. had taken / took / are taking** place in Athens **13. in 1896 / in the 1896 / in year 1896** and were solely dedicated to sports. Two years earlier, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a Frenchman, had got the idea to revive the ancient tradition and founded the IOU (International Olympic Committee).

It probably comes as no surprise that the Greeks were almost **14. informative / inclusive / invincible** at the very first Olympics of 1896 as they **15. were dominating / dominated / had dominated** by winning a whopping 47 medals. Meanwhile, the United States has won more medals at Summer Olympics than any other country, and Norway has succeeded best in the Winter Games.

Pierre de Coubertin has **16. had a huge effect / had hugely affected / hugely affected** on the concept of the Olympic Games as he was responsible for creating the Olympic flag, the motto Citius, Altius, Fortius ("Faster, Higher, Stronger"), and the oath which all athletes taking part will recite during the opening ceremonies, among other things. What **17. would / wouldn’t / will** the Olympics be like if it wasn’t for Mr de Coubertin? The five rings on the Olympic flag symbolize the five major world regions – Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania – which include the countries attending the Games. In addition, **18. it that / the fact that / the sense that** the rings are interconnected, is a symbol of the friendship and honest sportsmanship that the Games stand for.

During the Olympic Games, **19. are there / there is / there are** many traditions that honor the Greek origins of the Games. If Greece **20. hasn’t / hadn’t been / wouldn’t be** the inventor of the Olympics centuries ago, all countries would have marched to the stadium in alphabetical order all these years. The practice is, however, that the Greek team always leads the rest of the national teams into the opening ceremony. **21. When it comes to / What comes to / Speaking** the stadiums, you probably didn't know that the word stadium dates back to the first Olympics where the only sport was stade, an ancient footrace. Therefore, the place where they ran the stade got the name stadium.

Do you ever exercise at the gym? Well, you might be surprised to hear that the gym, originally the gymnasium, is another place whose name goes way back to the ancient Olympics. Men

**22. used to / got used to / were used** to compete in the nude, and the Greek word for naked being gymnos, produced the term gymnasium which stands for "a school for naked sports". **23. Would you have / Would have you / You would have** guessed it?

Marathon **24. has been always / has always been / have always been** one of the most appreciated sports at the Olympic Games. The length of the race was justan estimated **25. rip / distance / run** until the 1908 Olympics in London. **26. As long as we know / As many as we know / As far as we know**, the Queen wanted the royal children to be able to witness the start of the race at the Windsor Castle. As it happens, is was exactly 42,195 meters from the Windsor Castle to the Olympic Stadium. Some years later, it **27. become / becoming / became** the standard.

How much of this **28. did you already know / you already knew / have you already known**? Well, now you know quite a bunch. Surely, you are now going to impress a few friends next time you're playing a quiz game, **29. don’t you / aren’t you / won’t you**? The **30. existence / exclusion / excitement** around the Olympics never gets old. Let's stand up for the values the Games represent!