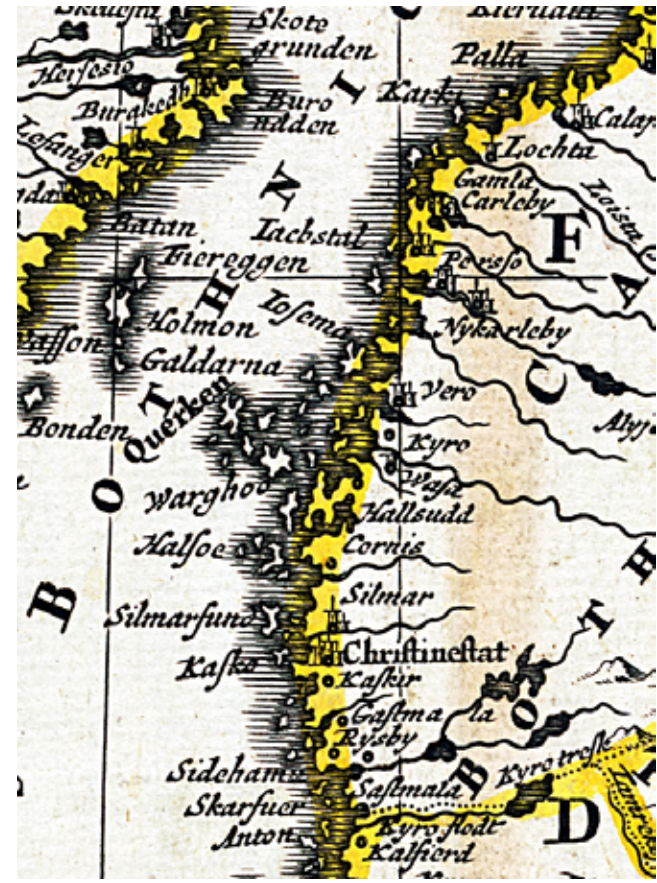


LIFE EXPECTANCY

People live longest in Ostrobothnia – life expectancy reaches record levels



Finns are living longer than ever before – and the longest life expectancy is in Ostroboth-nia. According to recent figures from

Statistics Finland, the life expectancy of newborn boys in 2024 was 79.6 years and that of girls 84.8 years, which is the highest result in the his-

RENTS

Rents are rising in Vaasa, Seinäjoki, and Rovaniemi – elsewhere, rents continue to fall



The rental market is experiencing exceptional changes: while rents in the capital region are falling more sharply, they are rising rapidly in Ostrobothnia and Lapland. According to Statistics Finland's latest rent statistics, rents for privately financed apartments rose by an average of only 0.1 percent nationwide from a year ago – but there are significant regional differences.

Rents rose the most in Rovaniemi (+2.0 percent), Vaasa (+1.2 percent), and Seinäjoki and Mikkeli (+1.1 percent). At the same time, rents in the capital region fell by 0.5 percent, and the decline is accelerating.

"The last time records were broken was when we saw rents falling for the first time. Now they are being broken again in terms of the rate of decline," says Eemeli Karlsson, economist at Suomen Vuokranantajat (Finnish Landlords). According to him, the overproduction of state-subsidized rental apartments has put pressure on the market in the capital region.

Studio apartments are becoming most expensive in the cities of Ostrobothnia. In Kokkola, rents for studio apartments rose by 1.8 percent, and in Vaasa and Seinäjoki by 1.3 percent. Rovaniemi continues to lead the way in two- and three-room apartments, where prices rose by more than two percent.

At the same time, tenants in the capital region are seeing some relief: the largest decreases were seen in Vantaa (-1.3%), Porvoo and Hyvinkää (-1.1%) and Espoo-Kauniainen (-0.6%).

According to Karlsson, the difference between the regions reflects a structural problem: "No new housing projects have been launched in Rovaniemi and Vaasa. There is certainly enough appeal, but if there is no supply, prices will inevitably rise."

The housing market therefore seems to be experiencing a reversal of reality: prices are falling in the south, but rents continue to rise in the north and west – with no end in sight. Source: Finnish Landlords



tory of measurements. While the national average was 81.6 years, Ostrobothnia topped the list with 83.1 years. Only the Åland Islands achieved a higher life expectancy, at 83.7 years. In Ostrobothnia, the life expectancy for boys was 80.9 years and for girls 85.5 years – almost five years more than in Kainuu, for example, where men lived to an average of 77.2 years. According to Statistics Finland, the life expectancy of Finns has increased in all age groups, but the development is particularly noticeable among those aged 65 and over. In 2024, the life expectancy of 65-year-old men was 18.8 years and that of women 22.2 years, both of which were record highs. There are many reasons for this increase in life expectancy, including better healthcare, healthier lifestyles, and earlier treatment of diseases. Ostrobothnia stands out in particular thanks to its active lifestyle, sense of community, and healthy eating habits. The gender gap in life expectancy has narrowed significantly in recent decades. At the end of the 1970s, women lived on average nine years longer than men, but by 2024 the gap was only 5.1 years. Although Finland as a whole is celebrating record figures, regional differences remain. Life expectancy is shortest in Kainuu and Lapland, while Ostrobothnia and Åland seem to be leading the way to a longer life. Above all, increased life expectancy tells us one thing: Finns are doing better than before. And at least for now, the secret to a long life can be found in Ostrobothnia – perhaps also in choir singing, good sourdough bread, and a cheerful attitude towards life. Source: Statistics Finland Image: Map from the beginning of the 18th century

Image of the Week:



Oiva Nuojua and Sonja Halla-aho, soon to be 100 years old, as actors in the city theater's play Forever Young.

WELFARE SECTORS

“Unsustainable chaos in welfare sectors” – Adlercreutz and Andersson call for urgent amendments to the Funding Act

The Funding Act for welfare sectors has driven Finland's social and health care system into crisis – and urgent corrective measures are now needed. The chair of the Swedish People's Party and Minister of Education, Anders Adlercreutz, and the chair of the parliamentary group, Otto Andersson, warn that the current funding model threatens to destroy services and the right to good care. The impetus for this is a ruling by the Eastern Finland Administrative Court that the budget for the South Karelia welfare region is unlawful. The decision reveals the weaknesses of the entire system. "We are in a situation where accounting law is overriding people's fundamental rights. This is unsustainable. The government must act immediately and correct the mistakes," Andersson says emphatically. According to Minister Adlercreutz, the law forces welfare regions into an impossible choice: either



make drastic cuts to services or break the law by drawing up a deficit budget. "Both options are equally dangerous. If services collapse, citizens' fundamental rights will be threatened." "Ghost diagnoses distort the entire system" Adlercreutz and Andersson also call for a reform of the funding model. The current system rewards regions based on the number of diagnoses – a practice that, according to them, encourages "diagnosis farming." "Currently, the regions that make the most diagnoses are rewarded, not those that provide the best care. This is both unfair and dangerous," says Andersson. The RKP leadership is calling for a model based on actual care needs, not statistical manipulation. "If the system is not fixed quickly, there is a risk that the entire welfare area model will lose its credibility," Adlercreutz warns. Political pressure is mounting, and the future of welfare areas is now seriously at stake. Source: SFP Image: Chairman Anders Adlercreutz

WASA DAILY

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Vaasa City Theatre:

Ikuisesti nuori (Forever Young)

Climate change

New illegal dangerous drug

Eemu Myntti

DeepL - the best free translator

WASA DAILY

UNIVERSITY

University of Vaasa: Climate change is already creeping into everyday life – researcher: "Coffee and chocolate

Adapting to climate change is no longer a concern for the future – it is happening today. A recent doctoral dissertation from the University of Vaasa reveals that Finns have conflicting attitudes toward adaptation, and this may slow down society's preparedness for



the consequences of climate change. Researcher Annu Perälä's dissertation shows that talking about adapting to climate change evokes a variety of emotions – disbelief, fear, and even irritation. "Adaptation is not just about technical preparedness for floods and storms, but also about mental resilience. We must prepare for the fact that winters will change and that coffee or chocolate may become expensive luxury items in the future," says Perälä. For many Finns, the idea of adaptation still seems distant, even though the change is already visible in everyday life. Heavy rains and urban flooding are becoming more common, and the storm resistance of homes is becoming a new topic of discussion. Yet some people do not feel that climate risks are relevant to them, while others fear that talking about adaptation will distract attention from the most important issue – reducing emissions. According to Perälä, however, these two issues are not contradictory, but rather "two sides of the same coin." "Change is already underway, and we cannot completely stop it. That is why we must do both: cut emissions and adapt to the consequences." The media receives both praise and criticism in the study. Although Finnish news outlets are covering adaptation more and more often, the topic is still considered difficult to approach and too abstract. Perälä points out that adaptation affects everyone—cities, businesses, organizations, and individuals. "If we don't talk openly about the issue, society's ability to prepare for the future will be weakened. And then the cost of change will increase—for all of us."

DRUGS

Customs: One tablet – risk of death: Customs warns of new killer opioid



A batch of drugs seized in Helsinki has turned out to be a frightening surprise: tests carried out by the Customs Laboratory revealed that the tablets, which were sold as oxymorphone, contained protodesnitazene – an extremely dangerous and powerful synthetic opioid. The substance has not been detected in Europe before. Customs warns: protodesnitazene belongs to the nitazene group, and these compounds are many times stronger than traditional opioid drugs. By comparison, the effect can be hundreds of times stronger than heroin, and the doses used are in the microgram range. A small overdose can cause respiratory arrest – and be life-threatening. "Even one protodesnitazene tablet can lead to the death of the user. The buyer can never know what they are getting," says Hannu Sinkkonen, Director of Customs Enforcement. Customs is not currently aware of any deaths caused by the substance in Finland, but the risk is clear and present. The warning applies to both street sales and online sales: the tablets may be sold as oxycodone or oxymorphone – names that mislead the buyer. Customs emphasizes that users cannot safely assess the contents of the product. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that protodesnatine has not yet been classified as a narcotic. This legal loophole makes it difficult to destroy the substance and take swift action. Customs is calling for urgent legislative changes so that dangerous but as yet unclassified compounds can be removed from the market more effectively. Customs urges everyone to avoid suspicious tablets and reminds them that if a deal sounds too cheap or too easy, the price could be human life. Source: Tulli.fi

TODAY EDITORIAL

The Budapest Memorandum (1994) and the Budapest Meeting (2025)



When the leaders of the world gather in Budapest in 2025, they will do so in a city that carries the weight of history — not least because of an agreement signed there more than three decades ago: the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances of 1994. That document, often cited but too often forgotten, stands today as both a promise broken and a warning ignored.

In 1994, Ukraine, newly independent after the collapse of the Soviet Union, possessed the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal — larger than those of China, France, or the United Kingdom. But in the hope of building a peaceful post-Cold War order, Kyiv agreed to give up those weapons and transfer them to Russia for dismantling. In return, Ukraine received written security assurances from three powers: Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. These assurances, enshrined in the Budapest Memorandum, guaranteed Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and existing borders. Above all, the signatories pledged to refrain from the threat or use of force against Ukraine.

The text was clear. Russia, then led by President Boris Yeltsin, committed to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and to refrain from economic coercion or military pressure. The U.S. and the U.K. provided parallel commitments and promised to bring any violation before the United Nations Security Council. Ukraine, in good faith, dismantled its nuclear weapons by 1996, joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state.

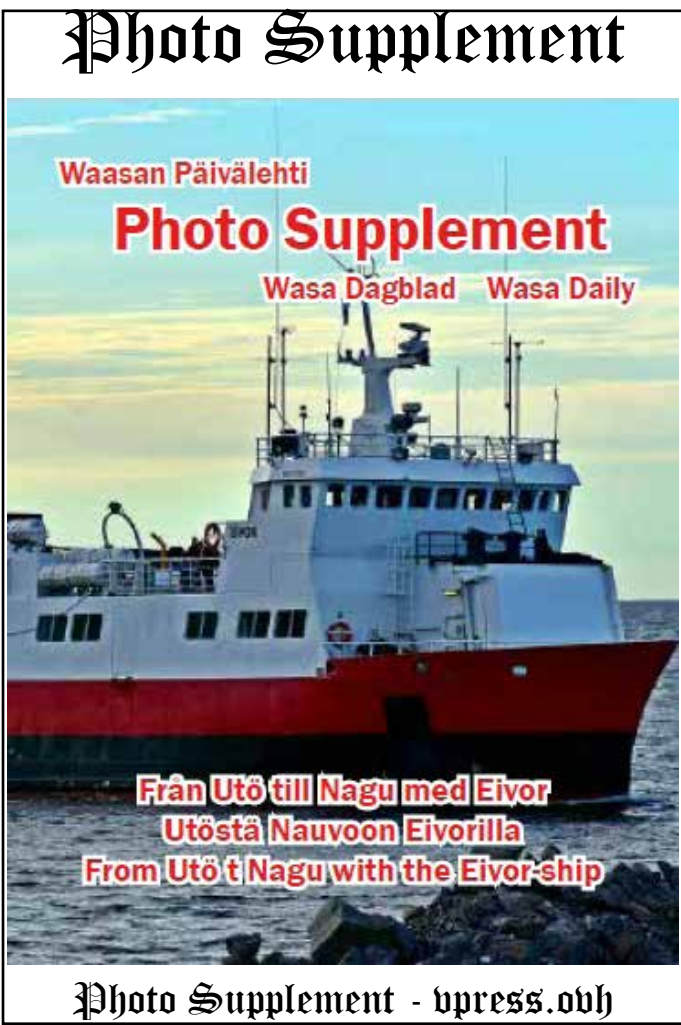
What followed is now one of the most tragic reversals in modern diplomacy. In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, violating every line of the memorandum. Eight years later, in February 2022, Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine — shattering the very foundations of trust upon which the 1994 agreement rested. The world witnessed not only the death of a treaty, but also a profound erosion of the belief that international law and good faith commitments can restrain aggression.

As leaders meet again in Budapest in 2025, the symbolism is inescapable. This city, once a stage for hope, now hosts discussions under the shadow of betrayal. It is essential that those present — and especially those addressing Russia — recall that the current Kremlin leader presides over the direct negation of an agreement signed by his predecessor.

The Budapest Memorandum is not a footnote in diplomatic history; it is a mirror reflecting the cost of broken promises. It should be placed firmly on the table in every conversation with Moscow. For if international commitments can be discarded without consequence, what meaning do signatures, borders, or peace treaties have?

The Budapest Meeting of 2025 must not become another exercise in empty words. It must remind the world that agreements only matter if those who break them are held to account. Otherwise, the lesson of 1994 will not be one of peace — but of naïveté.

Photo: President Clinton, Russian President Yeltsin, and Ukrainian President Kravchuk in 1994.



UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is rising in the Ostrobothnia employment area, but remains among the lowest in the country



The unemployment rate in the Ostrobothnia employment area remained among the lowest in the country in September, at 7.4 percent. The data is based on the latest employment statistics from the Development and Administration Center of the ELY Centers (KEHA Center) and the employment review of the Ostrobothnia ELY Center.

Although the figure for Ostrobothnia is clearly below the national average (11.4%), unemployment in the region has been on the rise. In September, the unemployment rate was 1.0 percentage points higher than a year earlier and also rose by 0.2 percentage points from the previous month, August.

The unemployment rate in the Ostrobothnia ELY Centre area remained among the lowest in the country. However, while unemployment fell by 0.1 percentage points across the country compared to August, it rose by the same amount in Ostrobothnia.

Number of unemployed

The number of unemployed job seekers in the Ostrobothnia employment area has grown significantly over the past year. At the end of September, there were a total of 4,595 unemployed job seekers in the area. This is 643 people (+16.3%) more than a year earlier. The growth rate was clearly faster than the national average (10.4%). Compared to the previous month, the number of unemployed increased by 97 people (+2.2%). Source: City of Vaasa

WASA DAILY

Our magazines have a cool new layout



AFTER ALMOST THREE YEARS of faithful coverage of the Vaasa region — focusing on the latest in theatre, art, music, film and all the things that shape our daily lives — it's now time for something new: our three magazines will have a modern broadsheet layout.

This new design is made to be clear, airy, and easy to navigate. For those of you who read on tablets, it will be easier than ever to quickly get an overview of the articles. Interested in a particular article? Two fingers are enough to enlarge the text and read more effortlessly. A layout that feels safe and familiar to anyone who has read newspapers in previous decades — but which is also updated to fit today's digital habits.

The broadsheet format gives every article room to breathe, the images and headlines are more prominent, and the entire reading experience more enjoyable — both in print and on screen. We want to give you the reader both what you are used to and something you did not know you longed for: a combination of classic journalistic feeling and modern readability.

At the same time, the font we mainly use has been changed to Adobe Garamond Pro, which is very close to the font used by one of the world's leading newspapers, namely the New York Times.

Discover the difference already when you read this issue — our magazines have been given a new format. We think you'll appreciate the better readability, more structured expression, and how much smoother it will be to access the content you like the most. Here you see good old newspaper traditions in a modern version.

THEATRE

The City Theater's *Ikuisesti nuori* (Forever Young) is the highlight of the fall season



The actors Anni-Maija Koskinen, Anna Lemmetti, Oiva Nuojua and Sonja Halla-aho

The stage of the Vaasa City Theater is now set in the year 2080 — but the heart of the stage beats today. Forever Young is a sparkling musical comedy this autumn, in which old age and youth dance to the same beat, to the rhythm of rock 'n' roll and the joy of life that even time cannot extinguish.

The theater hall has been transformed into a retirement home for the actors, where they live in memories and moments. On stage, the 90-year-old veterans of the Vaasa City Theater — Sonja Halla-aho, Toni Ikola, Anni-Maija Koskinen, Timo Luoma, Oiva Nuojua, Anna Lemmetti-Vieri, and conductor Sauli Perälä — throw themselves wildly and tenderly into the roles of their lives: their own playful versions.

The play is based on German Erik Gedon's hit Forever Young (2010), which has been performed around the world and has achieved cult status. Now, in its Finnish interpretation, Vaasa takes the story to a new level — locally, vividly, and with a huge heart.

The director is the legendary Pentti "Bona" Kotkaniemi, who returns to the stage with decades of experience and the energy of a young man. Kotkaniemi is known as a master of Finnish theater and television — the man who created the comedy series Lapinlahden

Linnut and made the play Kiviä taskussa the longest-running play in Finnish history.

"The play is based on a very original and interesting premise. Its music, humor, and joy-ful performance make it definitely worth seeing," says Kotkaniemi.

And there is plenty of joy to be had: I Love Rock 'n' Roll, Stayin' Alive, Kaunis, rietas, onnellinen, I Will Survive, and of course Forever Young — songs that have lived in the hearts of several generations now take on new meaning as they resonate at the inter-section of old age and the joy of life.

Sauli Perälä is the conductor of the play, Miika Alatupa is the choreographer for the first time, and Emilia Eriksson (costumes) and Mika Haaranen (set design) are responsible for the visual world.

"It is a real luxury that the actors not only perform magnificently, but also play instruments. This is unique in Finland — perhaps even in the whole world," Kotkaniemi says with a smile.

Forever Young is a celebration of music, memory, and hope—a joyful but also touching moment that asks each of us: when we grow old, do we lose our youth, or does it remain with us for life?

This autumn in Vaasa, the answer is clear: youth does not disappear — it just changes form.

Pentti Kotkaniemi is the director of the play *Forever Young*



The legendary director brings his life experience and courage to the stage of the Vaasa City Theater.

Vaasa City Theater's new production Forever Young will have an exceptionally prestigious director this fall. The stage is filled with memories of youth and the rough edges of life — and the director is a man who knows what a long career in the spotlight of the stage and television means. Pentti Kotkaniemi, 82, has directed almost everything in Finland, but he still finds something in theater that breathes new life into him.

Forever Young is not just a play,

it is a mirror. In it, old actors look at themselves and ask: what is left when the lights go out? We are interested in that very moment — the truth that is not visible on posters.

Kotkaniemi is known as a master of Finnish comedy and farce. His productions Seven Deadly Sins, Lapinlahden Linnut Show, and Kuudesti laukeava have left their mark on Finnish television history. At the same time, he has built a reputation as a director who understands both actors and viewers — and dares to throw both into their comfort zones.

Vaasa's Ikuisesti nuori (Forever Young) brings to the stage inter-generational dialogue, music, and humor, but also serious reflection on how to stay alive—mentally and artistically—as the years go by.

Kotkaniemi's touch is precise and sensitive. His best-known theater work, Kiviä taskussa (Stones in My Pocket), starring Martti Suosalo and Mika Nuojua, is still the longest-running play in Finnish theater history.

At the Vaasa City Theater, he now shows that age is not an obstacle—but a resource. Ikuisesti nuori (Forever Young) is a tribute to life, art, and people who refuse to fade away, even when the curtain comes down.

HELSINKI UNIVERSITY AND ROSEBUD

After the University of Helsinki's shameful decision: Rosebud bookstore moves to the post office building

The cultural landscape was shaken when the University of Helsinki evicted Rosebud, a favorite bookstore of city residents and students, from its premises. Now, after the university's controversial decision and the ensuing silence, it has become clear that the legendary bookstore will not die, but will move to new, even more monumental premises in the lobby of the old Main Post Office.

The dramatic turn of events began when the university terminated Rosebud's lease without clear justification. It will be replaced by a discount store, of which there are already almost one on every block in downtown Helsinki. The decision caused widespread astonishment and indignation, as Rosebud has been a lifeline for students and book-worms, a place where they



could buy the most important course books at affordable prices and discover new literary gems.

The university's top management remained silent at first. The rector hid from the spot-light until he hired expensive crisis communication services with university funds in an attempt to explain away this culturally hostile and incomprehensible move.

But while the university was brooding over its shame, negotiations about Rosebud's future were taking place elsewhere. And now the news that everyone hoped for has come true: the bookstore is not going anywhere, but is moving to a new home in the stately premises of the old Main Post Office next to the railway station.

The change is huge. The thousand-square-meter premises, si-

milar in size to Kaisaniemi, offer more height, more space to breathe and dream. In this new, magnificent home, all of Rosebud's core values will remain intact.

"Some things will change, but the most important ones will remain," confirm the bookstore staff. The extremely large selection is a given, as is the lively program stage, which will certainly continue to be a meeting place for city residents.

The University of Helsinki has lost more than just a tenant. It has given up a symbol that connected the academic world with urban culture. But the story of Rosebud shows that a place loved by the community is stronger than the short-sighted decisions of the administration. Even though the doors are closing at the university, a new, even more magnificent one is opening at the gates of the historic post office building.

VAASA AND HAPPINESS

Vaasa investigates whether we are happy

It is once again time for the residents of Vaasa to look in the mirror and ask themselves the biggest question of all: Are we happy? For the sixth time, the City of Vaasa is inviting its residents to participate in the annual happiness survey, a unique initiative that has allowed thousands of people to reflect on their own well-being since 2020.

Last year, over 2,300 people responded — and happiness professor Markku Ojanen, who analyses the results, says that the picture that emerges is both multifaceted and moving. Almost 6,000 Vaasa residents have so far

shared their thoughts on happiness, loneliness, community and services. 'It's not just about statistics, but about people's innermost feelings,' says Ojanen.

Happiness is also part of the City of Vaasa's strategy. City Manager Tomas Häyry emphasises that the goal is not to win the title of the world's happiest city, but to create real moments of happiness for as many people as possible. 'We want every Vaasa resident to feel seen and valued, and to share that feeling with others,' he says.

This year's survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, but it can give you much more than that: a moment of tranquillity and self-reflection. And for those who participate, there is also a chance to win a weekend hotel stay in Vaasa — as



well as tickets to either the city theatre or a Vaasa Sport match.

Communications Director Leena Forsén reminds us that happiness often lies in the little things. 'We encourage everyone to do small deeds — a kind word, a moment in nature, a conversation with a stranger. A small gesture can change someone's day — and your own.'

The survey is open between 24 October and 23 November 2025 in Finnish, Swedish and English, both online and in paper form at the city's libraries and service points.

Perhaps it is now, in the tranquillity of autumn, that Vaasa is once again asking: How happy are we really?

CLIMATE CHANGE

António Guterres: No country is safe from floods, storms and heatwaves



UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivered a stark message in Geneva the other day, warning that “no country is safe from fires, floods, storms and heatwaves,” as he addressed the World Meteorological Organization’s (WMO) Extraordinary Congress celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Guterres lauded the WMO as a “barometer of truth” and a “shining example of science supporting humanity,” but stressed that its work is more critical than ever as global warming pushes the planet to the brink.

The Secretary-General underscored that the past decade has been the hottest in history, with ocean heat breaking records and ecosystems facing decimation.

He emphasized the urgent need for climate adaptation, focusing on his Early Warnings for All initiative, which aims to protect every person on Earth by 2027.

He noted that disaster-related mortality is six times lower in countries with effective early warning systems. However, Guterres acknowledged the significant hurdles remaining, particularly for developing nations.

He called for a “surge in financing” to close the gaps, urging reform of global financial institutions and a major increase in the lending capacity of multilateral development banks.

The UN chief also tackled the root cause of the crisis, stating that while overshooting the 1.5 C in the near term, the world is “not condemned” to live with it permanently.

He pressed for countries to deliver more ambitious national climate action plans and fully embrace renewable energy, which he called the “cheapest, fastest and smartest source of new power,” and the “only credible path to end the relentless destruction of our climate.”

inally, Guterres called for a stand against misinformation, stressing, “Scientists and researchers should never fear telling the truth.” His address served as a powerful reminder that while the climate outlook is grim, science-backed collective action remains the only way forward.

Key Quotes from the Speech

“Your ‘State of the Climate’ reports tell a consistent story: Global warming is pushing our planet to the brink.”

“No country is safe from fires, floods, storms and heatwaves.”

“Early warnings are not an abstraction. They give farmers the power to protect their crops and livestock”

“The enable families to evacuate safely and protect entire communities from devastation.”

“One thing is already clear: we will not be able to contain the global warming below 1.5 degrees in the next few years.”

“The overshooting is now inevitable.”

“Renewables are the cheapest, fastest and smartest source of new power.”

“They represent the only credible path to end the relentless destruction of our climate.”

HUMOUR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

AIRBORNE NOISE

— Have you ever heard anything so awful, so airborne noise — — — — —
— Excuse me, sir, but that’s my daughter singing!
— I meant to say, nothing so ear-piercing as the noise those creatures behind us are making. You can’t hear anything of that divine singing.

PETTERSON’S TRUTH-TELLING SON

Mrs. Andersson writes to the schoolteacher to have Pettersson’s son punished as necessary:
— When I was outside on the playground yesterday and scolded Kalle Pettersson, he called me a maraca and a donkey, which I hereby honorably declare to be completely true.

ART

Eemu Myntti, a colourful artist from Vaasa, no in a Tikanoja exhibition

Emil Aleksander Myntti (27 November 1890, Vaasa – 29 August 1943, Helsinki) was a prominent Finnish expressionist artist whose art was characterized by a strong and vivid use of colour. In his works, color was not only a visual element, but served as a means of self-expression, conveying emotional and soul worlds. Mynt’s handling of colour was bold and open-minded, which made him an exceptional master of colour for his time.

Right now, some of his colorful paintings can be admired at Tikanoja in Vaasa.

Eemu Myntti was born into a wealthy family where his father Juho Myntti worked as an industrialist. However, his early years were not exactly straightforward. Myntti dropped out of school after failing his matriculation examinations, and in 1910 he made a bold decision to devote himself to art. He initially studied with Arthur Heickell, but soon the road took him to Paris, the mecca of art, where he dived into cubism. The trip took place with the support of Frithiof Tikanoja, and this period was a turning point in Mynt’s artistic career.

Although Myntti was influenced by French masters such as Cézanne and van Gogh, he fashioned them into his own unique style. His art reflected Cézanne’s precision and van Gogh’s saturation of colours, but Myntti also brought his own profound and symbolic vision to his works. The ideals of earlier masters such as Giotto were important to him, and this manifested itself in his work as a quest for a high level of artistic expression.

The 1920s were the pinnacle of Mynt’s artistic career. He belonged to cultural circles and was in close contact with the writers and poets of the Fire Bearers group. In the company of these artist friends, he found inspiration and a shared passion for creative expression. Although Myntti spent most of his career away from his fellow artists in his home country, he still had contacts with both Finnish and foreign artists, which enriched his artistic world.

Myntis works were exhibited for the first time in 1916, and his painting style evolved, especially in the field of portrait painting. His portraits of men were strong, almost



Emmu Myntti, self potrait 1931



Maija, 1938

sculptural, in which every feature was carefully thought out and at the same time soulful. Female portraits, on the other hand, combined poetic symbolism and architectural creativity, which made them particularly fascinating.

In Mynt’s work, colours always evoked strong emotions. He used both oil and watercolours skilfully, and his works were diverse in both subject matter and technique. Especially the bright and fresh colours of Lapland received a new kind of expression from him, reflecting his own deep connection to nature and colours. Mynt’s paintings not only presented their subjects, but they brought the viewer something new, fresh and vibrant – like an alpine sun that illuminates and refreshes.

Eemu Myntti left an indelible mark on the field of Finnish art. His bold, colourful and soulful way of dealing with colour makes him an artist whose works are still relevant and appealing.



Toivo Kuula, portrait 1937
Images: National Gallery

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Ukrainian–Norwegian Friendship Began Almost a Thousand Years Ago, Not Merely With Diplomatic Agreements, but With Human Relationships – Olena Zelenska at the Unveiling of a Monument to Queen Ellisiv (Elizabeth of Kyiv) in Oslo



First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska, together with Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway, Mayor of Oslo Anne Lindboe, and Ukraine’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrii Sybiha, attended the unveiling of a monument to Queen Ellisiv, the wife of King Harald Hardrada of

Norway. Elizabeth of Kyiv, the eldest daughter of Yaroslav the Wise, Prince of Kyiv, married King Harald Hardrada in 1045.

“It is especially moving that the marriage of Ellisiv and King Harald Hardrada was not merely a dynastic matter, but also an expression of affection – we know this because poems written by the

future king and dedicated to his bride have survived,” the First Lady said.

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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Alexandra Frosterus-Sältin

6.12.1837, Ingå

29.2.1916, Vaasa

Child with mirror, 1875

George Orwell 1984 PART ONE Chapter 1 4.

As usual, the face of Emmanuel Goldstein, the Enemy of the People, had flashed on to the screen. There were hisses here and there among the audience. The little sandy-haired woman gave a squeak of mingled fear and disgust. Goldstein was the renegade and backslider who once, long ago (how long ago, nobody quite remembered), had been one of the leading figures of the Party, almost on a level with Big Brother himself, and then had engaged in counter-revolutionary activities, had been condemned to death, and had mysteriously escaped and disappeared. The programmes of the Two Minutes Hate varied from day to day, but there was none in which Goldstein was not the principal figure. He was the primal traitor, the earliest defiler of the Party’s purity. All subsequent crimes against the Party, all treacheries, acts of sabotage, heresies, deviations, sprang directly out of his teaching. Somewhere or other he was still alive and hatching his conspiracies: perhaps somewhere beyond the sea, under the protection of his foreign paymasters, perhaps even—so it was occasionally rumoured—in some hiding-place in Oceania itself.

Winston’s diaphragm was constricted. He could never see the face of Goldstein without a painful mixture of emotions. It was a lean Jewish face, with a great fuzzy aureole of white hair and a small goatee beard—a clever face, and yet somehow inherently despicable, with a kind of senile



silliness in the long thin nose, near the end of which a pair of spectacles was perched. It resembled the face of a sheep, and the voice, too, had a sheep-like quality. Goldstein was delivering his usual venomous attack upon the doctrines of the Party—an attack so exaggerated and perverse that a child should have been able to see through it, and yet just plausible enough to fill one with an alarmed feeling that other people, less level-headed than oneself, might be taken in by it. He was abusing Big Brother, he was denouncing the dictatorship of the Party, he was demanding the immediate conclusion of peace with Eurasia, he was advocating freedom of speech, freedom of the Press, freedom of assembly, freedom of thought, he was crying hysterically that the revolution had been betrayed—and all this in rapid polysyllabic speech which was a sort of parody of the

habitual style of the orators of the Party, and even contained Newspeak words: more Newspeak words, indeed, than any Party member would normally use in real life. And all the while, lest one should be in any doubt as to the reality which Goldstein’s specious claptrap covered, behind his head on the telescreen there marched the endless columns of the Eurasian army—row after row of solid-looking men with expressionless Asiatic faces, who swam up to the surface of the screen and vanished, to be replaced by others exactly similar. The dull rhythmic tramp of the soldiers’ boots formed the background to Goldstein’s bleating voice.

Before the Hate had proceeded for thirty seconds, uncontrollable exclamations of rage were breaking out from half the people in the room. The self-satisfied sheep-like face on the screen, and the terrifying power of the Eurasian army behind it, were too much to be borne: besides, the sight or even the thought of Goldstein produced fear and anger automatically. He was an object of hatred more constant than either Eurasia or Eastasia, since when Oceania was at war with one of these Powers it was generally at peace with the other. But what was strange was that although Goldstein was hated and despised by everybody, although every day and a thousand times a day, on platforms, on the telescreen, in newspapers, in books, his theories were refuted, smashed, ridiculed, held up to the general gaze for the pitiful rubbish that they were—in spite of all this, his influence never seemed to grow less. Always there were fresh dupes waiting to be seduced by him. A day never passed when spies and saboteurs acting under his directions were not unmasked by the Thought Police. He was the commander of a vast shadowy army, an underground network of conspirators dedicated to the overthrow of the State. The Brotherhood, its name was supposed to be. There were also whispered stories of a terrible book, a compendium of all the heresies, of which Goldstein was the author and which circulated clandestinely here and there. It was a book without a title. People referred to it, if at all, simply as THE BOOK. But one knew of such things only through vague rumours. Neither the Brotherhood nor THE BOOK was a subject that any ordinary Party member would mention if there was a way of avoiding it.

In its second minute the Hate rose to a frenzy. People were leaping up and down in their places and shouting at the tops of their voices in an effort

to drown the maddening bleating voice that came from the screen. The little sandy-haired woman had turned bright pink, and her mouth was opening and shutting like that of a landed fish. Even O’Brien’s heavy face was flushed. He was sitting very straight in his chair, his powerful chest swelling and quivering as though he were standing up to the assault of a wave. The dark-haired girl behind Winston had begun crying out ‘Swine! Swine! Swine!’ and suddenly she picked up a heavy Newspeak dictionary and flung it at the screen. It struck Goldstein’s nose and bounced off; the voice continued inexorably. In a lucid moment Winston found that he was shouting with the others and kicking his heel violently against the rung of his chair. The horrible thing about the Two Minutes Hate was not that one was obliged to act a part, but, on the contrary, that it was impossible to avoid joining in. Within thirty seconds any pretence was always unnecessary. A hideous ecstasy of fear and vindictiveness, a desire to kill, to torture, to smash faces in with a sledge-hammer, seemed to flow through the whole group of people like an electric current, turning one even against one’s will into a grimacing, screaming lunatic. And yet the rage that one felt was an abstract, undirected emotion which could be switched from one object to another like the flame of a blowlamp. Thus, at one moment Winston’s hatred was not turned against Goldstein at all, but, on the contrary, against Big Brother, the Party, and the Thought Police; and at such moments his heart went out to the lonely, derided heretic on the screen, sole guardian of truth and sanity in a world of lies. And yet the very next instant he was at one with the people about him, and all that was said of Goldstein seemed to him to be true. At those moments his secret loathing of Big Brother changed into adoration, and Big Brother seemed to tower up, an invincible, fearless protector, standing like a rock against the hordes of Asia, and Goldstein, in spite of his isolation, his helplessness, and the doubt that hung about his very existence, seemed like some sinister enchanter, capable by the mere power of his voice of wrecking the structure of civilization.

It was even possible, at moments, to switch one’s hatred this way or that by a voluntary act. Suddenly, by the sort of violent effort with which one wrenches one’s head away from the pillow in a nightmare,

SOCIETY

Finland, the happiest country in the world?

Happiness is something we all strive for, but what does it really mean to be happy?

Is it to feel joy for most of your time, or is it about a more overall satisfaction with life? These questions were recently explored during a lecture at the University of Helsinki by Professor Jan-Erik Lönnqvist, who presented research results on happiness and its causes. A fact that we Finns can be proud of began the lecture: Finland has repeatedly topped the list in the annual international survey World Happiness Report.

But how can it be that Finland, where 10% of the adult population takes antidepressants and a large proportion of young women report mental health problems, is still ranked as the happiest country in the world? An important part of the explanation lies in how happiness is defined and measured. Happiness can be affected by many factors, ranging from financial security and social networks to physical health and community trust.

Lönnqvist highlighted that social capital, that is, the sense of community and trust in others, plays a crucial role in our happiness. Having a friend you can trust and turn to in difficult times is one of the most important factors for well-being. Trust in authorities and the judiciary is also strongly linked to the level of happiness in a country. In Finland, where corruption is low and trust is high, many people feel safer, which in turn contributes to higher happiness.

Another interesting correlation that was presented was the connection between happiness and health. People who are healthy tend to be happier, and conversely, happy people have a better chance of staying healthy. Research presented in the World Happiness Report 2024 even shows that happiness can reduce the risk of dementia.

Financial security also plays a role, but according to research, the increase in income does not affect the level of happiness in the long term. It is the relative income, in comparison to, for example, neighbours or colleagues, that can create a feeling of happiness or dissatisfaction. Lönnqvist also reflected on his own upbringing in post-war Finland, a time of material poverty, yet a time of equality and security. Despite scarce resources, he and his peers experienced their childhood as happy, something he attributes



to the collective sense of belonging and stability.

The lecture also touched on comparisons between countries. Gross domestic product (GDP) has long been considered an indicator of a country's well-being, but research shows that when per capita income exceeds a certain amount – about \$10,000 per year – the level of happiness does not rise significantly despite continued economic growth. Instead, the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) has emerged as a more holistic way to measure happiness and quality of life. So why does Finland win these "lucky contests" year after year? One explanation may be that Finns generally give more nuanced answers in surveys than people in many other countries. While a Finn who is not completely satisfied with

life might put a four on a scale from zero to ten, someone in another country would give a zero score in the same situation. This pulls up our average, even if we ourselves do not always feel particularly happy.

No matter how we interpret the results, it's comforting to know that Finland is a country where people thrive – and we can only hope that we continue to be the happiest in the world!

SOURCES:
World Happiness Report 2024
<https://worldhappiness.report/>
Well-being "critical" for dementia risk reduction, research suggests (2024)
<https://worldhappiness.report/news/well-being-critical-for-dementia-risk-reduction-researchsuggests/>

HUMOUR ONE

HUNDRED YEARS AGO

NERVOUS LADY

An anxious, nervous woman, accompanied by her husband, approached the station inspector at a small outlying railway station and asked: "Has the quarter-past train leaving already?"
»Yes, ten minutes ago,« was the reply.
"When does the four-and-twenty train come?"
»It takes quite a while.«
»And before dross there are no trains at all?»
"No."
»And not any passenger trains?»
"No."
»Some freight train then?»
»No, no trains at all.« "Is it absolutely safe?"
»Yes, absolutely sure!"
"Then, John, can we cross the track."

Mrs. BROWN

The pastor's wife is visiting Mrs. Brown and tells, among other things:
- I just received a letter that my son received a scholarship.
- I am really very happy. I understand your feelings so well. I used to feel exactly the same way, when our pig won first prize at the farm meeting.

IN SCHOOL

- Was it you, Hans, who wrote on the board: "The teacher is a donkey".
- Yes it was.
- Well, it pleases me in any case that you stick to the truth.

WELLBEING

Chamber of Commerce Y. in one of Finland's northern coastal cities generally refused to do anything. With almost unflinching regularity his life passed in the eating of party dinners and party suppers, occasionally interrupted by party breakfasts. The consequences of this mildly spartan way of life finally made themselves felt. Chamber of Commerce Y's state of health gave rise to various remarks, which is why he decided to go to Dr. Westerlund in Enköp.

ping. His wife, who also had not cleared the table and was therefore not at full strength either, came along.
Once in Enköping, the doctor was consulted. After the obligatory waiting hours or days, they finally got priority before the mighty one. And vented his ailments. Long and elaborate. When they had finished their litany the doctor rose from his chair. Spoke and said:
— The diagnosis is well-being —
— five kronor!

THE WEATHER GAME.

The Sensitive Lady:
— I always feel it when it rains, in my legs and back.
The sensitive gentleman:
— I also feel all the changes in the weather. The other night I woke up to the barometer falling!
— They're not possible!
— Well, you see, it fell to the floor.

WIDOW

The teacher asked: — can one of you explain to me what "widow" means.. — A widow, answered little Anna, is a wife who lived with her husband for so long that he died.

SWIMMING COMPETITION.

Little Karl was with his mother at a swimming competition. Now follows - said the mother - 100 meter breaststroke for ladies. Little Karl: — Mother — is it forbidden to use the arms?

EINSTEIN

— Has the lady read Einstein's theory of relativity?
— Well, yes, I'll wait until it comes out as a film.

SEEN WITH YOUR OWN FEET

— I have a good friend who usually says that you never know anything about anything until you have seen with your own feet where the shoe pinches.

Astronomic picture of the week:

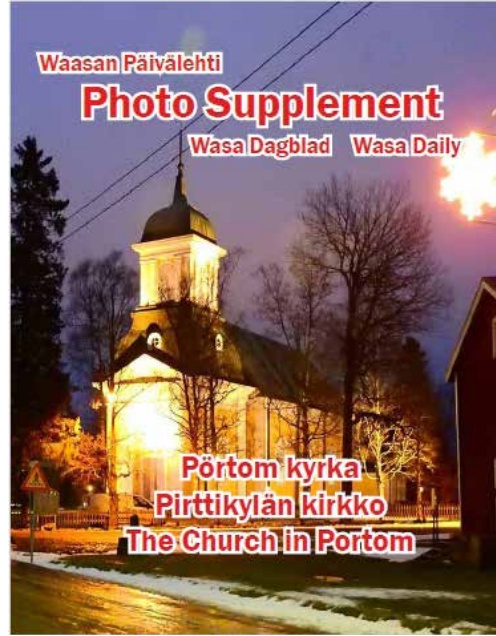
Thor's Helmet Nebula



This VLT image of the Thor's Helmet Nebula was taken on the occasion of ESO's 50th Anniversary, 5 October 2012, with the help of Brigitte Baillieu — winner of the Tweet Your Way to the VLT! competition. The observations were broadcast live over the internet from the Paranal Observatory in Chile. This object, also known as NGC 2359, lies in the constellation of Canis Major (The Great Dog). The helmet-shaped nebula is around 15 000 light-years away from Earth and is over 30 light-years across. The helmet is a cosmic bubble, blown as the wind from the bright, massive star near the bubble's centre sweeps through the surrounding molecular cloud.

Credit:
ESO/B. Baillieu
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Next week:



HOROSCOPE FOR OCTOBER 2025

What's in the Stars for You This Month?

Aries (March 21 - April 19): You're feeling bold, Aries! But before you start rearranging your furniture or challenging your boss to a dance-off, remember: moderation is key. Use your energy wisely (maybe just redecorate one room).

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): This month, comfort is calling your name. Whether it's extra blankets or extra snacks, lean into your cozy instincts. Just don't let Netflix ask, "Are you still watching?" more than three times in a row.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): You'll be juggling social plans like a circus performer, but careful, Gemini—drop too many balls, and you might end up at two dinner parties on the same night. Pro tip: Bring snacks to both!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): The mood swings are strong, but so is your ability to turn a crisis into a dramatic monologue. Channel your inner soap opera star and add some flair to your daily life. Who says grocery shopping can't be theatrical?

Leo (July 23 - August 22): As the star of your own show, you're ready for the spotlight. Just make sure you let others shine too—unless, of course, it's karaoke night. Then by all means, belt it out like you're

headlining Madison Square Garden.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Lists, lists, and more lists. But here's the twist: not everything needs to be planned. Surprise yourself this October by doing something spontaneous. Don't worry, you can still make a checklist about it afterward.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): October is all about balance, Libra, but you already knew that. Just remember, balance means a little bit of cake and kale. Enjoy your treats without feeling guilty—life's all about those sweet and savory moments!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): You're mysterious, Scorpio, and this month your secretive side is working overtime. Whether it's keeping Halloween costume ideas under wraps or dodging awkward conversations, your poker face is flawless.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Adventure awaits! But maybe skip the bungee jumping and stick to exploring new coffee shops. Your sense of humor will be your best compass this month, so laugh it off when you

end up in a cafe with no Wi-Fi.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): You're climbing that mountain of success, but October reminds you to take a break. Celebrate the little victories—like finally organizing your sock drawer. Yes, that counts! The sky's the limit for your creativity!

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Your dreamy side is on overdrive, Pisces. Just don't get too lost in your fantasies, or you might accidentally miss that important Zoom meeting. Maybe set a few extra reminders (and make sure they're not all daydreams!).

Happy October, everyone—may your stars be aligned and your socks always have matches!

BLOG WRITERS

Join Wasa Daily as a Blog Writer!

Are you passionate about sharing your thoughts, stories, or expertise with the community? Wasa Daily is looking for enthusiastic blog writers to contribute engaging content for our readers.

Whether you love writing about local events, culture, lifestyle, business, or personal experiences, we welcome your voice!

Writing for Wasa Daily is a great opportunity to reach a wider audience, connect with fellow locals, and showcase your creativity. No prior experience is needed—just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! We value diverse perspectives and fresh voices that reflect the vibrant spirit of our community.

Interested? Send us your blog pitch or a short sample, and let's get your words published! Join us in making Wasa Daily a platform for meaningful conversations and inspiring stories. Contact us at wasadagblad@gmail.com for more details. We can't wait to hear from you!

Wasa Daily

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Ostrobothnia region

The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts. Wasa Daily is a daily newspaper type publication, so far it is published on Sunday mornings. But our goal is for it to come out every morning in the future. The magazine is available online for free. Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers' writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever! Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455. Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toineen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

From our readers

We very much welcome submissions from our readers. Comments, stories, memories, debate, news from home. Probably this will be the most important part of this spring paper. But space is limited, so please write as short as possible! So please send posts to: wasadagblad@gmail.com

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AI Is DeepL the Best Free Translator?

In an increasingly globalized world, where a quick email to a colleague in Tokyo or a re-cipe from Paris can make or break your day, free translation apps have become indispensable. But with giants like Google Translate dominating the scene for years, a new contender—DeepL—has sparked fierce debate. Is this sleek German upstart truly the king of free translators? We dive into the fray, pitting DeepL against its rivals in a battle of bots.



DeepL's story is one of quiet genius and bold reinvention. Born in 2009 as Linguee, an innovative online dictionary founded by former Google researcher Geroen Frahling in Cologne, Germany, the platform amassed a massive bilingual dataset by scraping the web ethically. Co-founders Jarosław Kuryłowski (now CEO) and Leonard Fink saw the untapped potential in neural networks, pivoting to full machine translation by 2017. Po-wered by a supercomputer in Iceland running on hydro-power—reaching a whopping 5.1 petaflops—DeepL uses advanced convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to capture nuances that others miss. What started as a tool for seven European languages has exploded to over 30, including recent additions like Chinese and Japanese, all while prioritizing privacy and eco-friendly ops.

So, how does it stack up? DeepL's free version shines brightest in blind tests. A 2025 linguistics study found it outperforming Google Translate and Microsoft Translator in 70% of cases for na-

tural, context-aware prose—think idiomatic English to fluid French. Users rave about its "human-like" tone, especially for European pairs, making it a go-to for emails, articles, and docs (up to 5MB PDFs). But it's not perfect: with just 31 languages, it lags behind Google's 249+ behemoth, which crushes exotic tongues like Swahili or Icelandic. Google also edges out on extras like real-time voice and image translation, ideal for travelers.

Microsoft Translator, supporting 113 languages, strikes a middle ground—strong for business integrations (hello, Teams users)

and solid accuracy, but it often feels stiffer than DeepL's poetry. In a head-to-head for business emails, DeepL nailed polite nuances like "deeply sorry" where Microsoft stumbled slightly.

Verdict? For quality-hungry Europeans or pros dodging clunky phrasing, DeepL is the undisputed champ—free, fast, and freakishly accurate. But if breadth is your bag, Google reigns. In 2025's AI arms race, the best tool is the one that bridges your world—which ever that may be. Try them; your next multilingual mishap might just turn into a masterpiece.

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