Author: Babette Newsome

Question 45: Finished with Finnish

Finnish is spoken by about five million people worldwide, mostly in Finland. It is unrelated to English, but closely related to Karelian and Estonian. One of the most obvious grammatical differences between Finnish and English is the large number of cases – distinct forms that a noun may take according to how it fits into the overall meaning of the sentence, used in places where English uses prepositions such as 'in' or 'of'. For instance, to say 'in Turku' they use what is called the 'inessive' ('in-being') case of the name *Turku*, and to say 'of Turku' they use the genitive, *Turun*. The challenge in this problem is to work out the rules for forming inessive and genitive forms. All the nouns in the table below are regular, and illustrate some (but by no means all) of the rules. English translations are given for your information, but have no bearing on the solution.

Pronunciation guide: *j* is pronounced like 'y' in *yes*

y is a vowel pronounced like u in French or \ddot{u} in German: like the 'ee' in seem but with lips rounded

 \ddot{a} is a vowel pronounced like the \ddot{a} in German, a long open 'e' a double letter indicates that the sound is pronounced long

Meaning	basic form	inessive	genitive
basket	rove	ropeessa	
bath	(a)	kylvyssä	
bit	bitti	bitissä	
coat	takki	takissa	takin
cupboard	(b)	kaapissa	(c)
dollar	dollari	dollarissa	dollarin
forest	metsä	metsässä	(d)
handle	ripa	rivassa	rivan
house	talo	talossa	talon
library	kirjasto	kirjastossa	kirjaston
material	vaate	(e)	vaatteen
medicine	lääke	lääkkeessä	
mother	(f)	äidissä	
need	(g)	tarpeessa	
rat	rotta	(h)	
stick	keppi	(i)	
street	katu	kadussa	
thinker	(j)	älykössä	älykön
Turku (a city in Finland)	Turku	(k)	Turun
vision	näky	näyssä	

Write the Finnish words (a) to (k) in your answer book.