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LEVEL

2



Hungarian

Absolute Beginner



Unabridged Edition

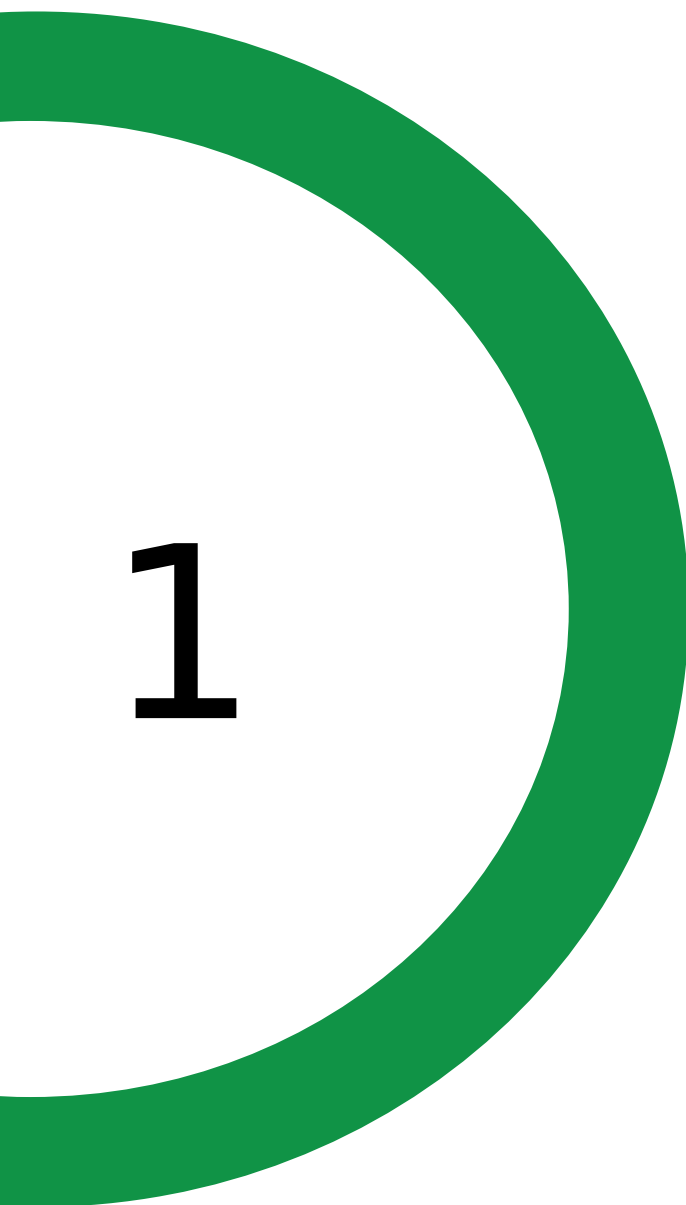
innovative LANGUAGE

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Absolute Beginner S1

Finding New Friends in Hungary



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Hungarian

Anne Jó reggelt!
Balázs (smiling) Szia! Hogy hívnak?
Anne Anne Smith.
Balázs Én Pál Balázs vagyok.
Anne Szia, ööö, Balázs?
Balázs Igen, Balázs. Örülök, hogy megismertelek.
Anne Én is.

English

Anne Good morning.
Balázs Hi! What is your name?
Anne Anne Smith.
Balázs I am Balázs Pál.
Anne Hi, er... Balázs?
Balázs Yes, Balázs. Nice to meet you.
Anne Me too.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Szia! | Hi! | expression |
| Jó reggelt! | Good morning! | expression |
| hogy | how | adverb |
| hív | call | verb |
| vagyok | I am | verb |
| igen | yes | adverb |
| Örülök, hogy megismertelek. | Nice to meet you! | expression |
| én | I, me | pronoun |
| is | too | conjunction |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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Szia, Ági!
Jó reggelt, Sándor!
Hogy vagy?
A férfi hív valakit telefonon.

Orvos vagyok.
Fáradt vagyok.
Péter vagyok.
Igen, szeretem.
Örülök, hoy megismertelek, Géza.
Én vagyok a főnök.
Én nem megyek.
A kutya is alszik.
Ti is jöttök?
Ő is magyar.

"Hi, Ági!"
"Good morning, Sándor!"
"How are you?"
"The man is making a call on the telephone."
"I'm a doctor."
"I'm tired."
"I'm Peter."
"Yes, I like it."
"Nice to meet you, Géza."
"I'm the boss."
"I'm not going."
"The dog is sleeping too."
"Are you coming too?"
"He/she is Hungarian too."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Jó reggelt.

"Good morning"

This is appropriate to say to anyone, in the morning of course.

Szia.

"Hi."

This is to be used among young people. Informality is the question of age, position and agreement. Basically, if someone agrees to be informal with you (normally the older/the one in higher position initiates it) than you can say szia (and talk with informal conjugation with them).

The question, *hogy hívnak?*

This question literally means "how you are called?", and it is an informal way to inquire about someone's name. Use this with people who are around your age or small children. You should not ask this question from the elderly or your superiors. Asking someone's name outright is fine among young people but somewhat

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impolite over a certain age. Don't worry, we'll cover those issues later!

Örülök, hogy megismertelek.

"Nice to meet you!"

The grammar of this construction is a bit complicated for the moment. All you have to know that "you" here is the informal, less polite version. Like with *szia* above, this is to be used among young people.

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb "to be"

Én Pál Balázs vagyok.

"I'm Balázs Pál."

In this lesson, we'll take a look at the verb *van*.

Before we start explaining anything grammar related, you should know that Hungarian dictionaries provide the third person singular conjugation to every verb you look up. A minority of reference books that you find may have the infinitive, but we will stick to the third person form, since it is more convenient. Not only can you use them already without any conjugation headaches but the third person form is the same as the second person singular form in polite speech.

Therefore, when we here give you verb it will look like this (unless noted otherwise):

For Example:

1. *fut*
"run"

(always remember: it actually means "runs" or "you run" (formal))

With this intro in mind, the first verb here is:

1. *van*
"be"

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Conjugated to the first person singular, it isn't too difficult to use, just use it after pretty much any adjective or noun, like this:

1. *Orvos vagyok.*
"I'm a doctor."

The second person singular form of "to be" is *vagy*. This works in a very similar fashion.

For example:

1. *Amerikai vagy.*
"You are American."

This will help you make statements about others.

For example:

1. *Buta vagy.*
"You are dumb."

Finally, changing the intonation a bit will turn this into a question. Make sure you listen to the dialogue over and over again, to master the questions completely. An example sentence:

1. *Amerikai vagy?*
"Are you American?"

You should be able to give an answer (at least a positive one) already:

1. *Amerikai vagyok.*
"I am American."

One last note here: These are all informal.

Cultural Insight

But Which Name is Which?

Hungarian names don't follow the Western order, which means that in Hungary the family name comes first. Now that you know this rule you may actually be even more confused when you're talking to the locals, since Hungarians often use the Western order to help foreigners understand. When you're not exactly sure, don't be afraid to ask, just like Anne does in our lesson.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Asking 'Where Are You From?' in Hungarian



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Hungarian

Balázs Honnan jöttél? Angol vagy?
Anne Nem angol vagyok. Amerikai vagyok. És te?
Balázs Én magyar vagyok. Tetszik Budapest?
Anne Igen. Budapest szép.
Balázs Amerika is szép.
Anne (smiling) Szerintem is.

English

Balázs Where are you from? Are you English?
Anne I am not English. I am American. How about you?
Balázs I'm Hungarian. Do you like Budapest?
Anne Yes. Budapest is beautiful.
Balázs America is beautiful too.
Anne I think so too.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| honnan? | from where | adverb |
| jöttél | you came | verb |
| angol | English | noun |
| vagy | you are | verb |
| nem | no | adverb |
| amerikai | American | adjective |
| tetszik | like | verb |
| szép | beautiful | adjective |
| szerint | in my opinion, to my mind | postposition |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Honnan tudod? "How do you know?"
Tegnap jöttél? "Did you come yesterday?"
Ez angol tea. "This is English tea."

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Japán vagy?

Nem szeretem a sört.

Ez amerikai autó.

*A kislánynak nagyon tetszenek a
kutyakölykök.*

Fel tetszik menni?

Tetszik a hajad.

A francia nagyon szép nyelv.

Szerintem ne menjél.

"Are you Japanese?"

"I don't like beer."

"This is an American car."

"The young girl really likes the puppies."

"Are you going up?"

"I like your hair."

"French is a beautiful language."

"I think you shouldn't go."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Honnan jöttél?

"Where are you from?"

This is a standard question to use when asking about nationalities. *Honnan* is actually "from where" and *jöttél* is "you came." As you probably already know, in Hungarian, tense is expressed by changing the ending of the verb, sometimes quite significantly.

This is an informal question.

If you want to use a formal, very polite phrase...

Ön honnan származik?

"Where are you from?"

This one is super-polite, it actually means something like "where are your origins from." People may answer with a city too, not only a country.

In the answers to these questions it's best to use one form of "to be," discussed in the grammar section.

Tetszik is translated "like." Its use is somewhat different from the English word, since it means "find something beautiful."

Tetszik a hajam?

"Do you like my hair?"

Tetszik a film?

"Do you like the movie?"

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The short answer:

Tetszik.

"I do. (I like it)"

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb 'To Be' and Nationalities

Honnan jöttél? Angol vagy?

"Where are you from? Are you English?"

Last time we discussed the use of "I am," "you are" and "are you?" In this lesson, there is a short recap in the first half of the dialogue, with a bit of a vocab building with nationalities.

We already know how to use an adjective (like *szép*, "beautiful," from the conversation) in first and second person singular.

Szép vagyok.

"I am beautiful"

Szép vagy.

"You are beautiful"

But what is the deal with:

Budapest szép?

"Budapest is beautiful."

Why is there no "to be" in this sentence?

Simply put, in third person singular, we don't use the verb "to be" in simple sentences. Let's take a closer look at these:

vagyok

"I am"

vagy

"you are"

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van

"he/she/it is"

But:

Szép vagyok.

"I am beautiful."

Szép vagy.

"You are beautiful."

Ő szép.

"She is beautiful."

As you can see, we didn't use the third person singular form of "to be" here, instead the pronoun *ő* ("he/she/it" in Hungarian, pronouns have no gender) made its way into the sentence.

This last sentence is just like *Budapest szép*. Third person singular subject, followed by an adjective.

The same is true to nouns of course (we've already used some in the first lesson). Let's use *ügyvéd* now ("lawyer"):

Ügyvéd vagyok. "I am a lawyer."

Ügyvéd vagy. "You are a lawyer."

Ő ügyvéd. "She is a lawyer."

Cultural Insight

But Is It a Real Language?

Maybe it's time to talk just a little bit about what the deal with Hungarian is. You may have noticed that it does not really sound like any other European languages you may have come across. Coming from the West, Germanic languages sound a lot alike. The same is true of the Slavic languages that surround Hungary from three directions: North, East and South.

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Hungarian on the other hand is neither Germanic nor Slavic, and it is not even in the Indo-European language family, which includes all the above mentioned groups, and which covers a significant portion of the planet from India to the U.S. Hungarian is a Finno-Ugric language, which is in turn a branch of the Uralic languages. These languages don't have many speakers and many of them are located beyond the Ural Mountain in Russia. The only three languages that made it to this side of the mountain range are Finnish, Estonian, and Hungarian. Unfortunately they are somewhat far from each other in the family, which means that coming from Finland or Estonia will not help much when learning Hungarian. It is maybe because of this isolation (and political reasons that won't discuss here) that Hungarian language buffs have spent endless amounts of time and energy trying to tie Hungarian to somewhere other than Uralic languages. You might hear Hungarians saying that the language is connected to Turkish, Sumerian, Etruscan, Japanese, Basque, or Aramaic. While some of these are actually not that far-fetched, keep in mind that established (read: credible) linguists have only proven the Finno-Ugric theory to be true.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Getting Formal in Hungarian

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Hungarian

Anne Jó napot kívánok!
Szabó úr Jó napot, kisasszony. Hogy van?
Anne Jól vagyok, köszönöm. És ön?
Szabó úr Én is, köszönöm szépen. Foglaljon helyet.
Anne Köszönöm.

English

Anne Good afternoon!
Mr. Szabó Good afternoon miss. How are you?
Anne I am fine, thank you. How about you?
Mr. Szabó I'm fine too, thank you very much. Please take a seat.
Anne Thank you.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Foglaljon helyet! | "Take a seat!" (formal) | expression |
| szépen | "very much" (after "thank you") | adverb |
| ön | "you" (formal) | pronoun |
| Köszönöm | Thank you. | expression |
| van | "he/she/it is" or "you are (formal)" | verb |
| kíván | wish | verb |
| kisasszony | Miss | noun |
| Jó napot kívánok! | Good afternoon! | expression |
| nap | day | noun |
| kívánni | to wish | verb |
| és | and | conjunction |
| jó | good | adjective |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Foglaljon helyet, asszonyom.
Szépen csináltad.
Köszönöm a segítséget.
Van barátod?
Kívánok egy pohár bort.
Kisasszony, leülhetek?
Jó napot kívánok mindenkinek!
Még egy ilyen napot...
Hat napot vagyok itt.
Ezt a napot nem felejttem el.
Boldog karácsonyt kívánok.
Sok sikert kívánok.
Kutyák és macskák.
Kérek egy pálinkát és két sört.
Nem jó a hús.
Az élet jó.*

"Please take a seat, madam."
"Nicely done!"
"Thank you for your help."
"Do you have a boyfriend?"
"I feel like having a glass of wine."
"Miss, can I sit here?"
"Good afternoon, everyone."
"What a a day..."
"I'm here for six days."
"I will not forget this day."
"I wish you a Merry Christmas."
"Wish you a lot of success."
"Dogs and cats."
"One brandy and two beers please."
"The meat is not good."
"Life is good."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

In this lesson, we've learned the expression **Jó napot kívánok**. This is the most polite way to greet someone. Sometimes Hungarians omit the last word, **kívánok**, or "I wish." That might take away a bit of the formal tone, but is also a hundred percent acceptable.

Köszönöm szépen - this is "thank you very much." **Szépen** actually means "well, nicely," and that's what it is - you're thanking someone very nicely. Another thing, Hungarians might leave out **szépen**, which is a step back in niceness, but also appropriate in any context. You may also hear **köszi**, or even **kösz**. These last two only should be used when you're talking to a friend.

Foglaljon helyet means "please take a seat." The word "please" is not actually in the expression, but very often in the English translation we put "please" in there to show an elevated level of politeness. You'll get used to this very soon.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Formal and Informal Speech in Hungarian.

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Jó napot, kisasszony. Hogy van?

"Good afternoon miss. How are you?"

First, a bit about the grammar. Basically, we can say that we address the other person in the third person singular in polite speech, instead of the second person singular. Also, when wanting to be polite, you use different pronouns. Simply put, you use a special second person singular pronoun (pronouns, actually, since there are more), with third person singular verb forms. This is the time to look at the grammar points of the first two lessons by the way, we are going to rely on your knowledge of those.

If you remember from last week, in sentences like "he is ..." we used the pronoun **ő** plus the noun or adjective we wanted to identify with him (or her). So for example "he is a doctor" **equals Ő orvos**. Well, we'll use a similar pattern in formal speech too. But instead of **ő**, you say **ön**. **Ön orvos**. "You are a doctor."

With an inquiring intonation, it will become: "Are you a doctor?" **Ön orvos?**

In our lesson the boss asks her the question: **Hogy van?** or "How are you?"

Van means "he is", at least that's what we lied to you last time. It turns out that when we want to use the formal speech, it also means "you are." So if you want to be formal: **Hogy van?** Informal: **Hogy vagy?** Both of these mean "how are you?"

The whole politeness issue is not this simple all the time, but this is the first time you meet this in Hungarian. We'll slowly feed you the rest, but after this introductory lesson you should remember, that when being polite, you use the third person form of verbs and polite pronouns.

Cultural Insight

Now When to be Polite?

Usually, if you let the other person greet you first, that should tell you a lot about the level of politeness you should aim at. If they say *szia* ("hi," which you learned in lesson one), just reply with another *szia*. If you hear: *Jó napot (kívánok)*, that will be a formal situation. That should give you some idea of how to pick.

Also, always start with the more polite greeting with old people or superiors. With

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children, use the informal. Friends too, naturally. Every other case, the greeting should help. The informal version is more and more popular, you may hear shop clerks, bartenders, even waiters using "hi," unless there is a huge age difference of course. Don't worry though, foreigners are treated like children everywhere, just like in Hungary (at least from a language point of view), which means that you are allowed to make mistakes or use the other one you're expected. People will be ecstatic that you even try speaking Hungarian, let alone bother with the whole politeness issue. So, go ahead and talk!

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Riding the Bus in Budapest

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Hungarian

Anne Á, szia!
Balázs Szia Anne.
Anne Ez már a Blaha?
Balázs Igen. Meddig mész?
Anne Az Astoriáig megyek.
Balázs A következő az Astoria.
Anne Köszí.

English

Anne Oh, hi!
Balázs Hi, Anne!
Anne Is this Blaha already?
Balázs Yes. Where do you get off?
Anne I'm going to Astoria.
Balázs The next one is Astoria.
Anne Thanks.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|--|---------------|
| ez | this | pronoun |
| már | already | adverb |
| a | the | article |
| az | the (before words starting with a vowel) | determiner |
| meddig | until where? until when? | question word |
| megy | go | verb |
| következő | next | adjective |
| köszí | thanks | expression |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ez a sütemény jó.

"This cookie is good."

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Ó. Ez nem lesz jó.

Már kilenc van.

Már kilenc óra.

A kutya játszik.

Az élet nehéz.

az auto

Meddig érsz rá?

Mész Németországba?

Megyek haza.

Mész holnap bulizni?

Kérem forduljon jobbra a következő
sarkon.

Köszí a képeket.

"Oh. This is not good."

"It's nine already."

"It's already nine o'clock."

"The dog is playing."

"Life is hard."

"the car"

"Until when are you free?"

"Are you going to Germany?"

"I'm going home."

"Are you going partying tomorrow?"

"Please turn right at the next corner."

"Thanks for the pictures."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

You already know that Hungarian is a language of a lot of conjugations. In this lesson we have seen the first and second person singular forms of the verb **menni**, which means, "to go." The first one, **megyek**, is the first person singular form ("I'm going"), while **mész** is the second person singular ("you are going"). You can see that these conjugated forms are very different from each other and the infinitive as well. On the other hand, since they clearly indicate who is doing the "going," you can ask and answer simple questions without the personal pronouns. Like this:

1. **Mész?**

Megyek.

"Are you going?"

"Yes I am."

Köszí is the shorter form of **köszönöm**, which means "thank you." This is of course more informal, and people may even shorten it to **kösz**.

Ez means "this." **Az** means "that." One example sentence would be: *Ez kávé?* (while pointing at a mug) meaning "Is this coffee?" *Az drága?* "Is that expensive?"

Az is also one of the two definite articles, it precedes nouns that start with a

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vowel. Like this: *Az elefánt megy.* "The elephant is going." The other article is **a**, which precedes nouns that start with a consonant. *A kutya eszik.* "The dog is eating."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Using *-ig* and *meddig*.

Az Astoriáig megyek.

"I'm going to Astoria."

Using *-ig* To Give Directions

In the dialogue, we saw:

1. *Meddig mész? Az Astoriáig megyek.*
"How far are you going? I'm going to Astoria."

When you want navigate through the city, ask about the stops and ask for tickets, you should be able to use the suffix *-ig*, which is attached to the place word you're trying to reach. Another example now:

1. *Pécsig megyek.*
"I'm going to Pécs."

Pécs is a town in the southern part of Hungary. You attach the suffix ("all the way to") then the verb from this lesson.

Now, the reason that we don't just use the Hungarian equivalent of "to" in these examples is because the suffix for that changes significantly, depending on the noun it is attached to, while *-ig* is more reliable. This is due to the peculiarity called vowel harmony, which we will talk about later. Another example:

1. *A sarokig megyek.*
"I'm going to that corner." (say this to the cabbie)

Using *-ig* To Set Times

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-ig can also be attached to time words, like *holnap* - "tomorrow."

For example:

1. *Holnapig iszunk.*
"We'll drink until tomorrow."

The Question Word *Meddig?*

Meddig means "all the way to where/until when?" The question word can be used to get information about places and times as well. It is not too difficult to use, just put a verb after it than there you go, you have a question. The way to answer it is of course in the above section.

An example:

1. *Meddig alszol?*
"When do you get up?" ("Until when do you sleep?")

Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Meddig mész?*
"Where do you get off?" ("Up to where are you going?")
2. *Az Astoriáig megyek.*
"I'm going to Astoria."

Sample Sentences

1. *Debrecenig kérem.*
"All the way to Debrecen, please" (when buying tickets)
2. *A Móriczig megyünk?*
"Are we going to Móricz (square)?"
3. *Hatig odaérek.*

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"I'll make it there by six."

4. *Meddig érsz rá?*

"Until when are you free?"

5. *Meddig menjek?*

"When shall I stop?" (Up to where should I go?)

Cultural Insight

Negotiating Public Transport in Budapest

We have already mentioned a couple of subway/tram stops in Budapest.

Generally speaking, downtown Budapest is easy to navigate if you use one of the three subway lines or the 4/6 tram. These are long services across the city. If you happen to live further away from the downtown area you may have more difficulties getting on buses, especially during the rush hour. Remember to check the board at the stops and count how many of them you've passed, because the digital information on board is often misleading. Also, make sure you have a valid ticket; inspectors are plentiful and ever-vigilant.

If you want to have a chat with a local (or hear them rant), ask about metro line four. It's been under construction for ages and unless you are reading this in 2020, it is probably still not ready. It's a good chitchat topic though, just like weather for British people.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Making a Formal Hungarian Request

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Hungarian

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|----------|--------------------------------|
| Szabó úr | Hogy írja a nevét? |
| Anne | A-n-n-e S-m-i-t-h |
| Szabó úr | Köszönöm. Kérem az útlevelet. |
| Anne | Parancsoljon, |
| Szabó úr | Köszönöm. Itt írja alá, kérem. |
| Anne | Igen, máris. |

English

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Szabó | How do spell your name? |
| Anne | A-n-n-e S-m-i-t-h. |
| Mr. Szabó | Thank you. Your passport, please. |
| Anne | Here it is. |
| Mr. Szabó | Thank you. Sign here, please. |
| Anne | Yes, right away. |

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| név | name | noun |
| ír | write | verb |
| kérem | please, would like | verb |
| útlevel | passport | noun |
| parancsoljon | here it is, here you are | expression |
| Itt írja alá! | Sign here. | expression |
| máris | right away, already | adverb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Nem tudom a lány nevét.</i> | "I don't know the girl's name." |
| <i>Ide írja, kérem!</i> | "Please write it here." |
| <i>Kérem azt a poharat.</i> | "I'd like that glass." |
| <i>Elhozta az útlevelet?</i> | "Did you bring your passport?" |
| <i>Parancsoljon, mit hozhatok?</i> | "I'm at your service, what can I get you?" |

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*Itt írja alá, uram.
Máris indulok.*

"Sing here please, sir."
"I'm leaving right now."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Hogy írja a nevét? This question means "how do you write your name? (formal)" or "how does he/she write his/her name?." As usual, formal language takes the conjugation of the third person singular. The verb in this sentence, **írja**, means "you write (formal)" or "he/she writes" depending on the context. Here, naturally, we want to say "How do you spell/write your name?"

The word **parancsoljon** literally means "order me, give orders." This is used when you are handing something over to somebody and is usually followed by a **köszönöm**. It is highly formal, even without the third person conjugation, but in this case of course the situation demands formal speech.

Máris is similar to "right away, I'm on it" and "already." You may hear it from waiters, after you have placed your order, shopkeepers, who have to bring stuff out from the back, and so on. You can use it by itself, in which case it is a positive answer to whatever you were asked to do in the previous sentence, but you can also use it before a verb, just like in this example: **Máris kezdünk**. This means "we'll begin shortly" and you can say it right before the meeting or class.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is on Using kérem - "would like"
Köszönöm. Kérem az útlevelet.
"Thank you. Your passport, please."

Kérem means "I'd like, I want."

Before we get into that, you have to know that in Hungarian, the verb ending changes according to whether the following noun is definite or indefinite. Simply put, this means that the verb will be somewhat different in these two sentences: "I see a dog." "I see the dog." In Hungarian, these would be: *Látok egy kutyát.* *Látom a kutyát.* The highlighted words are *egy* - "a/an" and *a* - "the." *Kutyát* is the same in both sentences, it means, "dog" in the accusative. What you have to notice now is that the verb forms are also different here: *látok* and *látom*. One might be translated as "I see a..." the other is "I see the..."

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Kérem is similar to *látom* from the previous example. A more precise translation of *kérem* would be "I'd like the..." or "I'd like your..." Let's see some ready-made examples with this form.

Kérem a táskámat. "I'd like my bag." or "Pass me my bag."

Kérem can also be used like "I'd like you to do something..." In this case, a verb usually follows *kérem*. This time however, a more accurate translation would be "please." Examples:

Kérem engedjen ki. "Please let me out (from the seat)."

In these cases, all the words were conjugated to sound formal, this is a formal lesson after all. We'll talk about "please" and "would like" more in a later section to see how to ask for stuff in a less formal situation.

Examples from this Dialogue

1. *Az útlevelét kérem.*
"Passport please. (I'd like your passport)"
2. *Itt írja alá kérem.*
"Sign it here please."

Sample Sentences

1. *A jegyeket kérem.*
"Tickets, please."
2. *Azt kérem.*
"I'd like that one."
3. *Ezt kérem.*
"I'd like this one."
4. *A pirosat kérem.*
"I'd like the red one."
5. *Kérem álljon meg.*
"Please stop (the car)."
6. *Kérem ne bámuljon.*
"Please don't stare."
7. *Kérem nyissa ki.*
"Please open it."
8. *Kérem csomagolja be.*

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"Please wrap this."

Cultural Insight

Be Careful with your Belongings!

In Hungary, just like in any other country, you might be asked for some identification. Foreigners should keep their passports on them when leaving the hotel. Generally speaking, this is safe thing to do but be careful on the public transport. Some lines in Budapest were notorious a few years ago; bus 7 and 173 had a lot of pickpockets. Nowadays we hear less about those, but during the rush hour make sure you watch your belongings, keep your hands around your pocket, and keep the bags zipped up and in front of your body (which is what the transport companies ask you to do anyway).

Should you ever catch a pickpocket in action, shout *to/vaj* ("thief") loudly. Like we said—this rarely happens in Hungary, so think twice before wrongfully accusing someone.

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Absolute Beginner S1

What Would You Like to Order in Hungarian?

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Hungarian

Balázs Mit kérsz?
Anne Egy pohár bort kérek.
Balázs Még valamit?
Anne Kérek egy ásványvizet is.
Balázs Máris hozom.

English

Balázs What would you like to have?
Anne I'd like a glass of wine.
Balázs Anything else?
Anne I'd like a mineral water too.
Balázs Right away.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| mit | what? (accusative) | adverb |
| kér | "you'd like" (informal) | verb |
| egy | a | determiner |
| pohár | glass | noun |
| bor | wine | noun |
| valami | something | noun |
| még | else, more | adverb |
| ásványvíz | mineral water" | noun |
| hoz | "I get something, I bring something" | verb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Mit eszel? "What are you eating?"
Mit kérsz? "What would you like to have?"
Kérsz kekszet? "Would you like some biscuits?"
Meglátogattam egy barátom. "I visited a friend."

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Egy poharat kérek.
Szeretted a bort?
Csak fehérbort iszom.
Keresel valamit?
Tudnál segíteni valamiben?
Kérek még egy sört.
Nem iszom ásványvizet.
Hozom a pénzt.

"I'd like a glass please."
"Do you like wine?"
"I only drink white wine."
"Are you looking for something?"
"Can you help me with something?"
"I'd like one more beer."
"I don't drink mineral water."
"I'll bring the money."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Mit kérsz? means "What would you like to have?." This question is suitable in situations when you talk to your friends, the verb, **kérsz** is in the second person. As usual, if you want to make it formal, you have to know the third person singular conjugation, this time it's like this: **Mit kér?** This is both polite "you" and "he/she/it." You'll hear this very often from shopkeepers, waiters and so on.

The other sentence you may hear a lot is **Még valamit?** This means: "Anything else?" This sentence has no verb, therefore you can pretty much throw it around at any time.

You can see at least three nouns ending in -t in this lesson, namely: **ásványvizet** ("mineral water"), **bort** ("wine") and **valamit** ("something"). Unfortunately this doesn't mean that there will be t-s at the end of every single noun from now on. The -t (and often more letters) is the mark of the accusative case after nouns in Hungarian. In English, the accusative is "visible" on the personal pronouns, it is the difference between "he" and "him." In Hungarian, every noun has an accusative form, hence the -t. The nominative form (you'll find this in dictionaries) of these three are: **ásványvíz**, **bor** and **valami**. We'll discuss these later in more detail.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is the Indefinite Object

Egy pohár bort kérek.
"I'd like a glass of wine."

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Last time we talked about how Hungarian verbs have two forms, depending on whether the following is definite ("the something") or indefinite ("a something"). We used the verb *kér* or "would like" to illustrate the cases in which the object was definite. Last time we had: *Kérem az útlevelet.* "I'd like your passport." "Your passport" is definite, the verb form for first person singular is *kérem*.

This time we have an object that's indefinite: *egy pohár bort*, "a glass of wine." You can clearly hear the difference, the verb is *kérek*, in first person singular still. *Kérem* - definite, *kérek* - indefinite. Once you are familiar with this concept, namely that the verb is conjugated differently depending on the following noun, it is time to start looking at a tiny conjugation table. Just to be absolutely clear and foreshadow a couple of yummy grammar points from later section, the heading of the table is:

Regular verb conjugation, present tense, indicative (suffixes in bold):

| | definite - "would like the..." | indefinite - "would like a..." |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>én</i> - "I" | <i>kérem</i> | <i>kérek</i> |
| <i>te</i> - "you" | <i>kéred</i> | <i>kérsz</i> |
| <i>ő</i> - "he/she/it" and <i>ön</i> - "you" (formal) | <i>kéri</i> | <i>kér</i> |
| <i>mi</i> - "we" | <i>kérjük</i> | <i>kérünk</i> |
| <i>ti</i> - "you" (plural) | <i>kéritek</i> | <i>kértek</i> |
| <i>ők</i> - "they" | <i>kérik</i> | <i>kérnek</i> |

A few more examples, using the same verb still:

1. *Kérem a mobilod.*
"I'd like your cell." (inf.)
2. *Azt a pólót kérem.*
"I'd like that T-shirt."
3. *Kérek egy szívességet.*
"I'd like to ask a favour."
4. *Egy kiló kenyeret kérek.*
"I'd like a loaf (kilogramm) of bread, please."
5. *Ezt kéred?*
"Would you like this one?"
6. *Kérsz egyet?*
"Would you like one?"
7. *Kéri a helyemet?*
"Would you like my seat?" (formal)

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8. *Kér egy kávét?*

"Would you like a coffee?" (formal)

We know. Conjugation is not fun. But in exchange—for the time being at least—you can treat word order more or less freely. You noticed how we had:

Kérem az útlevelet.

"I'd like your passport please."

and

Egy pohár bort kérek.

"I'd like a glass of wine please."

You can use this verb (underlined) either at the beginning of the sentence, or at the end, without damaging the conversation.

Cultural Insight

Hungarian Bar Culture

In Hungary, the drinking age is 18. In many of the bars, just like the one in the example, you have to get your drinks for yourself. In these cases tipping can be less generous, otherwise go for 10%.

Hungarian men usually like to get the drinks for the table, and among friends it is considered nice to get the entire round, or at least ask everyone when you start moving towards the bar. Though men like to deal with the bill in a date situation, going Dutch is also not uncommon.

You can still smoke in most of the bars, unless marked otherwise. At the time of writing, a bill was passed about making every bar and restaurant completely smoke-free starting from 2012. You are also not allowed to smoke around schools on the street and bus stops.

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Absolute Beginner S1

We'd Like to Have a Hungarian Dinner

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Hungarian

Anne Jó estét!
Waiter Jó estét!
Anne Vacsorázni szeretnénk.
Waiter Hányan vannak?
Anne Ketten vagyunk.
Waiter Erre tessék.
Anne Köszönjük.

English

Anne Good evening.
Waiter Good evening.
Anne We'd like to have dinner please.
Waiter How many people?
Anne Two of us.
Waiter This way please.
Anne Thank you.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| ketten | two (people) | numeral |
| vannak | you are (plural/formal) | verb |
| szeretne | would like to | verb |
| hányan | how many people? | question word |
| Jó estét! | Good evening! | expression |
| vacsorázni | to have dinner | verb |
| vagyunk | we are | verb |
| Köszönjük. | (We) Thank you! | expression |
| tessék | please | expression |
| erre | this way | adverb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Ketten meg tudjuk inni.
Mind itt vannak?
Szeretnénk angolt tanítani.
Hányan mehetnek?
Jó estét, kisasszony!
Megyek vacsorázni.
Németek vagyunk.
Kicsit fáradtak vagyunk.
Köszönjük a segítséget!
Tessék? Mit mondtál?
Arra tessék.
Erre van a mosdó?*

"The two of us can drink it together."
"Are all of you here?"
"We'd like to teach English."
"How many people can go?"
"Good evening, miss."
"I'm going to have dinner."
"We're German."
"We're a bit tired."
"Thank you for all the help."
"Excuse me? You were saying...?"
"That way please."
"Is the bathroom this way?"

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Szeretnénk means "we would like to." You usually have to add the infinitive of a verb. In this case: **Szeretnénk vacsorázni** - "We'd like to have dinner." It is somewhat similar to **kér** (from the last two lessons), but **kér** is not used this way, its object is usually a noun. In first person singular: **Szeretnék haza menni**. "I'd like to go home!"

Tessék means "here it is, please," depending on the context. You can say this when you're handing something to somebody you know. Another use is from this dialogue: **Erre tessék**. "This way, please." What you have to pay attention to is that is not used in sentences like this: "Please open the door." In these cases, the correct form of **kér** is used.

The last sentence is Anne thanking the waiter. This time, she says **köszönjük** instead of what you've already learned, **köszönöm**. **Köszönjük** is first person plural, you can only use it when there are multiple people in your branch and you're willing to take the responsibility of thanking someone for something.

Grammar Points

The Focus of the Lesson is Elaborate on the Use of Van ("to be")

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Ketten vagyunk. **"Two."**

This literally means "there is two of us." We've talked about "to be" in a previous lesson. We'll repeat the first three forms (singular) and add the plural forms as well:

vagyok - "I am"

vagy - "you are"

van - "he/she/it is" or "you are" (formal)

vagyunk - "we are"

vagytok - "you are" (plural)

vannak - "they are" or "you are" (formal, plural)

Some examples of the plural form:

1. *Franciák vagyunk.*
"We're French."
2. *Magyarok vagytok?*
"Are you Hungarian?"
3. *Már fáradtak vagyunk.*
"We're already tired."
4. *Szomjasak vagytok?*
"Are you thirsty?"

In previous lessons we mentioned that in similar sentences, when we want to use the third person, we don't use the verb, but instead the personal pronoun is placed in front of the noun or adjective that's in the sentence. The same is true to plural forms, therefore we have:

1. *Szomjasak vagyunk.*
"We're thirsty."
2. *Szomjasak vagytok?*
"Are you thirsty?"
3. *Ők szomjasak.*
"They are thirsty."

You are probably already clear with the fact that the formal "you" is like the third person. It is true in plural as well, therefore:

Önök szomjasak?
"Are you thirsty?" (plural)

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This is a polite, second person plural form.

- "you are" (plural)

vannak - "they are" or "you are" (formal, plural)

A couple of examples, using the plural forms now:

1. *Franciák vagyunk.*
"We're French."
2. *Magyarok vagytok?*
"Are you Hungarian?"
3. *Már fáradtak vagyunk.*
"We're already tired."
4. *Szomjasak vagytok?*
"Are you thirsty?"

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"We're thirsty."
2. *Szomjasak vagytok?*
"Are you thirsty?"
3. *Ők szomjasak.*
"They are thirsty."

You are probably already clear with the fact that the formal "you" is like the third person. It is true in plural as well, therefore:

Önök szomjasak?

"Are you thirsty?" (plural)

This is a polite, second person plural form.

Cultural Insight

Food, Food Everywhere but not a Bite to Eat

Hungarians are not restaurant people. That does not mean that you can't find all

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kinds of fine establishments in Budapest, or any of the major towns in the country. Actually, Budapest just got it's second Michelin star recently, which definitely signals a change towards a more outgoing dining culture.

On the other hand, in small towns and villages you won't be able to find cooked food very easily. If you travel through an area which is less frequented by tourists, you may end up hungry or having to eat at the petrol station, since even pub food is somewhat unheard of, except for the odd microwave hamburger.

That is just how it is, a lot of people in the countryside still consider eating out to be a waste.

This is strange, considering that Hungarians are extremely proud of their cuisine. It is not only nourishing, but tasty as well. Besides the ever-present goulash, go for stews, fish soup and anything cooked outdoors, you'll not be disappointed.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Let's All Go to the Hungarian Movies

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Hungarian

Clerk Tessék...
Anne Két jegyet kérek a filmre.
Clerk Kétezer-ötszáz forint. Hova kéri?
Anne Hatodik sor.
Clerk Még valamit?
Anne Egy kukoricát kérek.
Clerk Háromezer forint.

English

Clerk Can I help you?
Anne Two tickets to the movie.
Clerk 2500 forints. Which seat?
Anne Sixth row.
Clerk Anything else?
Anne Popcorn please.
Clerk 3000 forints.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| két | two | numeral |
| sor | row | noun |
| hatodik | sixth | numeral |
| hova? | where to | question word |
| forint | forint | noun |
| háromezer | 3000 | numeral |
| kétezer-ötszáz | 2500 | numeral |
| film | movie | noun |
| jegy | ticket | noun |
| kukorica | popcorn/corn | noun |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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Két autóm van.

Álljon be a sorba!

A hatodik ember kicsoda?

Hova mész?

Nyolcszáz forint az ebéd menü.

Háromezer forint nem sok.

Kétezeröttszáz kilométer Párizs.

Nem megyek a filmre.

Megvetted a jegyet?

Nem szeretem a kukoricát.

"I have two cars."

"Join the line!" (formal)

"Who is the sixth person?"

"Where are you going?"

"The lunch set costs eight hundred forints."

"Three thousand forints is not much."

"Paris is 2500 kilometers away."

"I'm not going to that movie."

"Have you bought the ticket yet?"

"I don't like popcorn/corn."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Hova is a question word, it means "where to?". You may occasionally also hear it pronounced **hová**, with a longer vowel. These two mean the same, don't worry. You use this question word before the verb to ask about the location an action word is heading towards. You can say **Hová mész/megy?** which means "where are you going" (informal/formal). The dialogue sentence **hova kéri** is literally "where would you like it?" and it doesn't actually have the word "seat" in it.

Hatodik means "the sixth." It is an ordinal number—if you need the cardinal number "six," you say *hat*.

In this lesson, we used the word **kukoricát**, which means corn, or "popcorn" in a movie theater context. We mentioned accusative before, this here is also in the accusative, the nominative form of the word is **kukorica**. There is another word in the text, with yet another case—**filmre**. You need not know the name if this is case, just remember that it does not mean "movie." It means "to the movie." "Movie" in the nominative—you'll be shocked—is film.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Hungarian Numbers

Kétezer-öttszáz forint. Hova kéri?

"2500 forints. Which seat?"

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In this lesson, we had a couple of numbers in this dialogue, so let's start by repeating them again. *Két*, *kétezeröttszáz* and *háromezer*, or "two," "2500" and "3000" respectively. When talking about prices, most of the time you'll be in the three-four digit territory in your daily life, therefore we start with learning these. The numbers from one to ten are: *egy*, *kettő*, *három*, *négy*, *öt*, *hat*, *hét*, *nyolc*, *kilenc*, *tíz*. There isn't much to say about these, just make sure you learn them well.

Combining one of these with the words *száz* "hundred" and *ezer* "thousand," you'll be able to understand the most important part of the sentence.

1. *Háromezer-négyszáz forint.*
"3400 forints."
2. *Hatezer-kétszáz lakos.*
"6200 residents."
3. *Háromszáz dollár túl sok.*
"300 dollars is too much."
4. *A könyv kétezer-kilencszáz forint.*
"The book is 2900 forints."

You may have noticed that in the list of number we said *kettő* for "two," but when talking about the prices, we had *két*. If a noun follows the number two, the shorter form, *két* is used, unless we want to emphasize that it is two (and not seven, which is *hét*). Therefore you may also have:

1. *Kettőezer forint.*
"Two thousand forints."

Cultural Insight

Cash, Cash Everywhere

Even though a member of the EU since 2004, Hungary still hasn't made the switch to euros, which at the time of writing sell at around 280 forints per unit. The switch is probably not going to occur anytime soon, especially because of the economic hardships that fell on the country around the end the 2000s. The euro-forint exchange rate went wild in 2009, then came down a bit, but it is still relatively high at 280.

If you travel to Hungary, you'll notice that the smallest coin is five forints. This is a fairly recent change in the money system, since the old one- and two forint coins got more expensive to produce than their actual value. Today if you

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buy something at the store, no matter how much it is, they round it up or down to the nearest five or zero.

Another sad but interesting fact is that Hungary holds the record for the worst hyperinflation ever recorded. In 1946 there was a period when *pengő* (the forint's predecessor) lost value with incredible speed, prices doubled every fifteenth hour and the largest banknote ever printed was the 100 quintillion *pengő*. That is 1 plus 20 zeros. When *pengő* was abandoned, the exchange rate to forint was 400 octillion to one.

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Absolute Beginner S1

What Time Should we Meet in Hungary?

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Hungarian

Balázs: Szia, Anne!
Anne: Szia. Mi újság?
Balázs: Minden oké. Jössz este a buliba?
Anne: Ma este? Persze. Mikor?
Balázs: Nyolckor.
Anne: Kilenckor is jó?
Balázs: Naná!

English

Balázs: Hi Anne!
Anne: Hi. What's up?
Balázs: Everything's fine. Are you coming to the party tonight?
Anne: Tonight? Of course. When?
Balázs: At eight o'clock.
Anne: Is nine OK?
Balázs: Sure thing.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------|
| jön | come | verb |
| este | evening | noun |
| minden | everything, every | noun |
| rendben | fine, well | adverb |
| buliba | to the party | noun |
| ma | today | adverb |
| mikor | when | adverb |
| nyolckor | at eight | adverb |
| újság | news, newspaper | noun |
| kilenckor | at nine | adverb |
| Naná! | "Sure thing!" "Of course!" | expression |

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Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Jössz a kisboltba?</i> | "Are you coming to the grocer?" |
| <i>Te is jössz kirándulni?</i> | "Are you also coming to the trip?" |
| <i>korán jön</i> | "come early" |
| <i>Este tévét nézek.</i> | "I watch TV in the evening." |
| <i>A fivérek este fürödtek.</i> | "The brothers bathed in the evening." |
| <i>Szép estét!</i> | "Have a nice evening!" |
| <i>Minden nap olvasok.</i> | "I read everyday." |
| <i>Rendben vagy már?</i> | "Are you OK now?" |
| <i>A buliba megyek.</i> | "I'm going to the party." |
| <i>Ma nem dolgozom.</i> | "I'm not working today." |
| <i>Mikor kezdődik?</i> | "What time does it start?" |
| <i>Nyolckor kelek.</i> | "I get up at eight." |
| <i>Veszek újságot.</i> | "I'll buy a newspaper." |
| <i>Kilenckor reggelizem.</i> | "I have breakfast at nine." |
| <i>Naná hogy jöhetsz.</i> | "Of course you can come!" |

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

In this lesson, we cover a few expressions you can use in informal conversations.

Mi újság means something like "what's up" in English. This is a very common thing to say between friends, when they meet after a couple days of separation. If you want to be extra cool, you can say **mizujs**, or **mizu even**. These two shortened form are cool to the point of sounding somewhat comical.

Minden oké means "everything is fine." You can also use it as a question, with a different intonation. That way it expresses concern about the other person's well being. Since this is also a very informal greeting/small talk item, use it at your own risk

Persze and **naná** both mean "of course, sure thing." They are pretty much interchangeable, but **naná** is a little bit more of an enthusiastic agreement, and it is also more informal.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say the Hours of the Day

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Let's jump right in by looking at our first example:

Nyolckor.
"At eight."

We turn ordinary numbers into hours by attaching the suffix **-kor**. Therefore we have **egykor, kettőkor, háromkor, négykor, ötkor, hatkor, hétkor, nyolckor, kilenckor, tízkor**. At one, two, three... all the way to at ten.
For example:

1. *Egykor ebédelek.*
"I have lunch at one."
2. *Tízkor megyek haza*
"I'm going home at ten."
3. *Hatkor még alszol?*
"Are you still asleep at six?"

In the last lesson, you only had to learn the numbers to ten, in this lesson we'll tell you how to say eleven and twelve. They are: *tizenegy* and *tizenkettő*. Just attach the suffix **-kor** and you have to say the hour.

For example:

1. *Tizenegykor jó lesz?*
"Is it OK at eleven?"

Talking about Half Past, Quarter Past, Quarter To

Hungarians don't say "half past something", but "half something" instead. Half in Hungarian is **fél**.

For example:

1. *Fél háromkor kezdünk.*
"We'll start at 2:30."

Quarter past is formed similarly, using the word "quarter" or **negyed**.

For example:

1. *Negyed kilenckor hol vagy?*
"Where will you be at 8:15?"

Quarter to is **háromnegyed**.

For example:

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1. *Háromnegyed hatkor indul a vonat.*
"The train leaves at 5:45."

Cultural Insight

Get Your Timing Right

Hungary is in the Central European Time zone, which is GMT + 1. This puts Budapest 6 hours ahead of New York. Also, when calculating times, remember that Hungary uses the system of daylight saving, which means that in summer it is in the GMT +2 zone, also called Central European Summer Time. In Hungary, government offices operate from 8 to 4. Schools and other institutions also start their day at eight o'clock. Store usually open at nine, in malls usually not before ten o'clock. People work until four. Normally, lunchtime is somewhere between 11:30 and 13:00. People don't like to have late lunches in Hungary, this is when diners are packed the most. Dinner varies more, but is usually before 21:00. Most kitchens close at that hour in restaurants. There are many factors that decide whether a pub can stay open or not until late, but most of the watering holes stay open until 23:00-24:00, and better quality bars later and clubs, well, all the way to the morning.

Absolute Beginner S1

What Time Is It in Hungary?

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Hungarian

Anne: Hány óra van?
Balázs: Nyolc-ötvenkilenc. Nagyon pontos vagy.
Anne: Sokan vagytok?
Balázs: Elég sokan vagyunk. Huszonhét ember.
Anne: (to everyone) Sziasztok!
Balázs: (to Anne) Gyere be.

English

Anne: What time is it?
Balázs: 8.59. You are very punctual.
Anne: Are there a lot of you?
Balázs: Quite a lot. Twenty-seven.
Anne: Hi everyone!
Balázs: Come in.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Gyere be! | Come in! | phrase |
| huszon | twenty- | numeral |
| sokan | lot (people) | adverb |
| elég | quite, enough | adverb |
| pontos | "punctual" or "exactly, sharp" | adjective |
| óra | hour, o'clock | noun |
| ötven | fifty, fifty- | numeral |
| nagyon | very | adverb |
| ember | person, human, man | noun |
| Sziasztok | "Hi" (plural) | expression |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ne kopogj, gyere be!

"Don't knock, come in!"

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*Huszonegy nyer.
Sokan nem ismernek.
Elég messze van az iskola.
Pontosan hatkor indulunk.
Kilenc óra van.
Hány órára jönnek?
Anyám ötven éves.
Nagyon melegem van itt benn.
Ez nagyon drága.
Tizenkét ember jött.
Nem szeretem ahol sok ember van.*

*Sziaztok gyerekek!
Sziaztok, mi újság?*

"Twenty-one wins."
"Many people don't know me."
"The school is quite far."
"We're leaving at six sharp."
"It is nine o'clock."
"What time do they get here?"
"My mother is fifty years old."
"I am too hot in here."
"It is very expensive."
"Twelve people came."
"I don't like places with too many people."
"Hi kids!" (informally used with adults)
"Hi guys, what's up?"

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Nagyon pontos vagy. "You are very punctual." You can look up any kind of adjective and put it between, **nagyon** and **vagy**. **Nagyon szép vagy** ("You are very beautiful.") If you want to be a bit cheeky, you can also say: **nagyon hülye vagy**, which is "you're very stupid." You should remember by now, that in similar sentences, we don't use the verb "to be" in the third person. We also taught you that third person conjugation makes the polite "you." Therefore, if you want to say: "You are very punctual." in a polite way, then it is: **Ön nagyon pontos.**

Gyere be! This phrase means "come in." This is a very informal request that you can hear from your friends, but if you tell this to the pizza delivery guy at your door, he won't be offended either. If you're inviting someone to your office at the legal firm, you might want to say: **Jöjjön be!** which is exactly the same, but very polite.

Sziaztok. This is how Gergő greets the listeners in every lesson, so it is time for a bit of explanation. This is also "hi" but you address more than one person with this greeting. You'll also notice that Hungarians use **helló**, a loan from English to greet others. Curiously, you'll hear *helló* when saying bye too.

Grammar Points

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The Focus of this Lesson is More About Numbers and Times

Hány óra van?

"What time is it?"

In this lesson, we will learn some more numbers and times.

We've already had a few lessons on numbers. Since we started working on prices first, we learned the numbers from one to ten and how to say hundreds and thousands. Later, we added *tizenegy* and *tizenkettő* (or "eleven", "twelve"), which was necessary for the hours of the day. In this lesson, we'll learn how to form numbers from twelve up to a hundred.

The system is very simple: You use the word *tizen-* and add a number after, this is the way to count up to twenty. Therefore we have:

1. *tizenhárom*
"thirteen"
2. *tizennégy*
"fourteen"

When you reach twenty, you say *húsz*. Then from twenty-one, the word "twenty" changes a bit, and it becomes *huszon-*.

1. *húsz*
"twenty"
2. *huszonegy*
"twenty-one"
3. *huszonkettő*
"twenty two"

The rest is easy, just use the tens and add a number after. Here is the list of tens and we'll also give a few examples.

1. *harminc*
"thirty"
2. *negyven*
"forty"
3. *ötven*
"fifty"
4. *hatvan*
"sixty"
5. *hetven*
"seventy"
6. *nyolcvan*

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"eighty"

7. *kilencven*

"ninety"

The easiest way to tell someone the time is by saying the hours and the minutes:

1. *Hány óra van?*

"What time is it?"

2. *Egy óra harmincnégy perc van.*

"It is one thirty-four."

Óra of course means "hour," *perc* is "minute." Hungarians often omit these though. The answer to the previous question could also be this:

1. *Három huszonkilenc.*

"Three twenty-nine."

In the previous lesson, we talked about "at ... o'clock." In Hungarian, you have to add the suffix *-kor* to the appropriate noun, which is always the last in the sequence. For example:

1. *Nyolc**kor** kelek.*

2. *Nyolc óra**kor** kelek.*

The examples above both mean: "I get up at eight." *Kelek* is "I get up."

1. *Nyolc harminc**kor** kelek.*

2. *Nyolc óra harminc per**ckor** kelek.*

These two mean the same too. "I get up at 8:30."

Since the suffix is in bold, you should see how it is always attached to the last noun in time expressions.

Cultural Insight

Hungarian House Parties

If you are ever invited to a Hungarian house party, don't say no! A couple things you should know. It may just be common sense, but never go without bringing something to eat or drink. A bottle of quality wine usually does the trick, but other booze will go down just as easily. You should also pick a few bags of crisps and sweets.

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Oftentimes the man of the house will insist that you try the homemade stuff. In Hungary, it is very common to make either wine or *pálinka* ("fruit brandy") at home. It is not nice to refuse any of these, but you can always say you can't drink more after the first try, since everybody in Hungary knows that foreigners can't drink too much.

Pálinka can be the best experience ever or you'll regret wearing your best shoes. It was neglected for a while around the start of the millennium, but nowadays it has been making a glorious comeback to the menus of restaurants and bars. A lot of them compete to have the best selection and professional and amateur *pálinka* makers have exhibitions, competitions and all sorts of fun stuff that you can look up.

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Absolute Beginner S1

How Much is That in Hungarian?

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Hungarian

Anne Ez mennyibe kerül?
Clerk Ez négyezer-ötszáz forint.
Anne És a póló? Az mennyibe kerül?
Clerk Az ötezer-hétszázötven forint.
Anne Az egy kicsit túl drága. Ezt a felsőt kérem.
Clerk Máris adom.

English

Anne How much is this?
Clerk This is 4500 forints.
Anne How about the t-shirt? How much is that?
Clerk That's 5750 forints.
Anne That's a bit too expensive. I want this top.
Clerk Here it is.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| póló | t-shirt | noun |
| túl | too | adverb |
| ad | She or he gives | verb |
| drága | expensive | adjective |
| kerül | cost | verb |
| ennyibe | how much | pronoun |
| felső | top | noun |
| kicsit | a bit | adverb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Tetszik a kék póló?
Túl beteg vagyok hogy ma bemenjek.
A férfi egy csokor rózsát fog adni a barátnőjének.

"Do you like the blue t-shirt?"
"I'm too sick to go to work today."
"The man is about to give roses to his girlfriend."

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Adok két percet.

A Váci utca nagyon drága.

Magyarországon nem drága az élet.

Ez kétezer-ötszáz forintba kerül.

3000 forintba kerül.

Mennyibe kerül a ruha?

Mennyibe kerül az a váza?

Vezetne egy kicsit lassabban, kérem?

"I'll give you two minutes."

"Váci street is very expensive."

"In Hungary life is not expensive."

"This one costs 2500 forints."

"It costs 3000 forints."

"How much is the dress?"

"How much is that vase?"

"Could you drive a bit slower, please?"
(formal)

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Máris adom. You use this sentence when you are handing something over, or if you are about to hand something over to somebody. **Adom** literally means "I am giving the..." We studied that verbs change their form according to the definite-indefiniteness of the following noun. Since the object is already known (the top), the shop assistant uses the definite conjugation. If you want to use the indefinite form, you say **adok**. **Adok tíz percet.** "I'll give you ten minutes."

In our last lesson, we've talked about **nagyon** which means "very." This time, the opposite, **kicsit** is used. "A little, a bit." In the example sentence there is even more; it contains two adverbs: **kicsit túl drága**. "A bit too expensive." You can of course use them separately too. **Van egy kicsit hosszabb?** "Do you have (a bit) longer one?" You can also use **túl** similarly: **A lakásom túl drága**. "My apartment is too expensive."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Ask About Prices

És a póló? Az mennyibe kerül?

"How about the t-shirt? How much is that?"

The key phrase when you're in a store and want to ask about the price of an item is:

1. *Ez mennyibe kerül?*
"How much is this?"

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Ez means this, we have already covered that. *Mennyibe kerül* should be learned as one expression, it means something like "how much costs?" The word order is not fixed really, you can try a couple of these sentences:

1. *Mennyibe kerül az iphone?*
"How much is the iPhone?"
2. *A dinnye mennyibe kerül?*
"How much is the watermelon?"

This is a very common way to ask about prices. unfortunately there is more:

1. *Az hány forint?*
"How many forints is that?"

This question is also very widely used. they are pretty much interchangeable.

1. *Hány forint ez a táska?*
"How much is this bag?"

You don't have to worry about the formal-informal conjugation here, since it doesn't apply. The answer is quite simple:

1. *Négyezer-ötszáz forint.*
"4,500 forints."

This is familiar territory, but when you ask the question: *Mennyibe kerül a....?* People can also say answer like this:

1. *Négyezer-ötszáz forintba.*
"4,500 forints."

This is equally good to answer *mennyibe kerül*, but not *hány forint*. This is actually another grammatical case, just like the nominative and accusative we have talked about previously. You don't have to worry about it now, just remember our question-answer:

1. *Mennyibe kerül a cipő?*
"How much are the shoes?"
2. *Tizennyolcezer forintba.*
"18,000 forints."

Finally, if you want to form full, beautiful sentences like "the TV set costs 127,000 forints" it sounds like this:

1. *A tévé százhuszonhétezer forintba kerül.*
"The TV set costs 127,000 forints."

You have to add *kerül* in the end of the sentence and that's it.

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Cultural Insight

A Shopping Paradise

Shopping in Hungary is a delight. Coming from Western Europe or North America most people find prices to be very low here. Though the locals think otherwise, most things are cheaper here, but unfortunately prices are catching up quickly while the salaries are slower in doing so.

There are a couple of things you shouldn't leave Hungary without. Try any kind of Pick salami, preferably from the more expensive shelf. Paprika of course should also be on the list. Try a market and not a gift shop for better prices. Wine and pálinka make good gifts, but again, their price is a good compass.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Where in Hungary Are You Going?

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Hungarian

Anne Hová mész?
Balázs A kisboltba megyek. Te is jössz?
Anne Én is megyek. Hol van a bolt?
Balázs Itt a sarkon. Nincs messze.
Anne Menjünk.

English

Anne Where are you going?
Balázs I'm going to the shop. Are you coming too?
Anne I am going too. Where is the shop?
Balázs Right around the corner. Not far.
Anne Let's go.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------|
| megy | go | verb |
| jön | come | verb |
| hol | where | adverb |
| itt | here | adverb |
| kisbolt | store, grocer | noun |
| bolt | shop, store | noun |
| sarok | corner | noun |
| nincs | nothing/ there isn't/don't have | adverb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mész Németországba? | "Are you going to Germany?" |
| Megyek haza. | "I'm going home." |
| Mész holnap bulizni? | "Are you going partying tomorrow?" |
| Jössz a kisboltba? | "Are you coming to the grocer?" |
| Te is jössz kirándulni? | "Are you also coming to the trip?" |

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korán jön

Hol lesz a találkozó?

Hol van a főnök?

Itt nem ül senki.

Itt egy kocsmá, menjünk be!

Itt vagyok.

Lement a kisboltba.

Az a bolt kicsit drága.

Forduljon be a sarkon.

Nincs kutyám.

"come early"

"Where is the meeting?"

"Where is the boss?"

"There is no-one sitting here."

"Here's a pub, let's go in."

"I'm here."

"He went down to the grocer."

"That store is a bit expensive."

"Go round the corner."

"I don't have a dog."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

A kisboltba means "to the shop." The word actually means "small shop," Hungarians use this word to refer to the 7-11-sized shops that stay open very late. There are other words used in Hungarian for these, like: non-stop or **éjjel-nappali**. They both refer to shops that stay open all night.

The last word in the dialogue is **menjünk**. This means "let's go to..." and a place is usually added after the phrase. Another word that's used in a similar fashion is **Gyerünk!**, but this doesn't necessarily means "to a place," more like "let's do it," "hurry up." You can try both of them in a situation where people are taking a long time to get moving.

Nincs can be translated into English in a couple ways. In the example sentence **nincs messze** it means "it isn't far," **messze** meaning "far." It can also mean "not have" like in the sentence: **Nincs húgom**. "I don't have a younger sister." **Húgom** means "my younger sister." Finally, in an example sentence like **nincs itt senki** it means "there is no one here."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Ask and Answer the Question:
"Where are you going?"

A: Hová mész?

B: A kisboltba megyek.

A: "Where are you going?"

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B: "I'm going to the shop."

When you're discussing plans with your Hungarian friends, you might hear this question:

1. *Hova méysz?*
"Where are you going?"

We've already covered *hova* before, as well as another variant, *hová*. This question word means "to where." *Mész* is "you are going." This is the informal lesson, since the conversation is between Anne and Balázs. If you want to use the formal version, say:

1. *Hova megy?*
"Where are you going?" (formal)

The answer to this question uses a the first person form of the verb *menni*, or "to go":

1. *A kisboltba megyek.*
"I'm going to the store."

Megyek is "I am going." Here are some examples of *megyek*:

1. *Tamáshoz megyek.*
"I'm going to Thomas'."
2. *Az iskolába megyek.*
"I'm going to school."
3. *A belvárosba megyek.*
"I'm going downtown."

If you want to say "I'm not going to some place" you just have to put *nem*, or "no" in the sentence.

For example:

1. *Nem megyek a boltba.*
"I'm not going to the store."
2. *Nem megyek az iskolába.*
"I'm not going to school."

Now, by rearranging the word order a bit, you get a very different meaning here. Basically the idea is that whatever is placed before the verb is the focus of the sentence. We're going to show what this means through two examples:

1. *Nem megyek a boltba.*
"I'm not going to the store."

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2. *Nem a boltba megyek.*
"It is not the store I'm going to."

By putting the place in front of the verb (and by also giving it a bit of an extra stress) we get the meaning "it is not the...(but something else)."

Try these sentences for yourself:

1. *Nem arra megyek.*
"It is not that way I'm going."
2. *De én nem Debrecenbe megyek!*
"But I'm not going to Debrecen."

Cultural Insight

Late-Night Snack Options

There are no 7-11s in Hungary, but you will find a non-stop round every corner in Budapest, and the downtown areas of most towns. These are usually more expensive than normal supermarkets, but you don't really have a choice at one A.M.

If you need to eat something after midnight, the otherwise rich food culture gets really disappointing. Besides the regular junk food restaurants, you can only find Turkish food, some hamburger shops (microwaved processed meat with mayo) and whatever is left on the shelves of one of the non-stops.

Early morning eats are much better. Go to a nearby marketplace at five A.M.. to get sausages, *hurka* (sausage with rice and meat inside) and of course the all time favourite: *lángos*. This huge piece of flat dough is fried in oil after which a layer of sour cream and cheese complete the instant heart-attack combo. It is wonderful, although even while still eating you feel fat building up on your ribs.

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Absolute Beginner S1

An Innocent Little Hungarian Question

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Hungarian

Balázs: Ööö, Anne.
Anne: Tessék.
Balázs: Van barátod?
Anne: (smiling) Nincs barátom. Neked van barátnőd?
Balázs: Nincs.
Anne: Miért kérdezted?
Balázs: Csak úgy.

English

Balázs: Er... Anne!
Anne: Yes?
Balázs: Do you have a boyfriend?
Anne: I don't have a boyfriend. Do you have a girlfriend?
Balázs: No, I don't.
Anne: Why are you asking?
Balázs: No reason.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|------------------|------------|
| tessék | please | expression |
| barát | friend/boyfriend | noun |
| barátnő | girlfriend | noun |
| miért | why | adverb |
| Csak úgy. | No reason. | expression |
| kérdez | ask | verb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Tessék? Mit mondtál?</i> | "Excuse me? You were saying...?" |
| <i>Arra tessék.</i> | "That way please." |
| <i>A barátom rendőr.</i> | "My boyfriend is a policeman." |
| <i>A barátod nem lesz boldog.</i> | "Your boyfriend is not going to be |

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*Hány órákor érkezik a barátnőd?
Miért nem hívtál?
Miért verekszel annyit? Csak úgy.
Megkérdezted a nevét?*

happy."
"What time does your girlfriend arrive?"
"Why did you not call?"
"Why are you fighting all the time? No reason."
"Will you ask his/her name?"

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

We've covered **tessék** before, this word just keeps popping up. This time it means "yes?" meaning "you can speak now." But if you can't quite catch what the other person is saying, you reply with **tessék?** so "excuse me" is also a good important translation.

Barát either means "friend" in general, in a non-romantic way, but it also means "boyfriend," depending on the context. For example, if someone says: **a barátom nincs itt** means "my boyfriend is not here. If you say **egy barátom nincs itt** it is more like "a friend of mine is not here" or "one friend is not here."

Barátnő usually means "girlfriend" in a romantic way, if guys say it. When girls use the word, it means a non-romantic female friend.

Csak úgy is the ultimate answer to any question that starts with "why," or **miért** in Hungarian. It literally means "just that way," but you should think of it like "no reason" or "just because." It isn't really answer and it expresses that you have no further comments on the topic or there really was just no reason why you did a certain thing.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is the Question "Do you have a..."

Van barátod?

"Do you have a boyfriend?"

In this lesson we're focusing on how to ask and answer the question: "Do you have a ...?" The structure of the question is very simple actually. You start with

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the word *van*, which is the third person singular form of "to be" - "is."

The second step is adding a noun with the proper suffix. Finding the proper suffix is tricky, but we are going to provide you with a couple ready-made examples.

1. *Van testvéred?*
"Do you have any siblings?"
2. *Van egy kis időd?*
"Do you have a moment?"
3. *Van autód?*
"Do you have a car?"

These are the informal versions, if you want to be very polite, you have to change suffixes again.

1. *Van testvére?*
"Do you have any siblings?" (formal)

The short answer to any of these questions is:

1. *Van.*
"Yes, I do."
2. *Nincs.*
"No, I don't."

We have already talked about *nincs* last week. Here are a few examples on how to say "I have" this time.

1. *Van barátom.*
"I have a boyfriend."
2. *Van asztalunk.*
"We have a table."

This time, lucky for Balázs, Anne answered *nincs barátom*, which of course means "I don't have a boyfriend." Then she is throwing the question back at him, saying

1. *Neked van barátnőd?*
"Do you have a girlfriend?"

The extra word that's in there, *neked* gives extra emphasis to "you," meaning "Do you have a girlfriend?" It would be a bit strange to start the conversation with this sentence pattern, but since this is already the second question that is thrown back at the first interviewer, it is perfectly fine.

1. *Neked van kutya?*
"Do you have a dog?"
2. *Neked van testvéred?*

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"Do you have any siblings?"

Cultural Insight

Hungarian Birth Rates

Hungary is following the European trend of young people getting married quite late. This is probably because of the poor economic situation that the country has been recently, and the financial crisis didn't help. Young people prefer to wait until everything is "settled" and they have a stable income but this is coming later and later, if at all.

This is a problem, since every year there are fewer and fewer Hungarians; the number has just gone below ten million. This creates an imbalance between the number of working people and pensioners. Governments are always trying to encourage people to have at least three children, but this is getting rarer every year.

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Absolute Beginner S1

A Visit to the Hungarian Doctor

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Hungarian

Orvos: Mi a panasza?
Anne: Nagyon fáj a torkom.
Orvos: Van láza is?
Anne: Nincs lázam, de fáj a fejem is.
Orvos: Kérem köhögjön!
Anne: (coughs)
Orvos: Csak megfázás, nem influenza. Írok fel gyógyszert.
Anne: Köszönöm.

English

Doctor: What seems to be the problem?
Anne: I have a very sore throat.
Doctor: Do you have a fever too?
Anne: No fever, but I have a headache too.
Doctor: Please cough!
Anne: (coughs)
Doctor: Just a cold, not a flu. I'll write you a prescription.
Anne: Thank you.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|----------------------|-------|
| panasz | complaint | noun |
| torok | throat | noun |
| fáj | hurts | verb |
| láz | fever | noun |
| fej | head | noun |
| köhög | cough | verb |
| megfázás | cold | noun |
| influenza | flu | noun |
| felír | write a prescription | verb |
| gyógyszer | medicine | noun |

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Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Szeretnék panaszt tenni.</i> | "I'd like to file a complaint." |
| <i>Torokfertőtlenítőt kérek.</i> | "I'd like some throat medicine, please." |
| <i>Megint fáj a lábam.</i> | "My leg hurts again." |
| <i>Magas lázzal nem megyek dolgozni.</i> | "I'm not going to work with high fever." |
| <i>Bevertem a fejem.</i> | "I hit my head." |
| <i>Nagyon köhögök.</i> | "I am coughing very badly." |
| <i>Köhögjön!</i> | "Please cough" (formal) |
| <i>Tegnap óta köhögök.</i> | "I've been coughing since yesterday." |
| <i>Megfázott a gyerekem.</i> | "My kid got a cold." |
| <i>Oltást kérek influenza ellen.</i> | "I'd like a flu shot, please." |
| <i>Az orvos nem írt fel semmit.</i> | "The doctor didn't write a prescription." |
| <i>Ne vedd be ezt a gyógyszert!</i> | "Don't take this medicine." |
| <i>Nem hoztam gyógyszert.</i> | "I didn't bring any medicine." |

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

There are a couple of important health conditions that are worth looking into in this lesson. The first one is **láz**, or "fever." This is a noun; you can say **lázam van** to express that you have a fever and sometimes people may also say **lázas vagyok**, which means the same thing, but this time is used as an adjective.

The second one, **megfázás**, works differently. This word means "cold" and it is a noun. If you want to use it in a sentence referring to yourself, you may want to say: **megfáztam**, which is a past tense word meaning "I caught a cold." A slightly modified version of the same verb, **fázom** means "I am cold" (please turn on the heating!).

Finally, there is **köhög** or "cough" in the third person singular. This one should be used in the present tense, like: **köhögök** which means "I cough, I have the coughs." In the dialogue, the doctor asks Anne to cough, using the word **köhögjön**. This is a polite form, in the imperative, just like "cough, please." With the word *Nagyon* meaning "badly" you can say *Nagyon köhögök*. which means "I am coughing very badly."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Using the Verb "Aches" and Vocabulary

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Related to Body Parts

Nagyon fáj a torkom.

"I have a very sore throat."

In this lesson we are going to learn how to use the word *fáj* or "hurts" with a couple of ready-made examples and body parts.

This word is in the third person singular in these examples, which is normally how you use it when talking about a part of your body. The literal translation when using this pattern is always "my something aches." Actually, like in the examples above, you also want to add a definite article, *a*. Other examples you may want to use are:

1. *Fáj a hasam.*
"I have a stomachache."
2. *Fáj a derekam.*
"My waist hurts."

The nouns in the above sentences are already with the correct suffix to express "my"

You may also need to look for an excuse about why you didn't go to work the other day, and in this case what you need is past tense sentences like:

1. *Tegnap fájt a lábam.*
"My leg hurt yesterday."

Adding a **-t** to this (and many other) third person singular verb means past, **"-ed."**

1. *Kicsit fájt a jobb oldalam este.*
"Last night my right side hurt a little."

You can use "no" or *nem* in these sentences in a very straightforward way.

1. *Nem fáj a hasam.*
"My stomach doesn't hurt."

As usual, when you rearrange the word order, you get a slightly different meaning. Look at the two sentences below, one similar to the negative sentence above, one with different word order:

1. *Nem fáj a fejem.*
"I don't have a headache."
2. *Nem a fejem fáj.*
"It is not my head that aches." (but something else)

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As a rule of thumb you can say that anything that is placed before the verb (in our case *fáj*) in a normal sentence will be the focus of your statement. It receives extra stress when said aloud. Naturally, the same is true in declarative sentences.

1. *A hasam fáj.*
"It is my stomach that aches."

You can play around with this new information with most of the verbs and sentences we have already learned.

1. *Kérek egy kávé.*
"I'd like a coffee."
2. *Egy kávé kérek.*
"It is a coffee, that I'd like."

Cultural Insight

Hungarian Health Services

In Hungary, health services and hospitals are free for residents, unless of course you want to go to a specialist's private practice. The hospitals and emergency rooms (often referred to by the abbreviation SzTK) will see you if you walk in from the street, although the waiting list can be miles long, and you should also check which emergency room handles your neighborhood.

Among Hungarians it is customary to give the doctors (and nurses after a hospital stay) some money after the treatment, but you should know that it is a grey area in Hungarian law. Basically, if you are a taxpaying citizen or a foreigner with valid insurance, you cannot be expected to pay extra money, a gift, essentially, nor should you expect to buy favors and shortcuts. Governments try to increase doctors' salaries and rationalize health spending constantly but there is still a long way to go.

Absolute Beginner S1

Do You Have any Brothers or Sisters in Hungary?

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Hungarian

Balázs Van testvéred?
Anne Van egy nővérem és egy bátyám. És neked?
Balázs Két húgom van.
Anne Ők diákok?
Balázs Az egyik diák, a másik dolgozik.
Anne Hol dolgozik?
Balázs Angliában.

English

Balázs Do you have any siblings?
Anne I have an older brother and an older sister. How about you?
Balázs I have two younger sisters.
Anne Are they students?
Balázs One is a student, the other one works.
Anne Where does she work?
Balázs In England?

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|---|---------|
| testvér | sibling | noun |
| báty | older brother | noun |
| nővér | older sister | noun |
| húg | younger sister | noun |
| diák | student | noun |
| dolgozik | work | verb |
| egyik | one | adverb |
| másik | the other | adverb |
| neked | to you, for you, as far as you're concerned | pronoun |

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Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>A testvérem nincs itthon.</i> | "My sibling is not at home." |
| <i>A bátyám sokat verekszik.</i> | "My older brother fights a lot." |
| <i>A nővérem tanár.</i> | "My older sister is a teacher." |
| <i>A húgom elment.</i> | "My younger sister left." |
| <i>Ezen a helyen sok a diák.</i> | "There are many students in this place." |
| <i>A középiskolás diák egy levelet ír.</i> | "The middle school student is writing a letter." |
| <i>Én nagyon imádtam diák lenni.</i> | "I used to love being a student." |
| <i>Te hol dolgozol?</i> | "Where do you work?" |
| <i>A nemzeti ünnepeken nem megyünk dolgozni.</i> | "We don't go to work on national holidays." |
| <i>Az alkalmazottak az irodában dolgoznak.</i> | "The employees are working at the office." |
| <i>Az egyik kutya fekete, a másik kutya fehér.</i> | "One of the dogs is black, the other one is white." |
| <i>Követem a másik taxit.</i> | "I'm following the other cab." |
| <i>Neked van gyereked?</i> | "Do you have any kids?" |

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

The Hungarian translation of the word "sibling" is **testvér**. It is commonly used, even though there are separate words for every possible age and gender. For the girls, we have **nővér**, "older sister" and **húg** "younger sister." For males, we have **báty**, or "older brother" and we also have **öcs**, which means "younger brother."

Some of these can be used outside the family context. **Öcsém!** ("my younger brother") is used to convey the meaning "my God, is that amazing/terrible." You may also hear the word **tesó** quite often, which is an abbreviated, cuter form of sibling, used between family members or male friends as a term of endearment. **Szevasz tesó** works the same way as "hey bro'."

Neked is somewhat complicated to explain. First, you can use it in sentences like "I'll give you a present" or **Adok neked egy ajándékot.** **Adok** is "I give" and **neked** is "for you, to you." But **neked** also means "as far as you're concerned, in your opinion" in the phrases like "What does love mean to you?" **Neked mi a szerelem?**

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In our dialogue, it gives extra emphasis to the changed subject of the next question, "so far we have talked about me, this time, how about you though?" Consider these:

1. ***Van kutyád?***

"Do you have a dog?"

2. ***És neked van kutyád?***

"And how about you? Do YOU have a dog?"

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Asking *Hol* ("Where?")

Hol dolgozik?

"Where does she work?"

In this lesson we are going to learn to use three forms of the question word "where."

The first one is quite simply translated into English like "where" and it is pronounced *hol*? Normally, question words come first in Hungarian, just like in English.

1. *Hol van Sándor?*

"Where is Alexander?"

2. *Hol van a vécé?*

"Where is the toilet?"

In Hungarian, words like the "to, from, onto, by etc" are expressed by changes on the noun or question word that follows them. Therefore "from where" will be slightly different from "where."

For example:

1. *Honnan jössz?*

"Where are you coming from?"

This is sometimes said to people you bump into on the street. This same question also means "where are you from?" (informal) although as we have already mentioned before, this is not used very often.

For example:

1. *Honnan van a táskád?*

"Where is your bag from?"

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Questions that start with *honnan van?* always inquire about the origin of a certain item. If you like somebody's t-shirt, just say:

1. *Honnan van a pólód?*
"Where is your t-shirt from?" (meaning: "Where did you get your t-shirt?")
2. *Honnan veszed?*
"Where did you hear this?" ("It is not true.")

Finally, since we had "where from" we're also going to have "where to." This question word is *hova* or *hová*. There is absolutely no difference between the meaning of the two pronunciations.

1. *Hová megy ez a busz?*
"Where is this bus going (to)?"
2. *Hová tegyem a táskáját?*
"Where shall I put your bag (to)?" (formal)
(*Tegyem* is "I put" and *táskáját* is "your bag.")
3. *Hová kéri?*
"Where would you like to have it?" (your seat/ticket/cab ride)

Cultural Insight

Hungarian Immigration

Even though Hungarians often joke among themselves about how you always run into other Hungarians wherever you go, generally speaking, immigration to other countries is not particularly common.

There was of course a huge wave of people going to the United States in the twenties and forties in the last century. The former produced a notable Hollywood presence (Bela Lugosi, Zsa-Zsa Gabor—western name order), the latter had more famous scientists (Ede Teller, Leo Szilárd). Many also left because of the communist regime in the second half of the century. Yet Hungarians never really had a huge outgoing traffic that's comparable to Ireland, Poland or Armenia.

This has been changing recently. Since the country joined the EU, a lot of young people have been moving to England and Ireland, since these two countries have relatively open immigration policies. The main reasons to emigrate are usually to learn English while making more money, and escaping the economic hardships and unemployment that the financial crisis has brought.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Do You Love Hungarian Badminton?

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Hungarian

Anne Szeretsz tollasozni?
Balázs Szeretek, de nem nagyon tudok. Pingpongozni jobban szeretek.
Anne Azt én is szeretek. Ráérsz szombaton?
Balázs Persze. Mikor?
Anne Délelőtt tízkor találkozunk.
Balázs Oké.

English

Anne Do you like playing badminton?
Balázs Yes, but I am not very good. I prefer playing pingpong.
Anne I like that too. Are you free on Saturday?
Balázs Of course. When?
Anne Let's meet at ten A.M.
Balázs OK.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|--------------|----------------------|--------|
| szeret | likes, loves | verb |
| tollasozik | plays badminton | noun |
| tud | know, can | verb |
| pingpongozik | plays pingpong | verb |
| jobban | better, more | adverb |
| ráér | has time | verb |
| szombat | Saturday | noun |
| délelőtt | morning, A.M. (8-12) | noun |
| találkozik | meet | verb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Nem szeretek futni.
Kedden menjünk tollasozni.*

"I don't like running."
"Let's go play badminton on Tuesday."

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*Tudok egy jó helyet.
Abban nem tud segíteni.
Nem tudom a nevét.
Apám jól pinpongozik.
Jobban szeretem a kávé a teánál.
Ma nem érek rá, bocs!
A kedvenc napom a szombat.
Az orvos a héten délelőtt rendel.*

*Találkozzunk a kocsmában.
Találkozzunk!
Az ingatlanügynök egy ügyféllel találkozik.*

"I know a good place."
"He can't help you with that."
"I don't know his/her name."
"My dad plays pingpong well."
"I prefer coffee to tea."
"I don't have time today, sorry."
"My favorite day is Saturday."
"The doctor is in this week in the mornings."
"Let's meet at the pub."
"Let's meet."
"The real estate agent is meeting the client."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Ráér: this awkwardly spelled verb means "has time (to do something)." *Ráérsz holnap?* "Do you have time tomorrow?" The answer of course changes the conjugation a bit, it is *ráérek*, or "I have time." But to make things even more interesting, the negative changes the whole thing again, you'll have to say: *Nem érek rá.* "I don't have time." Another example is: *Pénteken nem érek rá.* "I don't have time on Friday."

Tud is another important word. It means "knows, can." Used in the first person singular, you'd have to say *tudok*, as in *tudok egy jó helyet*, or "I know a good place." *Nem tudok vezetni* means "I can't drive." If you want to use the second person singular, you just have to add one sound, *tudsz* (as you know from the alphabet lessons, *sz* is pronounced "s"). *Tudsz úszni?* means "Can you swim?" Basically, if check out the infinitive form of a verb, you can pop it after *tudok* or *tudsz*, or even the third person singular *tud* to ask "Can (I/you/he respectively)" questions.

Találkozik is "meets." In our lesson it is used in the imperative, *találkozzunk* or in English "let's meet." In Hungarian, we don't usually say "meet me," but more often use "let's meet" so you should probably remember this one. *Találkozzunk a kocsmában!* "Let's meet in the bar."

Grammar Points

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The Focus of this Lesson is Conjugating Szeret ("to like, love")

Szeretsz tollasozni?

"Do you like playing badminton?"

In this lesson, we're going to learn how to conjugate the word *szeret* "like, love." First, you'll have to remember that in Hungarian "like" and "love" are both expressed with this very common verb.

Anne: *Szeretsz tollasozni?*

Balazs: *Szeretek...*

When you want to ask whether somebody likes doing something, you have to start the question by saying *szeretsz* and then add a verb in the infinitive. As you know, in Hungarian dictionaries, word lists and such, you sometimes find infinitives and sometimes the third person singular present tense form. The infinitive can be easily identified in a dictionary entry by looking at the ending. If the verb ends in *-ni*, then the verb is in the infinitive, hence *tollasozni*, *pingpongozni*.

Some ready-made examples for you include:

1. *Szeretsz aludni?*
"Do you like sleeping?"
2. *Szeretsz főzni?*
"Do you like cooking?"

The answer starts with the first person singular form, *szeretek*. For example:

1. *Szeretek (főzni).*
"I do. (I like cooking.)"

If you want to add a noun, the verb form is a bit different. Let's try adding a definite noun now:

1. *Szereted a magyar konyhát?*
"Do you like Hungarian cuisine?"
2. *Szereted a sertéshúst?*
"Do you like pork?"

The noun also has to be in the accusative, since it is the object of the sentence. The short answer is:

1. *Szeretem.*

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"I do (I like it.)"

2. *Szeretem a pizzát.*

"I like pizza."

Finally, here is something for the romantic minded listener. Since the verb also means "to love," there are other uses you should be aware of.

1. *Szeretsz?*

"Do you love me?"

As you can see, if you don't add anything to the verb, the meaning of the question changes radically. The (positive) answer to this question is:

1. *Szeretlek.*

"I love you."

In general, Hungarian speakers use the word "love" less often when referring to people around them. The English "I love that guy" would not work in Hungarian with this verb, you would probably have to use a different one like *kedvel*. (*Kedvelem azt a palit*—for the sentence above.) Couples also wouldn't finish a phone conversation with the "I love you; I love you too" you may hear from English speakers quite often. When talking about people, try to save it for special occasions.

On the other hand, *szeret* is used to talk about food, hobbies and the like, without the extra emphasis that "love" carries as opposed to "like."

5

Cultural Insight

Why Water Polo?

In Hungary the most popular sport is probably still soccer, even though the last time Hungary was good was in the eighties. It is a very Hungarian thing to complain about football endlessly.

On the other hand, if you want to attend sports events where people are ecstatic with happiness, try going to a water polo game. Many foreigners consider the Hungarian enthusiasm toward water polo very random, but in fact it is a very popular sport in Eastern and Southern Europe. Traditionally, Hungary has been excellent. The national team won the last three Olympics and Hungary does well in every major competition both in club and national championships. People

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adore the players of the national team. Other countries with excellent water polo include Serbia, Montenegro, Spain and Russia, among others.

For those of you who haven't seen a game yet: don't be fooled by the apparent innocence of the game. If the aggressive nature of the sport is not clear to you, wait till they cut to the underwater cameras—kicking, kneeing, elbowing and drowning the opponent are essential parts of the game.

If you want to do something Hungarian, check if there is a game going on somewhere, and if you don't get tickets, go to any of the pubs during a major tournament.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Making Weekend Plans in Hungarian

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Hungarian

Balázs Mit csinálsz hétvégén?
Anne Megyek egy koncertre. Akarsz jönni?
Balázs Én megyek haza a szüleimhez.
Anne Mit csináltok otthon?
Balázs Eszünk, beszélgetünk, aztán veszekedünk.
Anne (laughs) Jól hangzik.

English

Balázs What are you doing on the weekend?
Anne I'm going to a concert. You wanna come?
Balázs I'm going home to my parents'.
Anne What are you doing at home?
Balázs We eat, talk, then fight.
Anne Sounds good.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| csinál | do | verb |
| hétvége | weekend | noun |
| otthon | home, at home | adverb |
| haza | home | noun |
| eszik | eat | verb |
| beszélget | talk | verb |
| veszekedik | fight | verb |
| jól | well | adverb |
| szülő | parent | noun |
| aztán | after that, and then | conjunction |
| hangzik | sound | verb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Péter mit csinál?

"What is Peter doing?"

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Ezen a hétvégén aludni fogok.

Nincs otthon a bátyám.

Tegnap este egyenesen haza mentem.

A fiú hot dogot eszik.

Ülj le, beszéljünk!

Ők folyton veszekednek.

Jól aludtam tegnap.

A szüleim ötvenöt évesek.

Fejezd be a munkát, aztán gyere át!

*Szerintem kezdjük a távolabbi várossal,
aztán megnézzük a környéket is.*

A koncert rosszul hangzik.

"I'm gonna be sleeping this weekend."

"My older brother is not at home."

"I went straight home last night."

"The boy is eating a hot dog."

"Sit down, let's talk."

"They are always fighting."

"I slept very well last night."

"My parents are 55."

"Finish working then come over."

"I think we should start with the city
further away, then we visit the
surroundings."

"The concert sounds bad."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Two different Hungarian words can be translated as "home." One is **haza** and the other one is **otthon**. As you can see, they couldn't be more different. They are used in different types of sentences, we are going to take a look at both words now.

Otthon can be a noun or an adverb and it is used in sentences like **Otthon vagy?** which means "Are you at home?" Another example is **Ez az otthonom**, or in English "This is my home."

The other word, **haza** can have several meanings. As a noun, it is more like "home country, original home." **Amerikában élek, de a hazám Magyarország.** "I live in America, but my home country is Hungary."

In our lesson it is an adverb, it means something like "towards one's home." **Megyek haza az államokba.** "I'm going home to the States."

We also had a conjunction in this lesson, **aztán**. This word means "after that." Here are some more examples you can use it in: **Először vacsora, aztán mozi.** "First dinner, then cinema."

Fejezd be a munkát, aztán gyere át! "Finish working, then come over to my place."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Future Plans

Mit csinálsz hétvégén?

"What are you doing on the weekend?"

In Hungarian, future action are very often expressed by using a present tense verb together with a time word that refers to the future. Basically, the literal translation of the above sentence is "what you do on weekend," with no conjugation that refers to the future on the verb.

For example:

1. *Mit csinálsz este?*
"What are you doing tonight?"
2. *Mit eszel holnap?*
"What are you eating tomorrow?"

In these examples *este* means "tonight" and *holnap* is "tomorrow." Without these words, the sentences would translate as present (either simple or progressive, as you know Hungarians don't differentiate between the two).

The answers to both these questions are present tense forms.

1. *Moziba megyek.*
"I'm going to the movies."
2. *Pizzát eszem.*
"I'm having pizza."

Other questions that inquire about future plans:

1. *Akarsz jönni?*
"Do you want to come?"

In this sentence we used the second person singular form of the verb *akar* or "want."

For example:

1. *Akarsz inni egy sört?*
"Do you want to have a beer?"
2. *Akarsz pihenni?*
"Do you want to take a break?"

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The short answer to this question is *Akarok*. "I do."

You may want to use this word in the first person singular, in declarative sentences. In that case, the word order changes a little bit. Consider these examples:

1. *Aludni akarok.*
"I want to sleep."
2. *Főzni akarok valami finomat.*
"I want to cook something nice."

Simply put, whatever you want to do comes before the verb, **akarok**. We have already mentioned that Hungarian word order is not fixed. Generally speaking whatever is right before the verb gets extra emphasis. This means, that in negative sentences, where you want to express not wanting to do something, the word "no" or **nem** must come before the verb.

1. *Nem akarok inni.*
"I don't want to drink."
2. *Nem akarok koncertre menni.*
"I don't want to go to the concert."

Cultural Insight

Summer Fun in Hungary

Summer weekends in Hungary rarely go by without a festival, parade or at least a minimal get-together in Hungarian towns and cities. Nowadays even the smallest towns have a party dedicated to a niche of Hungarian culture.

There are of course tons of wine festivals in the major wine regions. There is a festival dedicated to Bull's Blood, or *bikavér*, one of the famous reds in Hungary and a major export item. This is just one of the wine-related summer programs. Besides wine, there are festivals dedicated to goulash, sausages, stew, fish stew, and there are various places that have watermelon festivals, noodle festivals, jam festivals, and these are just the food-related ones. You can spend a day trying the handiwork of cooks from all around the country. There are also many outside concerts and festivals in different towns like *Sopron*, *Szeged*, *Siófok* and of course *Budapest*. Since distances are not too bad in Hungary, you can leave Budapest every weekend and get back the next day

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easily.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Hungarian Hotel Reservation

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Hungarian

Anne Halló, Vízpart Szálló?
Kezelő Halló, igen, miben segíthetek?
Anne Szeretnék szobát foglalni.
Kezelő Hány személyre?
Anne Két személyre.
Kezelő És mikorra?
Anne Július 24-től, négy éjszakára.
Kezelő A nevét kérem.

English

Anne Hello, is this Hotel Vízpart?
Operator Hello, yes, how can I help you?
Anne I'd like to book a room.
Operator For how many people?
Anne For two.
Operator For when?
Anne From July 24, four nights.
Operator Your name please.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| szoba | room | noun |
| foglal | reserve, book | verb |
| személy | person | noun |
| július | July | noun |
| mikorra | for/to when | question word |
| éjszaka | night | noun |
| Miben segíthetek? | How can I help? | expression |
| segít | help | verb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*A szobám nagyon kicsi.
Előre kell asztalt foglalni.*

"My room is very small."
"You must reserve your table in advance."

*Hat személyre kérem.
Július a legmelegebb.
Mikorra kéri az asztalt?
A tegnapi éjszaka durva volt.
Jó napot, miben segíthetek?
segítségére jön
Kellene egy kis segítség.*

"For six people, please."
"July is the hottest."
"For when do you want the table?"
"Last night was rough."
"Good afternoon, how can I help you?"
"Come to (someone's) aid."
"I need some help here."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Halló is the standard greeting on the phone in Hungarian.

Miben segíthetek is a polite way to offer your services. It can be used in formal situations as well as with your friends. The first word is **miben**. The stem of this question word is **mi** or "what," you have probably already seen this one. This time, we attached the suffix **-ben**. This case ending carries the meaning "in something, inside." The very literal translation of this expression should be "In what can I help you?"

You should know that suffixes come in one, two and occasionally three different versions, that is, the same suffix can appear with different vowels in it. This is because of what is called vowel harmony. We'll talk about this more in the next lesson.

For now, it is enough to remember that **-ban** or **-ben** attached to a noun (or a question word) means "in." For example **házban**, "in the house," and **hűtőben** "in the fridge."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Hungarian Cases

Hány személyre?

"For how many people?"

In this lesson, we're going to discuss a few things about Hungarian cases.

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You should use this grammar point as reference material later since we are explaining a couple of important phenomena here.

Cases

Cases indicate the grammatical function a certain noun (pronoun) takes in a sentence. Consider the personal pronoun in these two sentences:

1. "He killed the dog." - Megölte a kutyát.
2. "The dog killed him." - A kutya megölte őt.

The third person singular pronoun is different depending on what role it fulfills in the sentence. When it is a subject we use "he," as an object, you have to use "him." In English case marking is not very prominent and is only marked on the personal pronouns (not on other nouns, see the above examples, where "the dog" is unchanged).

In Hungarian there are a lot more cases and they are "visible" on nouns as well as pronouns (and others like question words as well).

Now let's identify some cases from the lesson. If you look at the vocabulary table, you'll find the word *szoba*, "room." This is called nominative case, this is what you find in dictionaries. But in the dialogue a different form, different case is found, *szobát*. This is the accusative case, the noun is the object of the sentence. *Szoba - szobát*.

You will also find the word *személy* "person" in the word list. But listening to the dialogue, you hear *személyre*.

Normally, when you add *-ra* or *-re* to a noun, it means movement towards a surface, "onto." Look at these pairs now:

1. *asztal - asztalra*
"table" - "onto the table"

Tedd az asztalra!
"Put it on the table."

2. *szék - székre*
"chair" - "onto the chair"

Ülj arra a székre!
"Sit on that chair."

This case (which is called sublative case in textbooks) can also carry the

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meaning "to, for," just like in the dialogue, *két személyre* "for two people." For example:

1. *Két fiúra nem elég egy szelet hús.*
"One slice of meat is not enough for two boys."

Cases are also marked on question words in Hungarian. We have *mikor?* or "when" but also from this dialogue *mikorra?* or "for when."

1. *Mikorra főzök meg?*
"For what time shall I cook?" (when shall the meal be ready?)
2. *Hatra jó lesz.*
"Six will be fine."

As you have seen there are two different endings for this case *-ra* and *-re*. How to pick the correct one for the correct noun? This has to do with vowel harmony and we'll look into it soon.

Cultural Insight

Somewhere to Lay Your Head

On a lighter note, let's talk about hotels and holidays. You'll encounter many different words meaning some kind of accommodation. *Szálló* or *szálloda* is "hotel," the former is usually cheaper (hostel). The word hotel is also used in Hungarian. Then you'll sleep at a *fogadó* or a *vendégház*, "inn." The prices of these can vary significantly.

In this lesson Anne is booking a room at *Vízpart Szálló*, which means "Waterside Hotel." Speaking of watersides, the one you shouldn't miss in Hungary is Lake Balaton, the "Hungarian Sea." The southern side is ideal for those with kids since the water is very shallow. Party animals will also find good locations in *Siófok* in summer. The northern shore is deeper, but there are excellent wine cellars and hiking trails here.

The *Tisza* River also attracts crowds in summer. The Danube does not, it is actually illegal to swim at many places. You'll find excellent "fisherman's-inns" (*halászcserda*) by both these rivers.

Lake Velencei is cheaper and less crowded than Lake Balaton. It is only an hour from Budapest, ideal for a day trip.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Don't Lose the Hungarian Wine!

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Hungarian

Anne: Hol van a bor? A kocsiban?
Balázs: Nem, a hűtőben.
Anne: Nincs a hűtőben. Hová tetted?
Balázs: Nem a hűtőbe tettem?
Anne: Szerintem a kocsiban vagy a kosárban van.
Balázs: Megnézem. ... A kamrába tettem.

English

Anne: Where is the wine? In the car?
Balázs: No, in the fridge.
Anne: It is not in the fridge. Where did you put it?
Balázs: Didn't I put it in the fridge?
Anne: I think it's in the car or in the basket.
Balázs: I'll go look. ... I put it in the larder.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| megnéz | look, check | verb |
| kamra | larder | noun |
| kosár | basket | noun |
| bor | wine | noun |
| kocsi | car | noun |
| hűtő | fridge | noun |
| tesz | put | verb |
| szerint | in my opinion, to my mind | postposition |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Megnéztük az új Tarantino filmet.

"We've watched the new Tarantino movie."

*Megnézted a raktárban is?
A kamra hátul van.*

"Did you check in the storage room?"
"The larder is in the back."

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Hol találok kosarat?

Szereted a bort?

Csak fehérbort iszom.

Tiszta a kocsi.

Hol parkoltad le a kocsit?

A hűtő tele van.

Tegyéél rá sót.

Szerintem ne menjél.

"Where can I find a basket?"

"Do you like wine?"

"I only drink white wine."

"The car is clean."

"Where did you park the car?"

"The fridge is full."

"Put some salt on that."

"I think you shouldn't go."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Szerintem is "in my opinion" or "I think." The word is already conjugated for you, so just make a statement and place it after this word.

Szerintem túl drága. "I think it's too expensive."

Szerintem ne menjünk. "I don't think we should go." In this sentence, unlike English, what is negated is "should" and not *szerintem*, or "think."

Szerinted hideg van kinn? "Do you think it is cold outside?"

Szerintem hideg van. "I think it is cold."

Kocsi is a less formal way to say car. Hungarians very often use this as well as the more official **autó**. **Hűtő** is also a shortened form. In the vocab list, you can see the full form "refrigerator," or **hűtőszekrény**. Normally, unless you want to sound very-very official, you use **hűtő**.

Finally we have **tesz** or "put." We see two past tense variants, **tettem** and **tetted**, or "I put" and "you put" respectively. Here are a couple more examples with these words:

1. Az autót a ház elé tettem.

"I put the car in front of the house."

2. Hová tetted a kulcsomat?

"Where did you put my keys?"

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Vowel Harmony

Nem, a hűtőben.

"No, in the fridge."

In this lesson we're going to learn about vowel harmony, a phenomenon that is normally unseen in European languages and something that is absolutely necessary to understand in order to conjugate verbs and nouns correctly.

Before we dive into that, please note these two examples:

1. *hűtő*
"fridge"
2. *hűtőben*
"in the fridge"
3. *autó*
"car"
4. *autóban*
"in the car"

From these examples you can clearly see that the meaning "in the..." is carried by suffixes in Hungarian, **-ban** and **-ben**. As you may remember from last time, these are called cases and there are many of them in Hungarian. Last time we had the endings **-ra**, **-re**, both of them meant "onto, to."

So we know that these must be attached to nouns, but which one goes with which noun? This is when vowel harmony comes into play.

Depending on the place a vowel is pronounced in your mouth, we differentiate between front vowels, **e-é, i-í, ü-ű** and back vowels **a-á, u-ú** and **o-ó**. Front vowels are actually pronounced in the front part of your mouth, while back vowels are pronounced in the back.

Historically, Hungarian words only contained one type of vowel, a word either only had front or back vowels. This is no longer the case, there are many mixed vowel words, but most of them can be identified as foreign loan words (however long ago they were borrowed).

Now, when you want to attach an ending like **-ban**, **-ben** to a noun, they way

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you decide which ending to use is by looking at the vowels of the noun.

If the noun has back vowels, the suffix you attach must have back vowels.

1. *autó*
"car"
2. *autóban*
"in the car"

If the noun has front vowels, the suffix must have front vowels.

1. *hűtő*
"fridge"
2. *hűtőben*
"in the fridge"

If the noun has mixed vowels, the vowel of the suffix must be like the last vowel in the noun.

1. *terasz*
"terrace, balcony"
2. *teraszra*
"onto the balcony/to the balcony"

These three rules might help you in the beginning. Actually, there are more things to know about the vowel harmony and there are exceptions too, but this is a good beginning for now.

Just to recap:

In the previous lesson we had two noun endings, both meaning "motion to, motion onto": **-ra, -re**

In this lesson we had two for "inside" **-ban, -ben**. If you listened carefully, you have heard **-ba** and **-be** too after nouns. These last two mean "towards the inside" and they are used when there is a motion involved.

These all came in pairs, just like many other suffixes, to match the vowels in the noun they are attached to. Some suffixes only have one form (**-ig**, or "all the way to, until", see lesson), but some will have three.

Finally, compare and remember these:

autó - **autóban** ("in the car") - **autóba** ("into the car") - **autóra** ("onto the car").

hűtő - **hűtőben** ("in the fridge") - **hűtőbe** ("into the fridge") - **hűtőre** ("onto the fridge").

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We'll talk about vowel harmony and cases more later on.

Cultural Insight

Sample Some Hungarian Wine

Wine in Hungary is very good, and if you haven't tried any, there is a chance that you missed out on a great experience.

Finding a good is not always easy, since most of what you can buy in normal supermarkets is cheap, low-quality wine. As a rule of thumb, try to avoid anything below 1,500 forints per bottle. Look up some of the more famous winemakers from *Eger*, *Tokaj* and *Villány* (or any of the wine regions) and go to a wine shop where you can search by names.

Hungarians like to drink the cheapest wines mixed with club soda or *szóda*. Much like a wine spritzer, it is cool and sour, perfect for summer afternoons (and to wolf down the low-quality stuff).

There is also the habit of drinking red wine mixed with coke. It is the very opposite of classy, gives you a terrible headache and tastes bad, on the other hand it's priced in a student friendly way and it also helps to make the cheap bottle your neighbor gave you disappear, without having to pour it down the drain.

Absolute Beginner S1

We're Going to Party in Siófok

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Hungarian

Anne Indulhatunk? Tedd a kulcsot a táskába.
Balázs Oké, indulás!
Anne Hurrá, megyünk Siófokra! Van barátod Siófokon?
Balázs Van. A parton lakik.
Anne Tökjő! Este le akarok menni a partra.
Balázs Naná hogy megyünk.

English

Anne Can we go now? Put the keys in the bag.
Balázs OK, let's go!
Anne Hurray, we're going to Siófok. Do you have any friends in Siófok?
Balázs I do. He lives on the beach.
Anne Cool! I want to go to the beach tonight.
Balázs Of course we're going.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| menni | go | verb |
| tökjő | cool, awesome | expression |
| kulcs | key | noun |
| táska | bag | noun |
| indul | leave | verb |
| hurrá | hurray | expression |
| part | beach, bank, shore | noun |
| este | evening | noun |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Fel akarok menni a tetőre. "I want to go up on the roof."
Tökjő a hajad! "Your hair looks awesome."
Elvesztettem a kulcsot. "I lost the keys."

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*Ne hagyd ott a táskád.
Indulok munkába.
Hurrá, nyaralunk!
Láttad a Part című filmet?*

*Este tévét nézek.
A fivérek este fürödtek.
Szép estét!*

"Don't leave your bag there."
"I'm leaving for work."
"Hurray, we're on a holiday!"
"Have you seen the movie called The Beach?"
"I watch TV in the evening."
"The brothers bathed in the evening."
"Have a nice evening!"

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Indul is a verb that means "to leave." The first person singular is **indulok**, which is applicable when you are standing up from a table, or from work: **Sziasztok, indulok**. "Bye (plural), I'm leaving." If you want to urge people to move, you can also say the noun **indulás**. Repeat this word several times to urge people to get moving: **Indulás, indulás**. This is only among friends.

Hurrá is like "hurray" in English. Use it when you're very happy about something. Hungarians also use it sarcastically very often like: **Itt vannak a számlák. Hurrá**. "Here are the bills. Hurray." Try to repeat them a couple times to get the tone right.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Noun Endings

Hurrá, megyünk Siófokra!

"Hurray, we're going to Siófok."

Last time we talked about case endings and vowel harmony and we also promised to do one more lesson on them. We're talking about noun endings again for a while in this lesson.

So far we have learned that meanings like "into," "inside," and "onto" etc. are expressed by endings attached to nouns, and that these are called cases. We also learned that many of these endings come in two varieties, for example **-ra**, **-re**, meaning "onto, to." Deciding which one is correct, first you have to look at the vowels of the noun. Back vowel nouns get back vowel endings, front vowel

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nouns get front endings and mixed vowel nouns will get an ending that corresponds with the last vowel of the noun.

Our example again:

1. *Hurrá, megyünk Siófokra!*
"Hurray, we're going to Siófok."

You can see *-ra* attached to the name of the popular holiday town, *Siófok*. This ending (and the front counterpart *-re*) is used with many place names, and places.

For example:

1. *Megyek Budapestre.*
"I'm going to Budapest."
2. *Lemegyünk a partra?*
"Are we going down to the beach?" ("onto the beach")

Once we have arrived "onto the beach," there is no more movement involved, we are "on" the beach. This is a different case, marked by a different suffix.

1. *A parton lakik.*
"He lives on the beach."
2. *A macska a széken van.*
"The cat is on the chair."

This ending however has four forms, *-on*, *-en*, *-ön*, *-n*. As you have seen, *-on* is used with back vowel words, *-en* with front vowel words. We have to extend our set of rules now.

If a case ending has three forms, the third form (with the vowel *ö*) is attached to nouns where the last vowel is *ö*, *ó*, *ü*, *ú*.

1. *bőr*
"skin"
2. *bőrön*
"on the skin"

Some endings have four forms, the fourth being just one consonant. One consonant endings are attached to nouns in which the last sound is a vowel (of any kind).

For example:

1. *repülő*
"airplane"
2. *A repülőn vagyok.*
"I'm on the plane."

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One last thing you should know which is needed when attaching endings. The vowels *i*, *í*, *e* and *é* are called transparent, that is, if there is another vowel before them in a word, the ending matches that one.

1. *papír*
"paper"
2. *Írd a papírra.*
"Write it on the paper."

With these rules, you should be able to use case endings with a good percent efficiency. There are of course exceptions and irregularities, but those shouldn't discourage you at all.

And finally a bonus table with easy-to-understand noun suffixes. Use it as a beginners' reference point later.

Let's work with the example:

doboz

"box"

| Used For | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 3d objects, buildings, countries, many institutions | -ba, -be "(movement) into" <i>dobozba</i> "into the box" | -ban, -ben "inside" <i>dobozban</i> "inside the box" | -ból, -ből "(movement) from inside" <i>dobozból</i> "from inside the box" |
| 2d surfaces, many place names, dates, events, means of transportation, Hungary | -ra, -re "(movement) onto" <i>dobozra</i> "onto the box" | -on, -en, -ön, -n "on" <i>dobozon</i> "on the box" | -ról, -ről "from the surface of" <i>dobozról</i> "from the top of the box" |
| near, next to, by (things and persons) | -hoz, -hez, -höz "(movement) next to" <i>dobozhoz</i> "to next to box" | -nál, -nél "next to something, by something" <i>doboznál</i> "by the box" | -től, -től "from next to something" <i>doboztól</i> "from by the box" |

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Cultural Insight

Hungary's Party Central

Siófok is a town on the Southern side of Lake Balaton. It is probably the biggest party center in Hungary in summer. There are countless bars, discos, clubs and beaches along the lake and in the city.

The lake on this side is very shallow and in very hot summers it takes about five minutes of walking in before the water is up to an adult's chest.

Lake Balaton has a bike route all around which you can navigate in anything from 2 to 5 days. There are campsites, guesthouses and hotels everywhere.

Winter is not particularly interesting here since most of the places close down. Winter is more enjoyable on the other side of the lake, in Mount *Bakony*, where you can take long hikes and drink wine.

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Absolute Beginner S1

How Was Your Hungarian Holiday?

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Hungarian

Szabó úr Üdvözlöm Anne. Rég láttam.
Anne Jó napot! Hogy telt a szabadság?
Szabó úr Jól, köszönöm. És önnek?
Anne Nekem is jól, köszönöm.
Szabó úr Hozta a papírjait?
Anne Ó, elnézést kérek, elfelejtettem.
Szabó úr Semmi gond.

English

Mr. Szabó Greetings, Anne. Long time no see.
Anne Good afternoon. How was your holiday?
Mr. Szabó It was very good, thank you. And yours?
Anne Mine was good too, thank you.
Mr. Szabó Did you bring your papers?
Anne Oh, I am sorry, I forgot.
Mr. Szabó No problem.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Semmi gond. | No problem. | expression |
| üdvözlöl | greet | verb |
| rég | long time, long ago | adverb |
| lát | see | verb |
| telik | go by, pass | verb |
| szabadság | holiday, vacation | noun |
| papír | paper | noun |
| Elnézést kérek. | Excuse me. | expression |
| elfelejt | forget | verb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Semmi gond, majd hívj.

"No problem, just call me later."

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Üdvözljük Magyarországon!
Rég ettem ilyen jót!

Ha elmentél volna, láttad volna.

Láttad mi történt?

Jól telt a hétvége?

Szeretnék egy nap szabadságot kivenni.

Utálom a papírmunkát.

Elnézést kérek, mennyi az idő?

elfelejti az övét

Ezt a napot nem felejttem el.

"Welcome to Hungary!"

"I haven't eaten such great food for a long time."

"If you went, you would have seen it."

"Did you see what happened?"

"Did you have a good weekend?"

"I'd like to ask for one day off."

"I hate paperwork."

"Excuse me, what time is it?"

"Forget one's belt."

"I will not forget this day."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

In this lesson's vocab section, we're going to learn a few formal expressions that you can use in a variety of situations.

The first one is **rég láttam**. **Rég** is "long ago" and **láttam** is past tense for "see." This one is polite to use if you haven't met a person for a longer period of time. This is conjugated formal. If you want to say this to a friend, you have to say **rég láttalak**.

Greeting somebody by saying **üdvözlöm** is uber-formal. You usually want to add the name of the person you're addressing. In English, this expression sounds like: "Greetings, somebody."

Elnézést kérek is one of the several ways to apologize. This is normally used in formal situations, if the trouble you have caused is not too huge. You would use this when stepping on someone's foot on the bus. You don't have to add anything to this, this is already a full expression.

The same expression is used when you want someone's attention. "Excuse me, what time is it?" is **elnézést, mennyi az idő?**

Finally, **semmi gond** is an often used answer to the above expression. It literally means "nothing problem." This one has no level of formality and can be used with whomever you please.

Grammar Points

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The Focus of this Lesson is Making a bit of Small Talk using the Verb *Telik*, Which Means "go by, elapse, pass by."

Hogy telt a szabadság?

"How was your holiday."

The verb in this sentence is in third person singular and past tense as well. The literal translation is "how went the holiday?" Another example with this construction:

1. *Hogy telt a hétvége?*
"How was the weekend?"

The answer to both of these questions:

1. *Jól telt.*
"It was good." ("went well")
2. *Nem telt jól.*
"It was not good."

A similar expression is used when you want to inquire about someone's work, exam or anything that is was a major thing in his life recently.

1. *Hogy ment a vizsga?*
"How did the exam go?"

The verb in this one is the past tense form of "go," in third person singular. This one implies that the action that's involved didn't just "go by," it actually took effort.

1. *Hogy ment a költözés?*
"How did the moving go?"

Again, the answer:

1. *Jól ment.*
"It went well."

Alternatively, instead of saying "it didn't go well" you could choose to say "it went badly":

Rosszul ment.

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Cultural Insight

Politeness at the Workplace or in the Classroom

We've talked about this before, but it is time to elaborate on the topic for a bit. Like we have already mentioned, the polite forms are to be used with one's superior or teacher. At the workplace, people you're in close contact with on a regular basis usually offer to use the informal forms with you. This rite is usually initiated by the older member of the group. Unless an older member or your boss offers to do so, you should not ask for the informal level of speech.

Classmates usually *tegez* (use the informal speech) each other. You might be wondering: can you *tegez* your teacher? It really depends on the situation and the teacher. Language instructors normally ask to use the informal speech because it is simpler to interact. University professors and high school teachers rarely do, the former because of their position, the latter because of the age difference.

No matter if it's your boss or teacher, after some time of working together closely they will probably offer you to stop *magáz*-ing (use the formal speech) and start *tegez*-ing. This is normally done outside the usual zone of interaction, usually in a pub, since traditionally it involved drinking together.

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When Are You Going Home From Hungary?

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Hungarian

Mr. Szabó Mikor megy haza legközelebb?
Anne Azt hiszem karácsonykor.
Mr. Szabó Januárban visszajön?
Anne Igen, visszajövök. Nem megyek haza végleg.
Mr. Szabó Én is megyek Amerikába télen.
Anne Hová?
Mr. Szabó New Yorkba megyünk a feleségemmel.

English

Mr. Szabó When are you going home next?
Anne I think around Christmas.
Mr. Szabó Are you coming back in January?
Anne Yes, I am coming back. I'm not going home for good.
Mr. Szabó I'm going to America in winter too.
Anne Where to?
Mr. Szabó We are going to New York with my wife.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------|
| jön | come | verb |
| megy | go | verb |
| karácsony | Christmas | noun |
| január | January | noun |
| vissza | back | preposition, adverb |
| végleg | for good | adverb |
| tél | winter | noun |
| feleség | wife | noun |
| legközelebb | next time | adverb |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Jössz a kisboltba?

"Are you coming to the grocer?"

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Te is jössz kirándulni?

korán jön

Mész Németországba?

Megyek haza.

Mész holnap bulizni?

Karácsony már csak két hét.

Január a leghidegebb.

Visszaadnád a tollamat?

Végleg befejeztem.

A tél nagyon hosszú idén.

A feleségem szőke.

Legközelebb máshová megyek.

"Are you also coming to the trip?"

"come early"

"Are you going to Germany?"

"I'm going home."

"Are you going partying tomorrow?"

"Only two weeks until Christmas."

"January is the coldest."

"Could you give me back my pen?"

"I'm done for good."

"Winter is very long this year."

"My wife is blond."

"Next time I'm going somewhere else."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

karácsonykor

"on Christmas"

You already know that meanings like "on" are expressed by a suffix attached to a noun. You'll be glad to know that the major holidays take **-kor**, which only has one form, you don't have to worry about vowel harmony and all that.

húsvétkor

"on Easter"

szilveszterkor

"on New Year's Eve"

You should remember that **-kor** also carried the meaning "at" in constructions like "at seven" or in Hungarian **hétkor**.

Another case ending is **-ban, -ben**. If you remember from last time, it means "inside." It is also used with the names of the months.

január

"**januárban**"

február

"**februárban**"

Here is a list of all the remaining months, try to guess which one has front, back or mixed vowels and which ending it gets. **Március, április, május, június,**

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július, augusztus, szeptember, október, november, december.

(Key: all get *-ban*, except for September, October, November, December.)

Last time we learned the endings **-ra, -re**. This is used to mean "onto, to" and as you could see it is often used with place names.

Megyek Budapestre.

"I'm going to Budapest."

When we are expressing movement towards a city, a town or a country, the endings **-ba, -be** can also be used. Which city gets which ending? Unfortunately you have to learn one by one.

Megyek Debrecenbe.

"I'm going to Debrecen."

Megyünk New Yorkba.

"We're going to New York."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Present Tense Conjugations of the Verbs *Jön* and *Megy*.

***Mikor megy haza legközelebb?*
When are you going home next?**

We've mentioned before that Hungarian verbs have two kinds of conjugation, definite and indefinite. That means that the verb "eat" will be conjugate differently if the phrase is "eat the apple" as opposed to "eat an apple." Now, lucky for us, *jön* and *megy* are irregular from this point of view, they only have one conjugation, indefinite.

Even though they count as irregular verbs, they will help us ease our way into present tense verb conjugation. Here is a table, for future reference, after that we'll go on with examples.

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| | <i>jön</i> - "come" | <i>megy</i> - "go" |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1st person (I) singular | <i>jövök</i> | <i>megyek</i> |
| 2nd person (you) singular | <i>jössz</i> | <i>mész</i> |
| 3rd person (he, she, it) singular and 2nd person singular, formal | <i>jön</i> | <i>megy</i> |
| 1st person (we) plural | <i>jövünk</i> | <i>megyünk</i> |
| 2nd person (you) plural | <i>jöttök</i> | <i>mentek</i> |
| 3rd person (they) plural | <i>jönnek</i> | <i>mennek</i> |

In the dialogue, we had:

1. *Mikor megy haza legközelebb?*
"When are you going home next?"

As you can see from this example the third person singular is also the formal second person.

Normally in Hungarian sentences the personal pronoun is omitted, since the "doer" is already expressed in the conjugation.

1. *Jöttök az étterembe?*
"Are you coming to the restaurant?"
2. *Megyünk.*
"We are going."

With *megy*, just like in the case of any other verb, whatever comes before the verb will get extra emphasis, compared to the other parts of the sentence. If you put the personal pronoun in the sentence, that will get some kind of emphasis.

1. *Én is megyek Amerikába télen.*
"I'm going to America in winter too."
2. *Én megyek haza.*
"I'm going home."
3. *Debrecenbe megyünk.*
"We are going to Debrecen (and not somewhere else)"

There is one minor point in this lesson. The word *vissza-* is attached to the verb *jön*. This means "back." You can try to attach it to other verbs as well.

1. *Visszamentek az irodába?*

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"Do you go back to the office?"

2. *Visszajött a férjem!*

"My husband came back!"

Cultural Insight

Hungarian Names for Other Countries

Hungarians more often than not use the word *Amerika/amerikai* to refer to the United States and people from there. You may hear *Egyesült Államok* as well, this is the literal translation of "United States."

If you're an English speaker from anywhere in Great Britain, please don't be offended if Hungarians say *angol*, "English." Most people would immediately use this instead of UK, Britain or Great Britain.

The other problem foreigners face sometimes is the long country names and recognizing them. You may not immediately recognize *Németország*, *Svájc*, *Észak-Írország*, *Spanyolország* and *Olaszország*. ("Germany," "Switzerland," "Northern Ireland," "Spain" and "Italy.") Many of these end in *ország*, this means "country" in Hungarian.

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Do you Speak Hungarian?

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Hungarian

| | |
|----------|---|
| Szomszéd | Beszélsz magyarul? |
| Anne | Egy kicsit beszélek. |
| Szomszéd | Á, nagyon jól beszélsz! |
| Anne | Nem, tényleg csak egy kicsit. |
| Szomszéd | Ne szerénykedj! Biztos jó a tanárod is. |
| Anne | Az igaz. |

English

| | |
|----------|---|
| Neighbor | Do you speak Hungarian? |
| Anne | I speak a little. |
| Neighbor | Wow, you speak very well. |
| Anne | No, really just a little. |
| Neighbor | Don't be so modest. I'm sure your teacher is very good too. |
| Anne | That's true. |

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| kicsit | a bit | adverb |
| beszél | speak | verb |
| tényleg | really | adverb |
| csak | only | adverb |
| szerénykedik | be modest | verb |
| biztos | for sure, surely | adjective |
| tanár | teacher | noun |
| igaz | true, right | adjective |
| magyar | Hungarian (nationality) | adjective |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Vezetne egy kicsit lassabban, kérem?</i> | "Could you drive a bit slower, please?" (formal) |
|---|---|

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Beszél lengyelül?
A szónok a konferencián beszél.
Tényleg megittad?
Még csak tíz perce ismerlek.
Még csak tizenkilenc vagyok.
Ne szerénykedj, ügyes vagy.
Még nem biztos.
Biztos fáradt vagy.
Biztos nem kérsz?
A tanár tanítja a gyerekeket a tanteremben.
Igaz vagy nem igaz?
Ön magyar?
Ez magyar bor?

"Do you speak Polish?" (formal)
"The speaker speaks at the conference."
"Did you really drink all that?"
"I've only known you for ten minutes."
"I'm only 19."
"Don't be so modest, you're very good."
"I'm not sure yet."
"You must be tired."
"Are you sure you don't want any?"
"The teacher is teaching the kids in the classroom."
"Is it true or not?"
"Are you Hungarian?" (formal)
"Is this Hungarian wine?"

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Ne szerénykedj is a phrase often heard when people react to a compliment in a modest way. **Ne** is "don't" and **szerénykedik** is actually a verb that means something like "be modest." Here it is conjugated to the second person singular.

Ó, ugyan már is also often used in this context ("Oh, come on..."). When someone is being modest, you should always try to force a bit of agreement out of them.

Ne, as you have seen above, means "don't." You can try to put it in front of any verb.

Ne menj.
"Don't go."

Biztos means "surely" and it is usually added to the beginning of the sentence.

Biztos fáradt vagy.
"You must be tired."

Még nem biztos.
"Not sure yet."

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Csak means "only."

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is on How to Use the Words for Nationalities and Languages

Beszélsz magyarul?

"Do you speak Hungarian?"

In this lesson, we're going to learn how to use nationalities and turn the name of a country into an adjective. We're also going to use that with the verb "speak."

In our last lesson, we talked about country names and how many of them end in *ország*, or "country."

Here are some examples.

- *Németország* - "Germany"
- *Franciaország* - "France"
- *Olaszország* - "Italy"
- *Oroszország* - "Russia"
- *Spanyolország* - "Spain"

To turn these into adjective, you just have to cut *ország* from the end:

1. *Németország* - *német*
"Germany - German"

This however is only used in constructions like "German car" or *német autó*.

When you want to use it in a sense like "He speaks German" the word that we created needs a case ending, one that is not easy to translate into English. The ending is *-ul*, *-ül* (depending on the vowel pattern of the word, as usual.) This ending literally means "on that language."

For example:

1. *Beszélek németül.*
"I speak German."
2. *Tudsz franciául?*
"Do you speak French?"

This covers those countries that end in *ország*. What happens to the ones that don't? You'll have to learn them one by one. Here are some of the commonly

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used ones:

1. *Amerika - amerikai*
"America - American"
2. *Anglia - angol*
"England - English"
3. *Kína - kínai*
"China - Chinese"
4. *Japán - japán*
"Japan - Japanese"
5. *Svájc - svájci*
"Switzerland - Swiss"

These are the country names and the adjectives formed from them. If you want to say "in a language" you have to add *-ul* to the second column.

1. *Nem beszélek angolul.*
"I don't speak English."
2. *Sokan beszélnek kínaiul.*
"Many people speak Chinese."

Finally, here is a conjugation table for "speak," in Hungarian: *beszél*. (present tense, indefinite)

| | |
|--|------------------|
| <i>én</i> - "I" | <i>beszélek</i> |
| <i>te</i> - "you" | <i>beszélsz</i> |
| <i>ő/ön</i> - "he, she, it"/"you (formal)" | <i>beszél</i> |
| <i>mi</i> - "we" | <i>beszélünk</i> |
| <i>ti</i> - "you" | <i>beszéltek</i> |
| <i>ők</i> - "they" | <i>beszélnek</i> |

Cultural Insight

The Humble Hungarians

As a general rule, when in Hungary, try to be modest. The rule that applies in many oriental cultures strangely enough is also valid in Hungary. When complimented, it is better to say, oh "it was nothing," "it was just teamwork" and such. You'll see that whenever you compliment a Hungarian on their English or any kind of achievement, they will probably mumble some kind of inaudible

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thanks or shake their head.

That doesn't mean that you cannot compliment people and that they are not happy about it. That's why we learned *ne szerénykedj* in this lesson. Making people look good in front of others is always welcome.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Let's Drink to the Successful Hungarian Semester

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Hungarian

Anne Sziasztok, üljetek le.
Balázs Mire iszunk?
Anne Igyunk a sikeres tanévre és a téliszünetre.
Balázs Egészségedre.
Anne Sziasztok.
Balázs Na egyetek valamit, jó étvágyat!
Anne Jó étvágyat!

English

Anne Hi guys, take a seat!
Balázs Why are we drinking to?
Anne Let's drink to the successful school year and the winter holiday.
Balázs Cheers.
Anne Cheers.
Balázs Eat something guys, enjoy your meal.
Anne Enjoy your meal.

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|---------------|------------------|------------|
| Jó étvágyat! | Enjoy your meal. | expression |
| étvágy | appetite | noun |
| ül | sit | verb |
| téliszünet | winter holiday | noun |
| tanév | school year | noun |
| le | down | prefix |
| iszik | drink | verb |
| sikeres | successful | adjective |
| Egészségedre! | Cheers! | expression |
| eszik | eat | verb |

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Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Jó étvágyat mindenkinek.</i> | "Enjoy your meal everyone." |
| <i>Elment az étvágyam.</i> | "I lost my appetite." |
| <i>A szomorú tinédzser egyedül üldögél.</i> | "The sad teenager is sitting alone." |
| <i>A hullámlovas a kerítésen ül.</i> | "The surfer is sitting on the fence." |
| <i>A téli szünet három hét.</i> | "Winter holiday is three weeks." |
| <i>A tanév decemberben ér véget.</i> | "The school year ends in December." |
| <i>Ne nézz le!</i> | "Don't look down!" |
| <i>Nem akarok inni semmit.</i> | "I don't want to drink anything." |
| <i>Sikeres munkát kívánok.</i> | "I wish you success in your work." |
| <i>Egészségedre Tamás!</i> | "Cheers, Tamás!" |
| <i>A fiú hot dogot eszik.</i> | "The boy is eating a hot dog." |

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

In this lesson, we're going to learn a couple of useful expressions you can use around the table.

The first one is **egészségedre**. This bewildering collection of random letters means "to your health" and is often used when clinking glasses. You may also say this if someone thanks you for the meal you prepared. There are even worse looking forms that are used when you have more people around the table.

Egészségetekre - "to your health" which is used if you're only watching the procession, and **egészségünkre** - "to our health" when you're participating in the drinking.

Szia and the plural form, **sziasztok** is also used when raising your glass.

Jó étvágyat is another important phrase that you hear around the table, at the beginning of the meal. It is similar to the French "bon appetit." The second word, **étvágyat** means "appetite" and the whole construction means "(wish you) good appetite." The normal reply is repeating the same phrase to the others.

The word **étvágy** can be used in other contexts. It means "appetite" as in:

1. **Doktor úr, nincs étvágyam.**

"Doctor, I don't have an appetite."

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2. *Nekem elment az étvágyam.*

"I've lost my appetite."

Tanév means either one school year, from September to June. If you want to use semester, well, you can do that. To that, the word **szemeszter** is used.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is Some Uses of -ra, -re

Igyunk a sikeres tanévre!

"Let's drink to the successful school year."

Igyunk is the first person plural imperative conjugation of the word *iszik*, "drink." When giving a toast, you want to use this form to start the sentence with.

Normally, whatever is the last word in what you want to drink to gets our well-known ending *-ra, -re*. The first meaning of this ending is "onto," but as you have already seen before, it is oftentimes used in similarly abstract contexts.

1. *Igyunk a cégre!*

"Let's drink to the company."

2. *Igyunk a barátságra!*

"Let's drink to friendship."

Cég is "company," a word with a front vowel, therefore it gets the front vowel ending, *-re*. *Barátság* (or "friendship") is full of back vowels, therefore it gets the back vowel ending, *-ra*. Incidentally, if you can't remember which vowel is which, try to remember these memory hooks. Disregarding vowel length, the word *autó* contains all the back vowels and the word *teniszütő* ("tennis racket") has all the front vowels.

1. *Mire iszunk?*

"What shall we drink to?"

Iszunk is the first person plural conjugation of *iszik*. The question word, *mire* is actually the most basic question word *mi* ("what"), with the aforementioned case ending attached. Therefore the exact meaning of this question is "to/onto what are we drinking?"

Other examples with *-ra, -re*.

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1. *Mire költöd a pénzed?*
"What are you going to spend your money on?"
2. *Ruhára költöm.*
"I'm spending it on clothes."
3. *Mire gondolsz?*
"What are you thinking about?"
4. *A tegnapi beszélgetésre gondolok.*
"I'm thinking about yesterday's conversation."

Finally, the present tense indefinite conjugation of *iszik, eszik*. ("Drink," "eat.")

| Pronoun | "Drink" | "Eat" |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| én - "I" | <i>iszom</i> | <i>eszem</i> |
| te - "you" | <i>iszol</i> | <i>eszel</i> |
| ő/ön - "he, she, it"/"you (formal)" | <i>iszik</i> | <i>eszik</i> |
| mi - "we" | <i>iszunk</i> | <i>eszünk</i> |
| ti - "you" | <i>isztok</i> | <i>esztek</i> |
| ők - "they" | <i>isznak</i> | <i>esznek</i> |

Cultural Insight

A Toast to Hungary

We have already talked a bit about what things to say around a table. Here are some more pointers about good table manners in Hungary.

When many of you are drinking to something after a toast, more often than not you'll have to stand up. Always look in the eyes of the other person you're clinking your glass with. While doing that, try to make sure that pairs of arms don't cross each other. Once you've lifted your glass, don't put it back on the table without drinking.

There are no rules to how much you drink from your glass when doing all the above, but it is best to check if the rest of the table chases it down or just sips a bit.

Hungarians used not to do this with beer, however this rule is changing nowadays. There is some confusion even among the locals in this regard, therefore the best option is to wait and see what the majority of the participants do.

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Absolute Beginner S1

Are You Going to Miss Your Hungarian Flight?

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Hungarian

Anne Lekésem a repülőt.
Balázs Nyugi, nyugi, nem lesz gond.
Anne Nem leszek ott időben.
Balázs De ott leszel. Kár hogy mész.
Anne Hamarosan találkozunk. Vigyázz magadra.

English

Anne I'll miss my flight.
Balázs Relax, relax, there won't be any problems.
Anne I'm not gonna be there on time.
Balázs You are. Too bad you're leaving.
Anne We'll meet again soon. Take care!

Vocabulary

| Hungarian | English | Class |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|
| lekési | miss | verb |
| repülő | plane | noun |
| nyugi | relax | expression |
| gond | problem | noun |
| ott | there | adverb |
| idő | time | noun |
| kár | it's a pity | noun |
| Hamarosan találkozunk. | See you soon. | expression |
| Vigyázz magadra. | Take care. | expression |

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Lekéstem a buszt.</i> | "I missed the bus." |
| <i>A repülő késik.</i> | "The plane is delayed." |
| <i>Nyugi, minden oké lesz.</i> | "Relax, everything will be fine." |
| <i>Valami gond van, biztos úr?</i> | "Is there a problem, officer?" |
| <i>Ott van a bejárat.</i> | "The entrance is right there." |

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Kevés az időm, de mondd.

"I don't have much time, but go ahead."

Kár, hogy nem jöttél.

"It's a pity you couldn't come."

Hamarosan találkozunk srácok.

"See you soon guys."

Vigyázz magadra, nehogy bajod essen.

"Take care not to get hurt."

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Nyugi is a shortened form of **nyugalom** or "tranquility." Both forms with a reassuring tone can be used to try to help others relax.

Hamarosan találkozunk. The literal translation is "soon we meet." Since this is first person plural, it can be used with anyone you'd like.

Vigyázz magadra is a bit more personal and it involves somewhat deeper feelings than the English "take care." This is in the informal conjugation. **Vigyázz** is "you take care" and **magadra** is "yourself." Normally, you'd only want to use this if you know you're not going to see the other person for a while, or if he/she is taking a trip somewhere abroad.

Grammar Points

The Focus of this Lesson is The Future Tense of *van* or "be."

Nem lesz gond.

"There won't be any problems."

In this example sentence above, we have a new form of an old word, *van*, "be." *Lesz* is the third person singular future form, the copula. Our example sentence is already a negativeé you can of course use it in normal declarative and interrogative sentences as well.

For example:

1. *Lesz vacsora?*

"Will there be dinner?"

The second and first person forms are *leszel*, *leszek* respectively.

For example:

1. *Otthon leszel este?*

"Will you be at home tonight?"

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2. *Hatkor otthon leszek.*
"I will be at home at six."

Note that if there is a time adverbial clearly indicating future (by itself or in context), present tense can also be used.

For example:

1. *Hatkor otthon leszek.*
"I'll be home at six."
2. *Hatkor otthon vagyok.*
"I'm home at six."

In our lesson however, Anne says:

1. *Nem leszek ott időben.*
"I'm not gonna be there on time."

Ott is "there" and *időben* is "on time." No time adverbial, therefore we need future forms.

1. *Mi leszel ha végzel?*
"What will you be, when you graduate?"
2. *Mérnök leszek.*
"I will be an engineer."

Finally, one more point to consider. In present tense, we learned that the third person singular "be" is often not in the sentence. Therefore we had:

1. *Tanár vagyok*
"I am a teacher."
2. *Tanár vagy.*
"You are a teacher."
3. *Ő tanár.*
"He/she is a teacher."

In future tense, we need the verb in these sentences:

1. *Tanár leszek.*
"I will be a teacher."

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2. *Tanár leszel.*
"You will be a teacher."
3. *Tanár lesz.*
"He/she will be a teacher."

Here is the conjugation table for the verb "be" in future and as a reminder, in present as well.

| | Present | Future |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| én—"I" | vagyok | leszek |
| te—"you" | vagy | leszel |
| ő/ön—"he, she, it"/"you (formal)" | van | lesz |
| mi—"we" | vagyunk | leszünk |
| ti—"you" | vagytok | lesztek |
| ők—"they" | vannak | lesznek |

Cultural Insight

Flying into Hungary

Budapest has one international airport, which has two terminals but only one that is currently in use, called *Budapest Liszt Ferenc Nemzetközi Repülőtér* ("Budapest Franz Liszt International Airport"). This is not particularly easy to remember for foreigners, but the good news is that many people still use the older names: *Ferihegy 1* and *Ferihegy 2*. Terminal 1 is smaller and was closed in March 2012 after the Hungarian national airline, Malév, went into financial administration. Terminal 2 is much bigger, and longer international flights as well as "normal" airlines all use that one. These are known as terminal 1 and 2 nowadays.

There are trains from *Nyugati* train station every twenty minutes to the airport. There are also many special airport buses, but if you want to save money, you have to take the blue subway to the southern terminal station and change to a public bus.



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