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HUNGARIAN WRITING COURSE

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Twenty short chapters that teach the Hungarian alphabet and its sounds: back and front vowels, vowel harmony, consonants and digraphs, long and short sounds, letter names, and reading practice with English respellings throughout. The first course in the Hungarian series.

20 Chapters

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Generated with Claude

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Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 1 · Meet the Alphabet: A Á



Meet the Hungarian Alphabet — Az ábécé

Welcome to your first Hungarian lesson on reading and pronunciation. Hungarian looks fierce on the page, but its spelling is one of the most **regular** in Europe: once you know the sound of each letter, you can read any word aloud. By the end of this chapter you'll know how the alphabet is organised, where the stress falls, the first two vowels (**a** and **á**), and you'll read 12 real words.



The Alphabet at a Glance — 44 Letters

The Hungarian alphabet has **44 letters**: **14 vowels** and **30 consonant letters**. Some of those letters are written with two or three characters (cs, sz, zs, gy ...), but each counts as **one letter**. Today's two are highlighted.

a	á	b	c	cs	d	dz	dzs
e	é	f	g	gy	h	i	í
j	k	l	ly	m	n	ny	o
ó	ö	ő	p	q	r	s	sz
t	ty	u	ú	ü	ű	v	w
x	y	z	zs				

back vowels (6) **front vowels (8)** **consonants (30)** . The letters q, w, x and y appear only in names and words borrowed from other languages.

The vowels come in **two families**, back and front, depending on where the tongue sits in the mouth. This course teaches the back vowels first (a á o ó u ú), then the front vowels (e é i í ö ő ü ű), and then shows how the two families control the endings of Hungarian words, a feature called **vowel harmony**.

🔑 Three Big Rules That Make Reading Easy

1

Spelling is phonetic

Each letter has one sound, and virtually every letter is pronounced: almost no silent letters and no tricky spellings. What you see is what you say.

2

Accents mean length

An accent mark on a vowel makes it **long**: *a* → *á*, *e* → *é*, *o* → *ó*. Length is real: it can change the meaning of a word.

3

Stress is always first

The stress falls on the **first syllable** of every word, however long the word is. Hungarian has no stress tricks to learn.

How Pronunciation Is Shown in This Course

Under each Hungarian word you'll see an English-style respelling, with **CAPITALS on the first (stressed) syllable**, like this: *apa* → **AW**-paw. In the respelling, **aw** is the *short, rounded* sound of the letter *a* (see below), and **ah** is the *long* sound of *á*. Consonants that look English sound English unless flagged. Letters we haven't met yet are explained when they come up.

🌟 Two New Vowels — a á

These are the first two **back vowels**. They look like a short and long version of the same letter, but there's one surprise: they're **different sounds**, not just different lengths.

a

A · a

short and rounded, like the "o" in *hot* or Scottish *cot* — respelled **aw**

back vowel · short

á

Á · á

long and open, like the "a" in *father* — respelled **ah**

back vowel · long

Mouth tip: open your mouth and round your lips slightly, as if you're about to say "hot", then keep it short. It is **not** the "a" of English *cat* or *father*.

Mouth tip: open wide, lips relaxed (not rounded), and hold the sound for about twice as long as *a*. The accent is a little flag that says "hold it".

a and á Are Different Sounds

English speakers often assume that *á* is just a stretched *a*. In Hungarian, the short **a** is a rounded "aw" (as in *hot*) and the long **á** is an open, unrounded "ah" (as in *father*). So *kar* ("arm") and *kár* ("a pity") differ in both length **and** sound. The same is true of *e* and *é*, which you'll meet in Chapter 4.

Short and Long Vowels — The Pairs

All Hungarian vowels come in short and long pairs. Here is the whole set, so you can see where today's pair fits.

SHORT	LONG	FAMILY	CHAPTER
a	á	back	1 (today)
o	ó	back	2
u	ú	back	3
e	é	front	4
i	í	front	5
ö	ő	front (rounded)	6
ü	ű	front (rounded)	7

Read It — Your First Words

*The consonants in these words are read as in English, with one note: the Hungarian **r** is **tapped** (one flick of the tongue, like a Scottish "r"), not the English "r". Stress is on the first syllable.*

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ház	HAHZ	house	long á
2	tál	TAHL	dish, plate	long á
3	ma	MAW	today	short a
4	apa	AW-paw	father	two short a's
5	alma	AWL-maw	apple	stress on AL
6	nap	NAWP	sun; day	two meanings
7	hal	HAWL	fish	short a
8	lap	LAWP	page, sheet	short a
9	kar	KAWR	arm	short a; tapped r
10	kár	KAHR	a pity; damage	same letters as kar, long á
11	ablak	AW-blawk	window	two short a's
12	barát	BAW-raht	friend (male)	short a, then long á

Real Hungarian Tip — "A" and "Az": The Word for "The"

Hungarian has one word for "the", and it has two forms. It's **a** (said "aw") before a consonant, and **az** (said "awz") before a vowel: *a ház* (the house), *a tál* (the dish), *az alma* (the apple), *az ablak* (the window). That's the first grammar rule you can use today.

Real Hungarian Tip — A Language Apart

Hungarian (*magyar*, said "MAW-dyawr") isn't related to its Slavic, German or Romanian neighbours. It belongs to the **Uralic** family, together with Finnish and Estonian, and it arrived in the

Carpathian Basin over a thousand years ago. That's why the vocabulary feels unfamiliar, but also why its spelling and grammar are so logical: they follow rules, with few exceptions.

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. How many letters does the Hungarian alphabet have, and how many of them are vowels?

▼ Show answer

44 letters, of which 14 are vowels (and 30 are consonant letters, including *cs*, *sz*, *zs*, *gy* and so on).

2. What does an accent mark on a vowel (as in *á*) tell you?

▼ Show answer

That the vowel is **long**. (For *a* and *á* the sound itself also changes: "aw" against "ah".)

3. Read these aloud and say what they mean: *ház · tál · hal*

▼ Show answer

HAHZ (house) · TAHL (dish) · HAWL (fish)

4. How do *kar* and *kár* differ, in sound and meaning?

▼ Show answer

KAWR (short, rounded a) means "arm"; KAHR (long, open á) means "a pity" or "damage".

5. Where is the stress in *alma*, *ablak* and *barát*?

▼ Show answer

Always on the first syllable: AWL-maw, AW-blawk, BAW-raht.

6. Choose *a* or *az*: ____ *ház* · ____ *alma* · ____ *nap* · ____ *ablak*

▼ Show answer

a ház · az alma · a nap · az ablak (*a* before a consonant, *az* before a vowel).

Coming Up in Chapter 2

The back vowels continue with **o** and **ó**. You'll then read *ló* (horse), *tó* (lake), *hol* (where), *bor* (wine) and *sok* (many).

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 2 · Back Vowels: O Ó

abc

More Back Vowels — o ó

In Chapter 1 you met **a** and **á**. Today you add the next pair of back vowels, **o** and **ó**. Unlike **a** / **á**, these two are the **same sound**, short and long. You'll also read your first full Hungarian question: *Hol a ház?* ("Where is the house?").

BACK VOWELS	SHORT	LONG	RESPELLED
Chapter 1	a	á	aw · ah
Chapter 2 (today)	o	ó	o · oh
Chapter 3	u	ú	(next chapter)

🌟

Two New Vowels — o ó

O · o

short, like the "o" in *more* but without the "r" and without gliding to "oo" — respelled **o**
back vowel · short

Mouth tip: round your lips into a neat "O" and keep them still while you say a short, pure vowel. Scottish speakers have an advantage: the vowel of Scots *no* and *go* doesn't glide, so it is close.

Ó · ó

the same sound, held about twice as long, like the "o" in *boat* without the glide — respelled **oh**
back vowel · long

Mouth tip: same rounded lips and same position as *o*, but hold it steady. Don't let it slide into "ow" (English *go* in a southern accent) or "oo".

o and a: Two Rounded Back Vowels

Both **a** ("aw", as in *hot*) and **o** are produced at the back of the mouth with rounded lips. The difference is how **open** the mouth is: **a** has the mouth wider open, and **o** has a smaller, rounder shape. Say "hot" (*a*) and then "more" without the *r* (*o*), and feel your jaw close slightly.

Don't Confuse o with ö

A letter with two dots, **ö**, is a completely different vowel from **o** (it's a *front* vowel, which you'll meet in Chapter 6). The same goes for **ó** (one acute accent) against **ő** (the "double acute"). Always check the marks.

Read It — New Words

You can now read all of these. Two flags: **j** is said "y" (Chapter 14), and **s** is said "sh" (Chapter 13). Those two letters are in the table, with notes, because the words are so useful.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ló	LOH	horse	long ó
2	tó	TOH	lake	long ó
3	hó	HOH	snow	also means "month"
4	jó	YOH	good	j is said "y"
5	óra	OH-raw	hour; clock; lesson	long ó, then short a
6	hol	HOL	where	short o
7	bor	BOR	wine	tapped r
8	kor	KOR	age; era	short o
9	ott	OTT	there	double t: hold the t

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
10	orr	ORR	nose	double r: a longer tap
11	rokon	RO-kon	relative (family member)	stress on RO
12	sok	SHOK	many, much	s is said "sh"

A Short and Long Pair: kor and kór

The only difference between **kor** (KOR, "age, era") and **kór** (KOHR, "disease, illness") is the length of the vowel. This is why the accent marks matter: a missing accent can change a word completely. Think of the accent as a "hold it" mark.

Your First Questions and Answers

With *hol* ("where"), *ott* ("there") and *a / az* ("the"), you can ask and answer where things are. Notice that Hungarian doesn't need a word for "is" here: *Hol a ház?* is literally "Where the house?"

① Where Is the House? — Hol a ház?

A:

Hol a ház?

HOL aw HAHZ?

Where is the house?

B:

Ott a ház.

OTT aw HAHZ.

The house is there.

② Where Is the Apple? — Hol az alma?

A:

Hol az alma?

HOL awz AWL-maw?

Where is the apple?

B:

Ott az alma.

OTT awz AWL-maw.

The apple is there.

③ Where Is the Lake? — Hol a tó?

A:

Hol a tó?

HOL aw TOH?

Where is the lake?

B:

Ott a tó. Jó!

OTT aw TOH. YOH!

The lake is there. Good!

Real Hungarian Tip — Double Letters Are Long

In *ott* and *orr*, the doubled consonant means a **long** consonant: you hold the sound for an extra beat, like the "t" in the English phrase "hot-tub" or the double "r" in a Scottish "burr". Hungarian doubles consonants freely, and they change meaning (*hal* "fish" and *hall* "hears" are different words).

Chapter 18 returns to this in detail. For now, just hold doubled letters slightly longer.

Review: Chapter 1 Words

Cover the English and read these again: ház (house) · tál (dish) · ma (today) · apa (father) · alma (apple) · nap (sun, day) · hal (fish) · lap (page) · kar (arm) · kár (a pity) · ablak (window) · barát (friend).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the four back vowels you know, in order, with their respellings: a · á · o · ó

▼ Show answer

a = aw (short, rounded) · á = ah (long) · o = o (short) · ó = oh (long).

2. How do O and Ó differ, compared with a and á?

▼ Show answer

o and ó are the **same sound**, short and long. a and á differ in both length *and* sound.

3. Read aloud and translate: **ló · tó · hol**

▼ Show answer

LOH (horse) · TOH (lake) · HOL (where)

4. What is the difference between **kor** and **kór**?

▼ Show answer

Only the length of the vowel: KOR means "age, era"; KOHR means "disease".

5. Say in Hungarian: "Where is the house?" and "Where is the apple?"

▼ Show answer

Hol a ház? and Hol az alma? (*a* before a consonant, *az* before a vowel.)

6. What does **ott** mean, and what does the double *t* tell you?

▼ Show answer

"There". The double *t* is a **long** consonant, so hold the "t" for an extra beat.

Coming Up in Chapter 3

The back vowels finish with **u** and **ú**. You'll then read *út* (road), *hús* (meat) and *nulla* (zero), and see the full set of six back vowels together.

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Chapter 3 · Back Vowels Completed: U Ú

abc

The Last Back Vowels — u ú

Two more letters complete the family of **back vowels**: **u** and **ú**. Like o / ó, they're the **same sound** at two lengths. With them you'll know all six back vowels, and you'll get a first taste of how they control the endings of Hungarian words (vowel harmony).

BACK VOWELS	SHORT	LONG	RESPELLED
Chapter 1	a	á	aw · ah
Chapter 2	o	ó	o · oh
Chapter 3 (today)	u	ú	u · oo

✨

Two New Vowels — u ú

U · u

short, like the "oo" in *book* or *foot* — respelled **u**
(always as in *put*, **never** as in *cup*)
back vowel · short

Mouth tip: push your lips forward into a small rounded opening and keep the sound short and tight. In Scottish English, the vowel in *pull* is very close to the Hungarian *u*.

Ú · ú

long, like the "oo" in *moon* — respelled **oo**
back vowel · long

Mouth tip: same lip position as *u*, but hold it for twice as long. It's a steady "oo" with no glide to another vowel.

A Respelling Reminder: "u" Is Not "uh"

In the respellings, **u** always stands for the short Hungarian *u*, which is the "oo" of *put*. It never stands for the vowel in *cup*. So *nulla* (zero) is NUL-law with a short "oo" sound, not "nuh-law". If you're unsure, think of *u* as a short, tight *oo*.

The Six Back Vowels — The Whole Family

The back vowels differ in how open the mouth is. From the most closed to the most open:

MOUTH POSITION	SHORT	LONG	SOUNDS LIKE
closed (small gap)	u	ú	"oo" in <i>book</i> · "oo" in <i>moon</i>
half-closed	o	ó	pure "o" · pure "oh"
open (wide gap)	a	á	"o" in <i>hot</i> · "a" in <i>father</i>

Read It — New Words

*With six vowels, you can read a lot. As before, **s** is said "sh" (Chapter 13), and doubled letters (ll) are held for an extra beat. Stress is always on the first syllable.*

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	út	OOT	road; way	long ú
2	hús	HOOSH	meat	s is said "sh"
3	kút	KOOT	well (for water)	long ú
4	lúd	LOOD	goose	long ú
5	búza	BOO-zaw	wheat	z as in English
6	nulla	NUL-law	zero	double l: held

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
7	ruha	<i>RU-haw</i>	clothes, clothing	<i>tapped r</i>
8	puha	<i>PU-haw</i>	soft	<i>short u</i>
9	hullám	<i>HUL-lahm</i>	wave	<i>double l; long á</i>
10	autó	<i>AW-u-toh</i>	car	<i>three syllables: a-u-tó</i>
11	tud	<i>TUD</i>	knows; can	<i>a verb ("he/she knows")</i>
12	bunda	<i>BUN-daw</i>	fur coat	<i>short u</i>

Real Hungarian Tip — Út on Street Signs

You'll see **út** ("road, avenue") on street signs all over Hungary, as in Budapest's famous *Andrássy út*. In Hungarian, the street type usually follows the name, as in *Andrássy út*, so **út** is a handy word to read.

A Preview of Vowel Harmony

Hungarian endings change to match the vowels in the word, and **all six back vowels** take the same ending. For "in", the back-vowel ending is **-ban**: **házban** (in the house), **tóban** (in the lake), **útban** (in the way). After the *front* vowels (next chapters), the same ending becomes **-ben**. That pairing is **vowel harmony**, and Chapters 8–10 are all about it.

Mini-Dialogs

① Where Is the Car? — Hol az autó?

A:

Hol az autó?

HOL awz AW-u-toh?

Where is the car?

② Where Is the Well? — Hol a kút?

A:

Hol a kút?

HOL aw KOOT?

Where is the well?

B:

Ott az autó.

OTT awz AW-u-toh.

The car is there.

B:

Ott a kút. Jó!

OTT aw KOOT. YOH!

The well is there. Good!

③ Where Is the Road? — Hol az út?

A:

Hol az út?

HOL awz OOT?

Where is the road?

B:

Ott az út. Sok autó!

OTT awz OOT. SHOK AW-u-toh!

The road is there. Lots of cars!

Review: Chapter 2 Words

Cover the English and read these again: **ló** (horse) · **tó** (lake) · **hó** (snow) · **jó** (good) · **óra** (hour; clock) · **hol** (where) · **bor** (wine) · **kor** (age) · **ott** (there) · **orr** (nose) · **rokon** (relative) · **sok** (many).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the six back vowels with their respellings: **a** · **á** · **o** · **ó** · **u** · **ú**

▼ Show answer

aw · ah · o · oh · u (as in *put*) · oo (as in *moon*).

2. Do **u** and **ú** sound the same apart from length, like **a** and **á**?

▼ Show answer

Yes, they're the **same sound**, short and long, like o and ó. Only a and á differ in quality as well.

3. Read aloud and translate: út · hús · lúd

▼ Show answer

OOT (road) · HOOSH (meat) · LOOD (goose)

4. How is autó pronounced, and how many syllables does it have?

▼ Show answer

AW-u-toh: three syllables (a-u-tó), with stress on the first.

5. Say in Hungarian: "Where is the car?" and "Where is the well?"

▼ Show answer

Hol az autó? and Hol a kút? (*az* before a vowel, *a* before a consonant.)

6. Add **-ban** ("in") to each word: ház · tó · út

▼ Show answer

házban (in the house) · tóban (in the lake) · útban (in the way). All back-vowel words take *-ban*.

Coming Up in Chapter 4

The **front vowels** begin with **e** and **é**. You'll then read *te* (you), *tér* (square), *kéz* (hand) and *lé* (juice), and see why they take a different ending from the back vowels.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 4 · Front Vowels: E É

abc The Front Vowels Begin — e é

The six back vowels are done. Now come the **front vowels**, which are made with the tongue pushed forward and the lips relaxed or spread. The first pair is **e** and **é**. Like **a / á**, they differ in **both sound and length**.

Back or Front? A Quick Test
Say "oo" (as in *moon*) and then "ee" (as in *see*), slowly, a few times. Feel your tongue slide **forward** and your lips spread: that movement is the difference between a **back** vowel (oo) and a **front** vowel (ee). Hungarian has 6 back vowels (*a á o ó u ú*) and 8 front vowels (*e é i í ö ő ü ű*).

FRONT VOWELS	SHORT	LONG	RESPELLED
Chapter 4 (today)	e	é	eh · ay
Chapter 5	i	í	(next chapter)
Chapters 6–7	ö ü	ő ű	(rounded front vowels)

🌟 Two New Vowels — e é

e

E · e

short, like the "e" in *bed* — respelled **eh**

front vowel · short

Mouth tip: relax your lips, open your jaw a little, and say a short "eh" as in *bed* or *get*. It's a crisp vowel: don't turn it into "uh" (*the*) or "ay".

é

É · é

long and closed, like the "ay" in *day* said **without the glide** — respelled **ay**

front vowel · long

Mouth tip: hold a steady "ay" with spread lips and don't let it slide into "ee" at the end. Scottish

speakers have a good model: the vowel in Scots *day* and *say* is a pure vowel.

e and é Are Different Sounds

Just as *a* and *á* differ in quality as well as length (Chapter 1), *e* ("eh", open) and *é* ("ay", closed) are two *different* vowels. Compare *kert* (KEHRT, "garden") with *kér* (KAYR, "asks"). Say them back to back and hear the change in the vowel, not just the length.

Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. Remember that *ɾ* is a quick tap and that stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	te	TEH	you (informal)	short e
2	ez	EHZ	this	short e
3	tér	TAYR	square; space	long é
4	kéz	KAYZ	hand	long é
5	lé	LAY	juice; sap	long é
6	ég	AYG	sky; (it) burns	two meanings
7	kert	KEHRT	garden	short e; tapped r
8	hét	HAYT	week; seven	two meanings
9	tél	TAYL	winter	long é
10	kék	KAYK	blue	long é

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
11	pénz	PAYNZ	money	long é
12	ebéd	EH-bayd	lunch	short e, then long é

Your First Negative — nem

The word for "no" and "not" is **nem** (NEHM). You can already use it: *Nem ház.* ("Not a house.") And note the pair **ez** ("this") and **az** ("that"), which you met as "the": *ez a ház* ("this house") and *az a ház* ("that house").

Back Meets Front: -ban or -ben?

In Chapter 3 you saw that back-vowel words take **-ban** for "in". Words with only **front** vowels, such as *kert* and *kéz*, take the front form **-ben**. The two endings are the same ending, just matched to the vowels of the word.

BACK-VOWEL WORD	+ BAN	FRONT-VOWEL WORD	+ BEN
ház (house)	házban (in the house)	kert (garden)	kertben (in the garden)
tó (lake)	tóban (in the lake)	kéz (hand)	kézben (in the hand)
út (road)	útban (in the way)	tér (square)	térben (in space)

Mini-Dialogs

① Where Is the Garden? — Hol a kert?

A:

Hol a kert?

② This or That? — Ez a ház?

A:

Ez a ház?

HOL aw KEHRT?

Where is the garden?

B:

Ott a kert.

OTT aw KEHRT.

The garden is there.

A:

Jó!

YOH!

Good!

EHZ aw HAHZ?

Is this the house?

B:

Nem, az a ház.

NEHM, awz aw HAHZ.

No, that's the house.

③ Where Is the Money? — Hol a pénz?

A:

Hol a pénz?

HOL aw PAYNZ?

Where is the money?

B:

Ott a pénz. Sok pénz!

OTT aw PAYNZ. SHOK PAYNZ!

The money is there. Lots of money!

Real Hungarian Tip — Ebéd, the Main Meal

Ebéd (lunch) has traditionally been the main meal of the day in Hungary, often a soup followed by a main course, and many workplace canteens and restaurants offer a fixed-price lunch menu. If you're invited to *ebéd*, come hungry.

Review: Chapter 3 Words

Cover the English and read these again: **út** (road) · **hús** (meat) · **kút** (well) · **lúd** (goose) · **búza** (wheat) · **nulla** (zero) · **ruha** (clothes) · **puha** (soft) · **hullám** (wave) · **autó** (car) · **tud** (knows) · **bunda** (fur coat).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the two new front vowels with their respellings: e · é

▼ Show answer

e = eh (short, as in *bed*) · é = ay (long, pure, as in Scots *day*).

2. Do e and é differ only in length?

▼ Show answer

No. Like a and á, they differ in **sound** (eh against ay) *and* length.

3. Read aloud and translate: te · kéz · tér

▼ Show answer

TEH (you) · KAYZ (hand) · TAYR (square)

4. Read aloud and translate: ebéd · pénz · kék

▼ Show answer

EH-bayd (lunch) · PAYNZ (money) · KAYK (blue)

5. Choose a or az: ____ kert · ____ ég · ____ ebéd · ____ tér

▼ Show answer

a kert · az ég · az ebéd · a tér (*az* before a vowel, including é and e; *a* before a consonant).

6. Add "in": kert · kéz · ház · tér

▼ Show answer

kertben · kézben · házban (back vowel á → -ban) · térben.

Coming Up in Chapter 5

The front vowels continue with **í** and **ü**. You'll then read *igen* (yes), *víz* (water), *ki* (who) and *mi* (what), and be ready to ask real questions.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 5 · Front Vowels: I Í

More Front Vowels — i í

The next front-vowel pair is *i* and *í*. They are the **same sound** at two lengths, like *o* / *ó* and *u* / *ú*. Once you know them, you can read the Hungarian question words (*mi*, *ki*, *hol*, *mikor*, *miért*) and ask your first real questions.

FRONT VOWELS	SHORT	LONG	RESPELLED
Chapter 4	e	é	eh · ay
Chapter 5 (today)	i	í	ih · ee
Chapters 6–7	ö ü	ó ú	(rounded front vowels)

Two New Vowels — i í

i
I · i

a short, tight "ee" — respelled **ih**
front vowel · short

Mouth tip: spread your lips as if smiling and say a quick "ee". It's tenser and closer than the English "i" in *bit*, so aim for a clipped "ee", not a lazy "ih".

í
Í · í

long, like the "ee" in *see* — respelled **ee**
front vowel · long

Mouth tip: the same smile and the same tongue position as *i*, but hold it for about twice as long.

i and í: Only the Length Changes

Unlike *a* / *á* and *e* / *é*, the pair *i* / *í* has the **same vowel quality**. The short one is simply a shorter version of the long one, so you only have to remember how long to hold it. The accent is your "hold it" signal.



Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. As before, *s* is said "sh" (Chapter 13) and stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	igen	IH-gehn	yes	short i, short e
2	ki	KIH	who	short i
3	mi	MIH	what; we	two meanings
4	ti	TIH	you (plural)	"you all"
5	ír	EER	writes; an Irish person	tapped r
6	víz	VEEZ	water	long í
7	hír	HEER	news	long í
8	tíz	TEEZ	ten	long í
9	hideg	HIH-dehg	cold	short i, short e
10	fiú	FIH-oo	boy	short i, then long ú
11	mikor	MIH-kor	when	a question word
12	tilos	TIH-losh	forbidden	s is said "sh"



The Question Words

With *i* in hand, you now know nearly all the basic question words. Notice that they all start with *m* or *k* (apart from *hol*).

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
mi	MIH	what	Mi ez? (What is this?)
ki	KIH	who	Ki ez? (Who is this?)
hol	HOL	where	Hol a víz? (Where is the water?)
mikor	MIH-kor	when	Mikor? (When?)
miért	MIH-ayrt	why	Miért? (Why?)

A Neutral Vowel — i and í in Vowel Harmony

i and í are *neutral* vowels: they're front vowels, but they can sit comfortably next to back vowels in the same word. In practice, a word whose vowels are **only** i, í, e or é takes the front ending: víz → vízben (in the water), hír → hírben (in the news). There are a few well-known exceptions, such as híd ("bridge", HEED) which takes the *back* ending: hídban (in the bridge). Chapter 10 returns to these.

Mini-Dialogs

① What Is This? — Mi ez?

A:

Mi ez?

MIH EHZ?

What is this?

B:

Ez víz.

EHZ VEEZ.

This is water.

② Who Is This? — Ki ez?

A:

Ki ez?

KIH EHZ?

Who is this?

B:

Ez a fiú.

EHZ aw FIIH-oo.

This is the boy.

③ Cold Water — Hideg a víz?

A:

Hideg a víz?

HIH-dehg aw VEEZ?

Is the water cold?

B:

Igen, hideg!

IH-gehn, HIH-dehg!

Yes, it's cold!

Real Hungarian Tip — "Tilos" on Signs

Tilos ("forbidden, not allowed") appears on signs all over Hungary, for example on no-entry and no-parking signs, so it's one of the most useful words to be able to read. You'll recognise it as soon as you see it.

Review: Chapter 4 Words

Cover the English and read these again: **te** (you) · **ez** (this) · **tér** (square) · **kéz** (hand) · **lé** (juice) · **ég** (sky) · **kert** (garden) · **hét** (week) · **tél** (winter) · **kék** (blue) · **pénz** (money) · **ebéd** (lunch).

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the two new vowels with their respellings: **í** · **í**

▼ Show answer

i = ih (a short, tight "ee") · **í** = ee (long, as in *see*).

2. Do **í** and **í** differ in sound, or only in length?

▼ Show answer

Only in length: they're the same vowel, short and long (like o/ó and u/ú).

3. Read aloud and translate: **ki** · **mi** · **igen**

▼ Show answer

KIH (who) · MIH (what; also "we") · IH-gehn (yes)

4. Read aloud and translate: **víz** · **tíz** · **hír**

▼ Show answer

VEEZ (water) · TEEZ (ten) · HEER (news)

5. Say in Hungarian: "What is this?" · "Who is this?" · "Is the water cold?"

▼ Show answer

Mi ez? · Ki ez? · Hideg a víz?

6. Add "in": **víz** · **ház**. Why do they take different endings?

▼ Show answer

vízben (front ending: *víz* has only the neutral vowel í) and **házban** (back ending: *ház* has the back vowel á).

Coming Up in Chapter 6

The **rounded front vowels** begin with **ö** and **ő**. These are made with the tongue in the "ee" position and the lips in the "oo" position, like the German *ö* or French *eu*. You'll then read *ő* (he/she), *nő* (woman), *öt* (five), *kör* (circle) and *köd* (fog).

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 6 · Rounded Front Vowels: Ö Ö

abc The Rounded Front Vowels — ö ő

Today's pair, **ö** and **ő**, is the one that surprises English speakers most. They're **front** vowels (tongue forward, like e) made with **rounded** lips (like o). English has no standard vowel like this, but German (*schön*) and French (*peu*) do, and some Scots speakers have one in words like *guid*.

FRONT VOWELS	SHORT	LONG	RESPELLED
Chapter 4	e	é	eh · ay
Chapter 5	i	í	ih · ee
Chapter 6 (today)	ö	ő	eu · euu
Chapter 7	ü	ű	(next chapter)

🌟 Two New Vowels — ö ő

Ö · ö

short, like German *ö* or French *eu* — respelled **eu**
front vowel · rounded · short

Mouth tip: say "eh" (as in *bed*) and, without moving your tongue, **round your lips** as if about to say "oh". That's *ö*. It is **not** the "er" of English *fur*: your tongue stays forward.

Ő · ő

the same vowel, held about twice as long — respelled **euu**
front vowel · rounded · long

Mouth tip: same tongue and the same rounded lips as *ö*, held steady for a longer beat. Keep the lips still: no slide to "oo".

ö Is Just "o" with the Tongue Moved Forward

Here's a trick: say **o** (lips rounded), then, *keeping your lips exactly where they are*, push your tongue forward as if saying "e". The sound that comes out is **ö**. In the same way, **ő** is a front version of **ó**. Every back rounded vowel has a front partner: *o* → *ö*, *ó* → *ő*, and in the next chapter *u* → *ü*, *ú* → *ű*.

The Double Acute: ő Is Not õ

The accent on **ő** (and **ű**) is a **double acute**: two little slanted strokes. It's a different mark from the tilde on **õ** or the circumflex on **û**, which don't exist in Hungarian. Those wrong characters show up in badly encoded text, so if you see **õ** in a Hungarian word, it's a mistake for **ő**.

Read It — New Words

*You can read all of these. Remember: **s** is said "sh" (Chapter 13), **r** is tapped, and stress is on the first syllable.*

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ő	EUU	he; she	one word for both (people)
2	nő	NEUU	woman	long ő
3	kő	KEUU	stone	long ő
4	kör	KEUR	circle; round	short ö; tapped r
5	köd	KEUD	fog	short ö
6	tök	TEUK	pumpkin; marrow	short ö
7	ökör	EU-keur	ox	two short ö's
8	öt	EUT	five	a number
9	sör	SHEUR	beer	s is said "sh"

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
10	öröm	EU-reum	joy	two short ö's
11	kövér	KEU-vayr	fat; plump	short ö, long é
12	főnök	FEUU-neuk	boss	long ő, short ö

Numbers You Can Read Now

With the vowels you know, several Hungarian numbers are now readable.

NUMBER	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	NOTE
0	nulla	NUL-law	Chapter 3
2	két	KAYT	the form used before a noun (két ház)
5	öt	EUT	new today
6	hat	HAWT	short a
7	hét	HAYT	Chapter 4; also "week"
10	tíz	TEEZ	Chapter 5

Real Hungarian Tip — "Ő" Means He, She and It

Hungarian has **no grammatical gender** and no separate "he" and "she": the single word **ő** covers both. (For things, Hungarian uses *az*, "that".) So *Ő a főnök* means "He is the boss" or "She is the boss", and you learn which from context. It's one of the ways Hungarian is easier than German or French.

A Preview: Three-Way Endings

Because ö is a front rounded vowel, a few endings have **three** forms: back, front unrounded and front rounded. For "to / towards", the ending is **-hoz** / **-hez** / **-höz**.

WORD'S VOWELS	ENDING	EXAMPLE
back (a, o, u ...)	-hoz	házhoz (to the house)
front unrounded (e, é, i, í)	-hez	kerthez (to the garden)
front rounded (ö, ő, ü, ű)	-höz	körhöz (to the circle)

Mini-Dialogs

① Who Is She? — Ki ő?

A:

Ki ő?

KIH EUU?

Who is he/she?

B:

Ő a főnök.

EUU aw FEUU-neuk.

He/She is the boss.

② A Stone or a Pumpkin? — Mi ez?

A:

Mi ez? Kő?

MIH EHZ? KEUU?

What is this? A stone?

B:

Nem, ez tök!

NEHM, EHZ TEUK!

No, it's a pumpkin!

③ Cold Beer — Hideg a sör?

A:

Hideg a sör?

HIH-dehg aw SHEUR?

Is the beer cold?

B:

Igen, hideg! Jó!

IH-gehn, HIH-dehg! YOH!

Yes, it's cold! Good!

A Word to Look Forward To — Köszönöm

The most useful Hungarian word of all, **köszönöm** ("thank you"), is made of letters you now almost know: *k-ö-sz-ö-n-ö-m*. It has three ö's (KEU-seu-neum), and it uses the letter sz (said "s") from Chapter 13. Practise the ö in it now: the rhythm is KEU-seu-neum, stress on the first syllable.

Review: Chapter 5 Words

Cover the English and read these again: **igen** (yes) · **ki** (who) · **mi** (what) · **ti** (you all) · **ír** (writes) · **víz** (water) · **hír** (news) · **tíz** (ten) · **hideg** (cold) · **fiú** (boy) · **mikor** (when) · **tilos** (forbidden).

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the two new vowels with their respellings: **ö** · **ó**

▼ Show answer

ö = eu (short) · **ó** = euu (long): the same rounded front vowel at two lengths.

2. How do you make an **ö**?

▼ Show answer

Say "eh" (tongue forward) and round your lips as for "o" without moving your tongue. (Or say "o" and move your tongue forward.)

3. Read aloud and translate: **nő** · **kő** · **sör**

▼ Show answer

NEUU (woman) · **KEUU** (stone) · **SHEUR** (beer)

4. Say these numbers in Hungarian: 5 · 6 · 7 · 10

▼ Show answer

öt (EUT) · hat (HAWT) · hét (HAYT) · tíz (TEEZ)

5. What does Ő mean, and why is it unusual compared with English?

▼ Show answer

"He" or "she": Hungarian has one word for both because it has no grammatical gender.

6. Add "to": ház · kert · kör

▼ Show answer

házhöz (back) · kerthez (front unrounded) · körhöz (front rounded).

Coming Up in Chapter 7

The last pair of vowels is **ü** and **ű**, the front partners of *u* and *ú*, said like French *u* or German *ü*.

You'll then read *tű* (needle), *tűz* (fire), *fű* (grass), *üveg* (glass) and *fül* (ear), and see the full 14-vowel chart.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 7 · Rounded Front Vowels Completed: Ü Ú

The Last Vowels — ü ú

The final pair of vowels is **ü** and **ú**, the front partners of *u* and *ú*. They sound like French *u* (*tu*) or German *ü* (*für*). With them, you'll know all **14 Hungarian vowels**, and you'll see the complete chart that explains how vowel harmony works.

Two New Vowels — ü ú

ü

Ü · ü

short, like French *u* or German *ü* — respelled **ue**

front vowel · rounded · short

Mouth tip: say "ee" (as in *see*) and, without moving your tongue, **round your lips** as if saying "oo". Or say "oo" and slide your tongue forward. Either way, the lips are round and the tongue is forward.

ú

Ú · ú

the same vowel, held about twice as long —

respelled **uue**

front vowel · rounded · long

Mouth tip: same position as *ü*, held steady for a longer beat, with a double acute accent (two slanted strokes), as on *ő*.

ö and ü: The Same Trick, Two Tongue Heights

Both are front vowels with rounded lips. The difference is the tongue height: **ö** is "eh with rounded lips" and **ü** is "ee with rounded lips". So the back-and-front partners are *o* → *ö* and *u* → *ü*: the lips stay the same, the tongue moves forward. A small note on the respellings: **ue** is a rounded "ee", so *fül* (FUEL) is **not** the English word *fuel*.

The Complete Vowel Chart — All 14 Vowels

Here is everything you've learned, arranged by family. Every vowel has a short and a long version, and the three columns are the three families that vowel harmony uses.

	BACK	FRONT, UNROUNDED	FRONT, ROUNDED
Short	a (aw) · o (o) · u (u)	e (eh) · i (ih)	ö (eu) · ü (ue)
Long	á (ah) · ó (oh) · ú (oo)	é (ay) · í (ee)	ő (euu) · ű (uue)
Count	6 vowels	4 vowels	4 vowels

The Whole System in Three Sentences

(1) Hungarian has **14 vowels**: 6 back, 4 front unrounded and 4 front rounded, each with a short and a long version. (2) The accent marks (á é í ó ö ő ú ü ű) tell you the length, and the double acute is only for ő and ű. (3) Endings change to match the family of the word's vowels, so the next three chapters show how that works.

Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. As before, *s* is said "sh" (Chapter 13), *r* is tapped, and stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	tű	TUUE	needle	long ü
2	fű	FUUE	grass	long ú
3	tűz	TUUEZ	fire	long ü
4	fül	FUEL	ear	short ü (not English "fuel")
5	üveg	UE-vehg	glass; bottle	short ü, short e
6	ül	UEL	sits	a verb: "he/she sits"
7	ünnep	UEN-nehp	holiday; feast	double n: held

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
8	hűtő	HUUE-teuu	fridge	ű then ő
9	tüdő	TUE-deuu	lung	short ü, long ő
10	bűn	BUUEN	sin; crime	long ű
11	kürt	KUERT	horn (the instrument)	tapped r
12	füst	FUESHT	smoke	s is said "sh"

Colours You Can Read — kék and zöld

With the vowels you know, two colours are now readable: **kék** (KAYK, blue) and **zöld** (ZEULD, green). The rest of the colours need consonants you'll meet in later chapters.

Three-Way Endings, Revisited

In Chapter 6 you saw -hoz / -hez / -höz ("to"). Now that all the vowels are in place, here it is for every family. The ending follows the **vowel family** of the word (mixed words are covered in Chapter 10).

FAMILY	ENDING "TO"	EXAMPLE
back	-hoz	házhoz (to the house)
front, unrounded	-hez	kerthez (to the garden)
front, rounded	-höz	tűzhöz (to the fire) · fülhöz (to the ear)

Mini-Dialogs

① A Bottle — Mi ez?

② The Fridge — Hol a hűtő?

A:

Mi ez?

MIH EHZ?

What is this?

B:

Ez üveg.

EHZ UE-vehg.

This is a bottle.

A:

Víz?

VEEZ?

Water?

B:

Igen, víz.

IH-gehn, VEEZ.

Yes, water.

A:

Hol a hűtő?

HOL aw HUUE-teuu?

Where is the fridge?

B:

Ott a hűtő.

OTT aw HUUE-teuu.

The fridge is there.

A:

Hideg a sör?

HIH-dehg aw SHEUR?

Is the beer cold?

B:

Igen, hideg!

IH-gehn, HIH-dehg!

Yes, it's cold!

③ A Holiday — Ma ünnep?

A:

Ma ünnep?

MAW UEN-nehp?

Is today a holiday?

B:

Igen, ma ünnep! Jó!

IH-gehn, MAW UEN-nehp! YOH!

Yes, today is a holiday! Good!

Practical Tip — Typing ő and ű

The letters ő and ű are not on a standard UK or US keyboard. If you want to type Hungarian, the easiest way is to add the **Hungarian keyboard layout** in your system's language settings; otherwise you can copy the letters from this course. Using ö or ü instead is a spelling mistake (it changes the length), though people will usually understand you.

Review: Chapter 6 Words

Cover the English and read these again: ő (he/she) · nő (woman) · kő (stone) · kör (circle) · köd (fog) · tök (pumpkin) · ökör (ox) · öt (five) · sör (beer) · öröm (joy) · kövér (fat) · főnök (boss).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the two new vowels with their respellings: ü · ú

▼ Show answer

ü = ue (short) · ú = uue (long): the same rounded front vowel at two lengths.

2. How do you make an ü?

▼ Show answer

Say "ee" with your lips rounded as for "oo" (or say "oo" and slide the tongue forward). It's French *u* / German *ü*.

3. Read aloud and translate: tű · fül · tűz

▼ Show answer

TUUE (needle) · FUEL (ear) · TUUEZ (fire)

4. Say which family each vowel belongs to (back, front unrounded or front rounded): ú · é · ü · á · ő · i

▼ Show answer

ú = back · é = front unrounded · ü = front rounded · á = back · ő = front rounded · i = front unrounded.

5. Add "to" (-hoz / -hez / -höz): tűz · fül · kert · ház

▼ Show answer

tűzhöz · fülhöz (front rounded → -höz) · kerthez (front unrounded → -hez) · házhoz (back → -hoz).

6. How many vowels does Hungarian have, and how are they divided?

▼ Show answer

14: 6 back (a á o ó u ú), 4 front unrounded (e é i í) and 4 front rounded (ö ő ü ű).

Coming Up in Chapter 8

All 14 vowels are done, so it's time for **vowel harmony**. Chapter 8 shows how the endings *-ban / -ben*, *-nak / -nek*, *-ra / -re* and *-ról / -ről* choose their vowel, with a simple rule and plenty of practice.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 8 · Vowel Harmony 1: Back or Front?



Vowel Harmony — Why Endings Change

Hungarian has no prepositions. Instead of words like "in", "to" and "from", it adds **endings** to the noun: ház (house), házban (in the house). Most endings come in two versions, a **back** one and a **front** one, and the word's own vowels decide which. That matching is called **vowel harmony**, and with the 14 vowels you now know, you're ready for it.

The Rule in One Line

Look at the vowels in the word. If they're **back** vowels (a á o ó u ú), use the **back** ending. If they're **front** vowels (e é i í ö ő ü ű), use the **front** ending. That's all: házban but kertben.



The Six Two-Way Endings

These endings each have two forms. The back form uses a / o; the front form uses e / ö-type vowels.

MEANING	BACK FORM	FRONT FORM	SAY IT
in (where?)	-ban	-ben	-bawn · -behn
into (where to?)	-ba	-be	-baw · -beh
out of (where from?)	-ból	-ből	-bohl · -beuul
onto, on to	-ra	-re	-raw · -reh
off; about	-ról	-ről	-rohl · -reuul
to; for (the receiver)	-nak	-nek	-nawk · -nehk

Rounded Front Vowels Count as "Front"

For these two-way endings, **ő ő ü ú** behave exactly like **e é i í**: they all take the front form. The rounded/unrounded difference only matters for the three-way endings (like *-hoz / -hez / -höz*), which come in Chapter 9. So *hűtő* (fridge) takes *-ben*: *hűtőben*.

Practice Words — Back and Front

Each row adds all six endings to one word. The back-vowel words are on top; the front-vowel words are below.

WORD	IN	INTO	OUT OF	ONTO	OFF / ABOUT	TO / FOR
ház (house)	házban	házba	házból	házra	háziról	háznak
tó (lake)	tóban	tóba	tóból	tóra	tóiról	tónak
autó (car)	autóban	autóba	autóból	autóra	autóiról	autónak
út (road)	útban	útba	útból	útra	útról	útnak
kert (garden)	kertben	kertbe	kertből	kertre	ketről	kertnek
víz (water)	vízben	vízbe	vízből	vízre	vízről	víznek
kéz (hand)	kézben	kézbe	kézből	kézre	kézről	kéznek
hűtő (fridge)	hűtőben	hűtőbe	hűtőből	hűtőre	hűtőiről	hűtőnek

Hol? Hová? Honnan? — Where, Where To, Where From

Three of the endings answer three different questions, and Hungarian has a separate question word for each. This trio is one of the most useful patterns in the language.

QUESTION	SAY IT	ENDING	BACK EXAMPLE	FRONT EXAMPLE
Hol? (where?)	<i>HOL</i>	-ban / -ben	házban (in the house)	kertben (in the garden)
Hová? (where to?)	<i>HO-vah</i>	-ba / -be	házba (into the house)	kertbe (into the garden)
Honnan? (where from?)	<i>HON-nawn</i>	-ból / -ből	házból (out of the house)	kertből (out of the garden)

A Spelling Rule: Final a and e Lengthen

When a word ends in a short **a** or **e**, that vowel becomes **á** or **é** before most endings: **alma** (apple) → **almában** (in the apple); **ruha** (clothes) → **ruhában**; **búza** (wheat) → **búzában**; **kefe** (brush) → **kefében**. The back or front choice still follows the vowel family (á is back, é is front).

Little Words You'll Need

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
itt	<i>ITT</i>	here	<i>double t: held</i>
ott	<i>OTT</i>	there	<i>Chapter 2</i>
otthon	<i>OT-thon</i>	at home; home	<i>ott + hon</i>
hol	<i>HOL</i>	where	<i>Chapter 2</i>
hová	<i>HO-vah</i>	where to	<i>long á</i>
honnan	<i>HON-nawn</i>	where from	<i>double n: held</i>
és	<i>AYSH</i>	and	<i>s is said "sh"</i>

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
is	<i>IHSH</i>	also, too	<i>comes after the word it adds to</i>

Mini-Dialogs

① In the Fridge — A hűtőben

A:

Hol a víz?

HOL aw VEEZ?

Where is the water?

B:

A hűtőben.

aw HUUE-teuu-behn.

In the fridge.

A:

És a sör?

AYSH aw SHEUR?

And the beer?

B:

A hűtőben is!

aw HUUE-teuu-behn IHSH!

In the fridge too!

② Friend and Car — A kertben, az autóban

A:

Hol a barát?

HOL aw BAW-raht?

Where is the friend?

B:

A kertben.

aw KEHRT-behn.

In the garden.

A:

És az autó?

AYSH awz AW-u-toh?

And the car?

B:

Az autóban.

awz AW-u-toh-bawn.

In the car.

③ Where, Where To, Where From

A:

Hol?

HOL?

Where (is it)?

B:

A házban.

aw HAHZ-bawn.

In the house.

A:

Hová?

HO-vah?

Where to?

B:

A kertbe.

aw KEHRT-beh.

Into the garden.

A:

Honnan?

HON-nawn?

From where?

B:

A kertből.

aw KEHRT-beuul.

From the garden.

Real Hungarian Tip — No Prepositions, Just Endings

Where English says "in the house", Hungarian says *a házban* ("the house-in"). Because the ending carries the meaning, Hungarian words can look long: a single noun with an ending (*házból*) replaces a whole English phrase ("out of the house"). Vowel harmony is what keeps those long words easy to say: the vowels in the word and its ending always belong to the same family.

Review: Chapter 7 Words

Cover the English and read these again: *tű* (needle) · *fű* (grass) · *tűz* (fire) · *fül* (ear) · *üveg* (glass) · *ül* (sits) · *ünnepe* (holiday) · *hűtő* (fridge) · *tüdő* (lung) · *bűn* (sin) · *kürt* (horn) · *füst* (smoke).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. What is the rule for choosing between *-ban* and *-ben*?

▼ Show answer

Back vowels in the word → **-ban**; front vowels → **-ben**.

2. Sort these words into back and front: **tó** · **víz** · **út** · **kéz** · **autó** · **hűtő**

▼ Show answer

Back: **tó**, **út**, **autó**. Front: **víz**, **kéz**, **hűtő** (ű is front rounded, which counts as front).

3. Add "into" (*-ba* / *-be*): **ház** · **kert** · **autó** · **hűtő**

▼ Show answer

házba · **kertbe** · **autóba** · **hűtőbe**

4. Add "off / about" (*-ról* / *-ről*): **tó** · **víz**

▼ Show answer

tóról (back) · **víztől** (front).

5. Give the three forms (in / into / out of) for **tó** and **kéz**.

▼ Show answer

tóban · **tóba** · **tóból**, and **kézben** · **kézbe** · **kézből**.

6. Add "in" to **alma** and **ruha**. What happens to the final vowel?

▼ Show answer

almában · **ruhában**: the final short *a* lengthens to *á* before the ending.

Coming Up in Chapter 9

Chapter 9 adds the **three-way endings**, where front rounded vowels get their own form: *-hoz* / *-hez* / *-höz* ("to") and *-on* / *-en* / *-ön* ("on"). It also arranges all the "where" endings into three sets:

inside, on a surface, and near.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 9 · Vowel Harmony 2: Three-Way Endings



When Rounded Vowels Get Their Own Ending

In Chapter 8, the front rounded vowels (ö ő ü ű) took the same endings as the front unrounded ones. But some endings treat them differently, with **three** forms instead of two: one for **back** vowels, one for **front unrounded** vowels, and one for **front rounded** vowels. This chapter covers the two three-way endings you'll use most, and then arranges everything you know into three neat sets of "where" endings.

The Three-Way Rule

Look at the vowel family of the word, as before: **back** → back form (-hoz, -on), **front unrounded** (e é i í) → -hez, -en, and **front rounded** (ö ő ü ű) → -höz, -ön. The rounded form has the lips rounded, like the vowel it goes with.



The Two Main Three-Way Endings

MEANING	BACK	FRONT UNROUNDED	FRONT ROUNDED	SAY IT
to, towards, next to	-hoz	-hez	-höz	-hoz · -hehz · -heuz
on (on a surface)	-on	-en	-ön	-on · -ehn · -eun

Words Ending in a Vowel: Just -n

The "on" ending is **-on** / **-en** / **-ön** after a consonant, but after a vowel it shrinks to just **-n**: autó → autón (on the car), hűtő → hűtőn (on the fridge). The "to" ending -hoz / -hez / -höz doesn't change after a vowel: autóhoz, hűtőhöz.



Practice Words

Back-vowel words are in green, front unrounded in blue, and front rounded in purple.

WORD	TO (-HOZ / -HEZ / -HÖZ)	ON (-ON / -EN / -ÖN)
ház (house)	házhoz	házon
út (road)	úthoz	úton
autó (car)	autóhoz	autón
kert (garden)	kerthez	kerten
víz (water)	vízhez	vízen
tér (square)	térhez	téren
kör (circle)	körhöz	körön
fül (ear)	fülhöz	fülön
tűz (fire)	tűzhöz	tűzön
hűtő (fridge)	hűtőhöz	hűtőn

Three Sets of "Where" Endings

Every place-ending in Hungarian belongs to one of three sets, and each set answers the same three questions: **Hol?** (where?), **Hová?** (where to?) and **Honnan?** (where from?). You already know the first set. Now you have all three.

SET	HOL? (WHERE)	HOVÁ? (WHERE TO)	HONNAN? (FROM WHERE)
Inside	-ban / -ben	-ba / -be	-ból / -ből
On a surface	-on / -en / -ön	-ra / -re	-ról / -ről
Near, at a person or place	-nál / -nél	-hoz / -hez / -höz	-től / -től

WORD	SET	HOL?	HOVÁ?	HONNAN?
ház (house)	inside	házban	házba	házból
	on	házon	házra	háziról
	near	háznál	házhoz	háztól
kert (garden)	inside	kertben	kertbe	kertből
	on	kerten	kertre	ketről
	near	kertnél	kerthez	kerttől
kör (circle)	inside	körben	körbe	körből
	on	körön	körre	körről
	near	körnél	körhöz	körtől

Which Set Do I Use?

Think about the *place*. **Inside** something (a house, a garden, a bottle) → the *-ban* set. **On** a surface or in an open place (a road, a square, a table) → the *-n / -ra / -ról* set: *az úton* (on the road), *a téren* (in the square). **At or next to** something or someone → the *-nál / -hoz / -tól* set. This is why *téren* is "in the square" (an open surface), whereas *térben* means "in space".

Mini-Dialogs

① To the Fridge — A hűtőhöz

A:

Hová?

HO-vah?

Where to?

B:

A hűtőhöz.

aw HUUE-teuu-heuz.

② On the Road — Az úton

A:

Hol a kő?

HOL aw KEUU?

Where is the stone?

B:

Az úton.

awz OO-ton.

To the fridge.

A:

Miért?

MIH-ayrt?

Why?

B:

Hideg a sör!

HIH-dehg aw SHEUR!

The beer is cold!

On the road.

A:

És a tök?

AYSH aw TEUK?

And the pumpkin?

B:

A téren.

aw TAY-rehn.

In the square.

③ The Lake — A tóhoz

A:

Hová?

HO-vah?

Where to?

B:

A tóhoz.

aw TOH-hoz.

To the lake.

A:

Hideg a víz?

HIH-dehg aw VEEZ?

Is the water cold?

B:

Igen, hideg!

IH-gehn, HIH-dehg!

Yes, it's cold!

The Plural Is Also Harmonic, but Trickier

The plural ending **-k** also uses a linking vowel that harmonises: **házak, kertek, körök** (houses, gardens, circles), and after a vowel it's just **-k**: **autók, hűtők**. But which linking vowel a word takes (-

ak, -ok, -ek, -ök) and whether the stem changes (víz → vizek) has to be learned **with each word**.
The plural is taught properly in the Hungarian conversation courses.

Review: Chapter 8 Words

Cover the English and read these again: **itt** (here) · **ott** (there) · **otthon** (at home) · **hol** (where) · **hová** (where to) · **honnan** (from where) · **és** (and) · **is** (also).

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Which vowel family takes -höz and -ön?

▼ Show answer

The front rounded vowels: ö, ő, ü, ú.

2. Add "to" (-hoz / -hez / -höz): tó · víz · kör · fül

▼ Show answer

tóhoz · vízhez · körhöz · fülhöz

3. Add "on" (-on / -en / -ön, or -n after a vowel): ház · kert · kör · út · autó · hűtő

▼ Show answer

házon · kerten · körön · úton · autón · hűtőn

4. Give the "on / onto / off" trio (Hol? Hová? Honnan?) for tér and ház.

▼ Show answer

téren · térre · térről, and házon · házra · házról.

5. Give the "at / to / from" trio (-nál, -hoz, -tól) for kert.

▼ Show answer

kertnél · kerthez · kerttől (front vowel → -nél, -hez, -től).

6. What is the difference between **téren** and **térben**?

▼ Show answer

téren = on / in the square (an open surface); *térben* = in space (inside a three-dimensional area).

Coming Up in Chapter 10

Chapter 10 handles the **tricky cases**: words with a mix of back and front vowels (*papír*, *hotel*), the neutral vowels *i í e é*, and the exceptions to the rule, such as *híd* → *hídban*.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 10 · Vowel Harmony 3: Mixed Words, Neutral Vowels and Exceptions

The Tricky Cases

So far every word had vowels from one family, so choosing the ending was easy. Real Hungarian also has words that **mix** back and front vowels (*papír*, *hotel*, *iroda*), words with only neutral vowels, and a handful of **exceptions**. This chapter gives you a simple decision guide for all of them, and finishes with a one-page cheat sheet of the whole harmony system.

The Neutral Vowels — **i í e é**

The four front unrounded vowels **i í e é** are called **neutral** (or "transparent"), because they're easy-going: they can sit in a word with back vowels without turning the whole word "front". Think of them as see-through: when a back vowel comes before a neutral vowel, the back vowel still decides the ending.

The Decision Guide

1

Only back vowels

→ **back** ending. *ház* → *házban*, *autó* → *autóban*.

2

Only front vowels

(including the neutral ones) → **front** ending.
kert → *kertben*, *víz* → *vízben*, *tévé* → *tévében*.

3

Back vowel + **i / í / é**

→ **back** ending: the neutral vowel is "see-through". *papír* → *papírban*, *taxi* → *taxiban*, *kávé* → *kávében*.

4

Back vowel + **e**, or an **ö/ő/ü/ú** at the end

→ usually **front** ending. *hotel* → *hotelben*, *szófarok* → *szófarokban*. If the last vowel is a clear back vowel, it wins: *iroda* → *irodában*, *fiú* → *fiúban*.

A Rule of Thumb for Mixed Words

Look at the last vowel. If it's a clear back vowel, or an *i / í / é* after a back vowel, use the back ending. If it's *e* or a front rounded vowel (*ö ő ü ú*), use the front ending. This covers nearly all words, but mixed words are a famous source of hesitation, even for native speakers, so when in doubt, check a dictionary.

Words to Practise

Flags on the new letters: *x* is said "ks" (Chapter 17), *s* is "sh" (Chapter 13) and *c* is "ts" (Chapter 14).

WORD	SAY IT	VOWELS	ENDING FAMILY	IN	TO
papír (paper)	<i>PAW-peer</i>	a · í	back (a + í)	papírban	papírhoz
taxi (taxi)	<i>TAWK-sih</i>	a · i	back (a + i)	taxiban	taxihoz
káv é (coffee)	<i>KAH-vay</i>	á · é	back (á + é)	kávében	kávéhoz
iroda (office)	<i>IH-ro-daw</i>	i · o · a	back (last vowel a)	irodában	irodához
fiú (boy)	<i>FIH-oo</i>	i · ú	back (last vowel ú)	fiúban	fiúhoz
hotel (hotel)	<i>HO-tehl</i>	o · e	front (o + e)	hotelben	hotelhez
tévé (TV)	<i>TAY-vay</i>	é · é	front (only front)	tévében	tévéhez
sofőr (driver)	<i>SHO-feuur</i>	o · ő	front rounded (last ő)	sofőrben	sofőrhöz

Compare **káv**é and **tévé**

kávé and **tévé** look almost the same, but they take different endings: *kávében* (back, because of the **á**) and *tévében* (front, because both vowels are front). The first vowel is what makes the difference, which is why you must look at the *whole* word.

The Exceptions — **híd** and **cél**

About fifty short words that contain only **i**, **í** or **é** break the "only front vowels → front ending" rule: they take **back** endings. You learn them as you meet them. Two common ones (a × marks a form Hungarian does not use):

WORD	SAY IT	EXPECTED (FRONT)	ACTUAL (BACK)	IN · ON · TO
híd (bridge)	HEED	×hídben	hídban	hídban · hídon · hídhöz
cél (goal, aim)	TSAYL	×célben	célban	célban · célon · célhoz

By contrast, look at regular words with the same vowels, which take front endings as expected:

REGULAR WORD	IN	ON	TO
víz (water)	vízben	vízen	vízhez
kéz (hand)	kézben	kézen	kézhez
hír (news)	hírben	híren	hírhez



The Harmony Cheat Sheet

Everything from Chapters 8 to 10 on one page.

MEANING	BACK	FRONT	FRONT ROUNDED	KIND
in	-ban	-ben	-ben	two-way
into	-ba	-be	-be	two-way
out of	-ból	-ből	-ből	two-way
on (surface)	-on (- n)	-en (- n)	-ön (-n)	three-way
onto	-ra	-re	-re	two-way

MEANING	BACK	FRONT	FRONT ROUNDED	KIND
off; about	-ról	-ről	-ről	two-way
at, by	-nál	-nél	-nél	two-way
to, towards	-hoz	-hez	-höz	three-way
from (a person/place)	-tól	-től	-től	two-way
to; for (receiver)	-nak	-nek	-nek	two-way
with	-val	-vel	-vel	two-way; the <i>v</i> copies the last consonant: <i>házzal, kerttel, vízzel</i> ; after a vowel it stays: <i>autóval</i>

The Big Picture

Harmony is not a pile of exceptions: it's one idea applied to about a dozen endings. Learn the *three families* of vowels (back, front unrounded, front rounded), look at the vowels of the word, and pick the matching ending. When you meet a new ending in the conversation courses, it will almost always follow this same pattern.

Mini-Dialogs

① Coffee and Paper — Hol a kávé?

A:

Hol a kávé?

HOL aw KAH-vay?

Where is the coffee?

B:

A hotelben.

aw HO-tehl-behn.

In the hotel.

② On the Bridge — A hídön

A:

Hol a fiú?

HOL aw FIH-oo?

Where is the boy?

B:

A hídön.

aw HEE-don.

On the bridge.

A:

És a papír?

AYSH aw PAW-peer?

And the paper?

B:

Az irodában.

awz IH-ro-daw-bawn.

In the office.

A:

És a sofőr?

AYSH aw SHO-feuur?

And the driver?

B:

Az autóban.

awz AW-u-toh-bawn.

In the car.

③ Going To — Hová?

A:

Hová?

HO-vah?

Where to?

B:

A hotelhez.

aw HO-tehl-hehz.

To the hotel.

A:

És a fiú?

AYSH aw FIH-oo?

And the boy?

B:

Az irodához.

awz IH-ro-dah-hoz.

To the office.

Review: Chapter 9 — The Three Sets

Test yourself: inside is *-ban / -ben, -ba / -be, -ból / -ből*; on a surface is *-on / -en / -ön, -ra / -re, -ról / -ről*; near is *-nál / -nél, -hoz / -hez / -höz, -től / -től*. Cover the table and say the nine forms of *ház* and *kert* out loud.



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Why are *i, í, e, é* called "neutral" vowels?

▼ Show answer

They're easy-going: they can sit in a word with back vowels without making the word "front". A back vowel before a neutral vowel still decides the ending.

2. Add "in" to: *papír · hotel · kávé · tévé*

▼ Show answer

papírban · hotelben · kávéban · tévében (*papír*: a + í → back; *hotel*: o + e → front; *kávé*: á + é → back; *tévé*: only front vowels → front).

3. Add "in" to *iroda* and *fiú*. What decides the ending?

▼ Show answer

irodában (final a lengthens to á) and *fiúban*. In both, the **last vowel** is a clear back vowel (a, ú), so the back ending wins.

4. Add "in" to *víz* and *híd*. Why are they different?

▼ Show answer

vízben (regular: only a neutral vowel → front) but *hídban* (*híd* is one of about fifty exceptions that take back endings).

5. Add "to" (*-hoz / -hez / -höz*): *sofőr · hotel · papír*

▼ Show answer

sofőrhöz (front rounded) · *hotelhez* (front) · *papírhoz* (back).

6. Why is it *kávéban* but *tévében*?

▼ Show answer

kávé has a back vowel (á) before the é, which is "see-through", so it takes the back ending.
tévé has only front vowels, so it takes the front ending.

Coming Up in Chapter 11

The vowels and vowel harmony are done. Now the **consonants** begin. Chapter 11 covers the letters that look and mostly sound like English: **b p d t g k**, with one important difference in how *p*, *t*, *k* are pronounced.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 11 · Consonants You Know I: B P D T G K



The Consonants Begin — b p d t g k

After ten chapters on vowels and harmony, the consonants begin, and the first six will feel familiar: **b**, **p**, **d**, **t**, **g**, **k**. They come in three pairs, one voiceless and one voiced in each. There's one important difference from English, which you can fix with a simple trick: in Hungarian, **p**, **t** and **k** have **no puff of air**.

✨ Three Pairs

p · b

P p · B b

p as in *spin* (no puff) · **b** as in
bin

lips together

Tip: the lips make both sounds.
For *b*, your voice buzzes in your
throat; for *p*, it doesn't.

t · d

T t · D d

t as in *stop* (no puff) · **d** as in
do

tongue behind the upper teeth

Tip: the tongue tip touches just
behind the upper front teeth.
For *d*, the voice buzzes; for *t*, it
doesn't.

k · g

K k · G g

k as in *sky* (no puff) · **g** as in
go (always hard)

back of the tongue

Tip: *g* is always the hard "g" of
go, never the soft "g" of *gem*.
For *g*, the voice buzzes; for *k*, it
doesn't.

The "S" Trick: Taking the Puff Away

In English, *p*, *t*, *k* at the start of a word come with a small puff of air (hold a hand in front of your mouth and say "*pin*": you feel it). Hungarian *p*, *t*, *k* have **no puff**, like the sounds in *spin*, *stop* and *sky*. To practise: say "*spin*", then "*pin* without the puff"; "*stop*" then plain "*top*"; "*sky*" then plain "*key*". Spanish, French and Japanese work the same way.

Voiced Means "Buzz"

Put two fingers on your throat and say "ssss" (nothing) then "zzzz" (a buzz). That buzz is **voicing**. **b, d, g** are voiced: start the buzz at once, don't hesitate. **p, t, k** have no buzz. Hungarian also keeps **final b, d, g fully voiced**: unlike German, the *d* at the end of *ebéd* is still a clear "d" and doesn't turn into "t".

Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. Remember the vowel respellings from earlier chapters (*aw, ah, o, oh, u, oo, eh, ay, ih, ee, eu, eeu, ue, uue*), and that stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	bolt	BOLT	shop	<i>b, t</i>
2	bátor	BAH-tor	brave	<i>long á; tapped r</i>
3	pék	PAYK	baker	<i>p and k, no puff</i>
4	kép	KAYP	picture; image	<i>k and p, no puff</i>
5	dal	DAWL	song	<i>short a</i>
6	idő	IH-deuu	time; weather	<i>two meanings</i>
7	adó	AW-doh	tax	<i>long ó</i>
8	tanár	TAW-nahr	teacher	<i>stress on TA</i>
9	tea	TEH-aw	tea	<i>two syllables</i>
10	gól	GOHL	goal (in football)	<i>hard g</i>
11	gép	GAYP	machine	<i>hard g</i>
12	kapu	KAW-pu	gate	<i>k, p: no puff</i>

Real Hungarian Tip — Foreign Words, Hungarian Spelling

Hungarian spells many foreign words **the way they sound**, which makes them easy to read: *kóla* (KOH-law, cola), *kakaó* (KAW-kaw-oh, cocoa), *tea* (tea), *gól* (goal), *káv*é (coffee). The letter **k** always stands for the "k" sound: Hungarian never uses *c* for it (*c* is "ts", Chapter 14).

A Peek Ahead — Double Letters

Doubled consonants are **long**: you hold the sound for an extra beat. You've already seen *ott* (there), *itt* (here) and *nulla* (zero). The same applies to *bb*, *pp*, *dd*, *tt*, *gg*, *kk*. Chapter 18 covers long consonants and the short/long pairs in detail.

Mini-Dialogs

① A Picture — Mi ez?

A:

Mi ez?

MIH EHZ?

What is this?

B:

Ez kép.

EHZ KAYP.

This is a picture.

A:

Kép? Jó!

KAYP? YOH!

A picture? Good!

② Where Is the Shop? — Hol a bolt?

A:

Hol a bolt?

HOL aw BOLT?

Where is the shop?

B:

Ott, a téren.

OTT, aw TAY-rehn.

There, in the square.

A:

És a kapu?

AYSH aw KAW-pu?

And the gate?

B:

A kertben.

aw KEHRT-behn.

In the garden.

③ Tea or Coffee? — Tea? Káv?

A:

Tea?

TEH-aw?

Tea?

B:

Nem, kávé!

NEHM, KAH-vay!

No, coffee!

A:

Jó!

YOH!

Good!

Review: Chapter 10 — Harmony

Test yourself: **papírban** (in the paper) · **hotelben** (in the hotel) · **kávéban** · **tévében** · **irodában** · **hídban** (exception). What decides each ending?



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Which three of the six letters are voiced (with a buzz in the throat)?

▼ Show answer

b, d, g. The voiceless partners are p, t, k.

2. How do you make a Hungarian **p**, **t** or **k** without the English puff?

▼ Show answer

Say it as in *spin*, *stop*, *sky* (the sound after the "s"): no puff of air.

3. Read aloud and translate: **bolt** · **dal** · **gól**

▼ Show answer

BOLT (shop) · DAWL (song) · GOHL (goal)

4. Read aloud and translate: tanár · idő · pék

▼ Show answer

TAW-nahr (teacher) · IH-deuu (time; weather) · PAYK (baker)

5. Read aloud and translate: kóla · kakaó · tea

▼ Show answer

KOH-law (cola) · KAW-kaw-oh (cocoa) · TEH-aw (tea). Hungarian spells foreign words as they sound.

6. Does Hungarian turn a final **d** into "t" (as German does)? Give an example.

▼ Show answer

No: the final **d** stays a clear "d", as in **ebéd** (EH-bayd, lunch).

Coming Up in Chapter 12

Seven more letters that look like English: **f v h m n l z**. They're mostly straightforward, with a few small differences in *h*, *v* and *l* to watch for.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 12 · Consonants You Know II: F V H M N L Z



Seven More Familiar Letters — f v h m n l z

Seven more consonants look and mostly sound like English. Four of them (**f**, **m**, **n**, **z**) are exactly as you'd expect. The other three have small differences that make your Hungarian sound much more natural: **v** (never "w"), **h** (always pronounced, and sometimes a rasp), and **l** (always a clear, light "l").



The Seven Letters

LETTER	SOUNDS LIKE	WATCH OUT FOR
f	English <i>f</i> in <i>fish</i>	nothing special
v	English <i>v</i> in <i>very</i>	always a real "v", never a "w"
h	English <i>h</i> in <i>hat</i>	never silent ; after a vowel it can be a soft rasp (see below)
m	English <i>m</i> in <i>man</i>	nothing special
n	English <i>n</i> in <i>no</i>	tongue just behind the upper teeth
l	a light, clear "l" as in <i>leaf</i>	stays light even at the end of a word: <i>dal</i> , <i>tál</i>
z	English <i>z</i> in <i>zoo</i>	a buzzing "s"; you've used it in <i>ház</i> , <i>víz</i> , <i>tűz</i>

H Is Never Silent

English drops the *h* in *hour* and *honest*, and French drops it everywhere. Hungarian **always pronounces h**. At the start of a word it's the English "h" (*hold*, *ház*), and between two vowels it's a gentle, breathy "h" (*ruha*, *tehén*). After a vowel at the end of a word or before another consonant, it becomes a soft **rasp**, a little like the "ch" in Scottish *loch*, as in *méh* (bee). Scottish speakers have a head start with this one.

The Light "L"

In many English accents (and especially Scots), the *l* at the end of a word, as in *hill* or *ball*, is "dark": the back of the tongue pulls up. Hungarian *l* is always **light**, made with the tip of the tongue just behind the upper teeth, as in the English *l* of *leaf*. Say *dal* (DAWL) and *tál* (TAHL) with that light "l".

Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. Stress is on the first syllable; the respellings use the vowel keys from earlier chapters.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	fehér	FEH-hayr	white	<i>f, h between vowels</i>
2	fekete	FEH-keh-teh	black	<i>three short e's</i>
3	vonat	VO-nawt	train	<i>v as in English</i>
4	vendég	VEHN-dayg	guest	<i>short e, long é</i>
5	hold	HOLD	moon	<i>light l</i>
6	tehén	TEH-hayn	cow	<i>gentle h between vowels</i>
7	mozi	MO-zih	cinema	<i>z as in zoo</i>
8	metró	MEH-troh	metro, underground	<i>tapped r</i>
9	ember	EHM-behr	person; man	<i>short e's</i>
10	levél	LEH-vayl	letter; leaf	<i>both l's are light</i>
11	zene	ZEH-neh	music	<i>two short e's</i>

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
12	zöld	ZEULD	green	<i>z and ö</i>

Colours You Can Read Now

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
piros	PIH-rosh	red	<i>s is said "sh"</i>
fehér	FEH-hayr	white	<i>today</i>
zöld	ZEULD	green	<i>today</i>
kék	KAYK	blue	<i>Chapter 4</i>
fekete	FEH-keh-teh	black	<i>today</i>

Real Hungarian Tip — The Flag

The Hungarian flag is three horizontal stripes: **piros, fehér, zöld** (red, white, green), from top to bottom. It's a good way to remember three colours at once, and you may hear "*piros-fehér-zöld*" at football matches and national holidays.

Mini-Dialogs

① Cinema and Metro — Hol a mozi?

A:

Hol a mozi?

HOL aw MO-zih?

Where is the cinema?

B:

② The Traffic Light — Piros a lámpa?

A:

Piros a lámpa?

PIH-rosh aw LAHM-paw?

Is the light red?

B:

Ott.

OTT.

There.

A:

És a metró?

AYSH aw MEH-troh?

And the metro?

B:

A téren.

aw TAY-rehn.

In the square.

Nem, zöld!

NEHM, ZEULD!

No, green!

A:

Jó!

YOH!

Good!

③ Who Is This? — Ki ez?

A:

Ki ez?

KIH EHZ?

Who is this?

B:

Ez a vendég.

EHZ aw VEHN-dayg.

This is the guest.

A:

És ő?

AYSH EUU?

And she/he?

B:

Ő a tanár.

EUU aw TAW-nahr.

He/She is the teacher.

A Peek Ahead — n and l Before y

You'll sometimes see *n* or *l* followed by *y*, as in *nyár* or *lyuk*. That isn't an *n* plus a *y*: **ny** and **ly** are separate letters with their own sounds (Chapter 16), just like *gy* and *ty* (Chapter 15).

Review: Chapter 11 Words

Cover the English and read these again: **bolt** (shop) · **bátor** (brave) · **pék** (baker) · **kép** (picture) · **dal** (song) · **idő** (time; weather) · **adó** (tax) · **tanár** (teacher) · **tea** (tea) · **gól** (goal) · **gép** (machine) · **kapu** (gate).

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Which three of today's letters have small differences from English?

▼ Show answer

v (always "v", never "w"), **h** (never silent; a soft rasp after a vowel) and **l** (always light and clear).

2. How should you say the *l* in **dal** and **tál**?

▼ Show answer

With a light, clear "l" (tongue tip behind the upper teeth), even at the end of the word, not a dark "l".

3. Read aloud and translate: **fehér** · **fekete** · **zöld**

▼ Show answer

FEH-hayr (white) · FEH-keh-teh (black) · ZEULD (green)

4. Read aloud and translate: **vonat** · **mozi** · **metró**

▼ Show answer

VO-nawt (train) · MO-zih (cinema) · MEH-troh (metro)

5. What are the three colours of the Hungarian flag?

▼ Show answer

piros, fehér, zöld (red, white, green), from top to bottom.

6. Does Hungarian drop the **h** in words like **hold** or **tehén**?

▼ Show answer

No: **h** is never silent in Hungarian. Say it at the start of a word (**HOLD**) and gently between vowels (**TEH**-hayn).

Coming Up in Chapter 13

The big swap: in Hungarian, **s** is said "sh" and **sz** is said "s", the reverse of what you'd expect. Chapter 13 teaches **r**, **s**, **sz**, **zs**, and finally lets you read *köszönöm* ("thank you") and *szia* ("hi/bye").

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 13 · The Big Swap: R, S, SZ, ZS



The Big Swap — s Says "sh" and sz Says "s"

This is the chapter English speakers remember. In Hungarian, **s** is said "**sh**" and **sz** is said "**s**", the opposite of what the letters suggest. Add the tapped **r** and the "zh" sound **zs**, and you have the four letters that make Hungarian look different from other languages. By the end, you'll be able to read *szia* ("hi") and *köszönöm* ("thank you").



The Four Letters

S

S s

said "**sh**", as in *ship*

respelled **sh**

Remember: a lone *s* is "sh". *sör* = SHEUR, *piros* = PIH-rosh.

SZ

Sz sz

said "**s**", as in *sun*

respelled **s**

Remember: *sz* is the plain English "s". *szó* = SOH, *busz* = BUS.

ZS

Zs zs

said "**zh**", as in *measure* or *vision*

respelled **zh**

Remember: *zs* is the voiced partner of *s* (sh → zh). *zseb* = ZHEHB.

r

R r

a **tapped or rolled "r"**, as in Scottish *very*

a flick of the tongue tip

Tip: touch the tongue tip just behind the upper teeth, once (a

tap) or several times (a roll).
Never the English curled "r".
Scottish speakers already have
this sound.

The Four Sounds in a Grid

Hungarian has two "hissing" sounds, each with a voiced and a voiceless version. Seeing them in a grid helps:

	VOICELESS (NO BUZZ)	VOICED (BUZZ)
"sh"-type (tongue pulled back)	S = "sh" (<i>ship</i>)	ZS = "zh" (<i>measure</i>)
"s"-type (tongue tip forward)	SZ = "s" (<i>sun</i>)	Z = "z" (<i>zoo</i>)

A Memory Trick

Count the letters: **one letter, s, is the "sh" sound**, and **two letters, sz, make the plain "s"**. It feels backwards, so practise a few pairs aloud until it's automatic: *sör* (SHEUR) against *szív* (SEEV, "heart"), *sok* (SHOK) against *szó* (SOH). If you read a lone s as "s", a Hungarian listener will hear a different sound, so this is worth getting right early.

Read It — New Words

You can read all of these, and they include the greetings you've been waiting for. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	szia	SIH-aw	hi; bye (informal)	sz = s
2	köszönöm	KEU-seu-neum	thank you	sz = s; three ö's
3	kérem	KAY-rehm	please; here you are	tapped r

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
4	szép	SAYP	beautiful; nice	<i>sz = s</i>
5	szó	SOH	word	<i>sz = s</i>
6	szoba	SO-baw	room	<i>sz = s</i>
7	asztal	AWS-tawl	table	<i>sz = s, then t</i>
8	busz	BUS	bus	<i>sz at the end</i>
9	sárga	SHAHR-gaw	yellow	<i>s = sh</i>
10	sapka	SHAWP-kaw	cap, hat	<i>s = sh</i>
11	zseb	ZHEHB	pocket	<i>zs = zh</i>
12	rózsa	ROH-zhaw	rose	<i>zs = zh</i>



Polite Words You Can Use Today

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	USE
szia	SIH-aw	hi; bye	<i>informal, with friends and family</i>
köszönöm	KEU-seu-neum	thank you	<i>the standard "thank you"</i>
köszi	KEU-sih	thanks	<i>casual, like "cheers"</i>
kérem	KAY-rehm	please	<i>when asking for something</i>
tessék	TEHSH-shayk	here you are; pardon?	<i>double s = a long "sh"</i>

HUNGARIAN

SAY IT

ENGLISH

USE

igen · nem

IH-gehn · NEHM

yes · no

Chapters 4–5

Real Hungarian Tip — "Szia" Means Both Hello and Goodbye

Szia (SIH-aw) is the everyday informal greeting, and it works for *both* arriving and leaving. For one person you know well, it's all you need. It's also a little more casual than English "hello", so with a stranger or in a formal setting, you'd use a longer greeting, which you'll meet in the conversation courses.

Real Hungarian Tip — Szabó

Szabó (SAW-boh) means "tailor" and is one of the most common Hungarian surnames. It's a handy test of the swap: sz = "s", so it's SAW-boh, not "shaw-boh". Hungarians also put the surname **first**: *Szabó Anna* is "Anna Szabó".

**Mini-Dialogs****① Hi and Thanks — Szia! Köszönöm!****A:**

Szia!

SIH-aw!

Hi!

B:

Szia! Tea?

SIH-aw! TEH-aw?

Hi! Tea?

A:

Nem, kávé, kérem.

NEHM, KAH-vay, KAY-rehm.

No, coffee, please.

B:

Tessék!

② The Room — Hol a szoba?**A:**

Hol a szoba?

HOL aw SO-baw?

Where is the room?

B:

Ott.

OTT.

There.

A:

És az asztal?

AYSH awz AWS-tawl?

And the table?

B:

A szobában.

TEHSH-shayk!

Here you are!

A:

Köszönöm!

KEU-seu-neum!

Thank you!

aw SO-baw-bahn.

In the room.

③ A Yellow Bus? — Sárga a busz?

A:

Sárga a busz?

SHAHR-gaw aw BUS?

Is the bus yellow?

B:

Nem, kék!

NEHM, KAYK!

No, blue!

A:

Szép!

SAYP!

Nice!

Review: Chapter 12 Words

Cover the English and read these again: **fehér** (white) · **fekete** (black) · **vonat** (train) · **vendég** (guest) · **hold** (moon) · **tehén** (cow) · **mozi** (cinema) · **metró** (metro) · **ember** (person) · **levél** (letter) · **zene** (music) · **zöld** (green).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. What sounds do S, SZ, ZS and Z make?

▼ Show answer

s = "sh" · sz = "s" · zs = "zh" (as in *measure*) · z = "z".

2. Read aloud and translate: szia · szó · szoba

▼ Show answer

SIH-aw (hi; bye) · SOH (word) · SO-baw (room)

3. Read aloud and translate: sárga · sapka · zseb

▼ Show answer

SHAHR-gaw (yellow) · SHAWP-kaw (cap) · ZHEHB (pocket)

4. Say "thank you" and "hi / bye" (informal) in Hungarian.

▼ Show answer

Köszönöm (KEU-seu-neum) · Szia (SIH-aw).

5. Why is **asztal** said "AWS-tawl" and not "ASH-tawl"?

▼ Show answer

Because **sz** is the plain "s" sound. (A lone s would be "sh".)

6. Add "in" to **szoba** and **zseb**.

▼ Show answer

szobában (back vowels; final a lengthens) · **zsebben** (front vowel e → -ben, and the b doubles: zseb + ben).

Coming Up in Chapter 14

Three more letters: **c** (said "ts"), **cs** (said "ch") and **j** (said "y"). With them you'll be able to read *jó reggelt* ("good morning"), *kicsi* (small) and *cipő* (shoe).

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 14 · C, CS and J

Three More Letters — c cs j

Three letters that English readers often misread: **c** is said "ts", **cs** is said "ch", and **j** is said "y". Learn them, and you can read the **days of the week** and the **months** by the end of this chapter, plus some very useful everyday words.

Three New Sounds

C

C c

said "ts", like the end of *cats*
or *pizza*

respelled ts

Remember: never "k" or "s".
cukor = TSU-kor, *cipő* = TSIH-peuu, *cél* = TSAYL.

CS

Cs cs

said "ch", as in *chip* or *church*
respelled ch

Remember: c + s is one letter.
csók = CHOHK, *kicsi* = KIH-chih.

j

J j

said "y", as in *yes*
respelled y

Remember: never the English "j" of *jam*. *jó* = YOH, *játék* = YAH-tayk.

Don't Mix Up c and cs

Just one letter separates two different sounds: **c** is "ts" (*cipő*, TSIH-peuu "shoe") and **cs** is "ch" (*csésze*, CHAY-seh "cup"). If you see **cs**, think of "church". And remember that the plain English letter **k** does the work of the English hard "c": Hungarian has *káv*é, not *cáv*é.

Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	cipő	TSIH-peuu	shoe	c = ts
2	cukor	TSU-kor	sugar	c = ts
3	cica	TSIH-tsaw	kitten; pussycat	two c's
4	macska	MAWCH-kaw	cat	cs = ch
5	csók	CHOHK	kiss	cs = ch
6	csésze	CHAY-seh	cup	cs = ch; sz = s
7	csak	CHAWK	only; just	cs = ch
8	kicsi	KIH-chih	small	cs in the middle
9	csillag	CHIL-lawg	star	double l
10	ajtó	AWY-toh	door	aj = "awy"
11	játék	YAH-tayk	toy; game	j = y
12	hajó	HAW-yoh	ship	j between vowels



The Days of the Week

All seven are readable now. The week starts on Monday, and the days are written with a small letter.

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
hétfő	HAYT-feuu	Monday

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
kedd	KEHDD	Tuesday
szerda	SEHR-daw	Wednesday
csütörtök	CHUE-teur-teuk	Thursday
péntek	PAYN-tehk	Friday
szombat	SOM-bawt	Saturday
vasárnap	VAW-shahr-nawp	Sunday

"On Monday" — A Day + -n

To say "on" a day, add the "on" ending from Chapter 9 (-n after a vowel, -on / -en / -ön after a consonant): **hétfőn** (on Monday), **szombaton** (on Saturday), **pénteken** (on Friday), **csütörtökön** (on Thursday). *Vasárnap* is the exception: it already means "on Sunday" and takes no ending.



The Months

The month names come from Latin, so you'll recognise most of them. They're written with a small letter.

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
január	YAW-nu-ahr	January	július	YOO-lih-ush	July
február	FEH-bru-ahr	February	augusztus	AW-u-gus-tush	August
március	MAHR-tsih-ush	March	szeptember	SEHP-tehm-behr	September
április	AH-prih-lish	April	október	OHK-toh-behr	October

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
május	MAH-yush	May	november	NO-vehm-behr	November
június	YOO-nih-ush	June	december	DEH-tsehm-behr	December

↔ Left and Right

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
bal	BAWL	left	light l
jobb	YOBB	right; better	double b: held
balra	BAWL-raw	to the left	bal + ra
jobbra	YOBB-raw	to the right	jobb + ra

💬 Mini-Dialogs

① A Kitten — Mi ez?

A:

Mi ez?

MIH EHZ?

What is this?

B:

Ez a cica.

EHZ aw TSIH-tsaw.

This is the kitten.

A:

Kicsi?

KIH-chih?

② Left or Right? — Balra, jobbra

A:

Hol az ajtó?

HOL awz AWY-toh?

Where is the door?

B:

Balra.

BAWL-raw.

To the left.

A:

Balra?

BAWL-raw?

Is it small?

B:

Igen, kicsi!

IH-gehn, KIH-chih!

Yes, small!

To the left?

B:

Nem, jobbra!

NEHM, YOBB-raw!

No, to the right!

③ When? — Mikor? Szombaton

A:

Mikor?

MIH-kor?

When?

B:

Szombaton.

SOM-baw-ton.

On Saturday.

A:

És a mozi?

AYSH aw MO-zih?

And the cinema?

B:

Vasárnap.

VAW-shahr-nawp.

On Sunday.

Review: Chapter 13 Words

Cover the English and read these again: szia (hi; bye) · köszönöm (thank you) · kérem (please) · szép (beautiful) · szó (word) · szoba (room) · asztal (table) · busz (bus) · sárga (yellow) · sapka (cap) · zseb (pocket) · rózsza (rose).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. What sounds do **C**, **CS** and **j** make?

▼ Show answer

c = "ts" · cs = "ch" · j = "y" (as in *yes*).

2. Read aloud and translate: cipő · macska · csillag

▼ Show answer

TSIH-peuu (shoe) · MAWCH-kaw (cat) · CHIL-lawg (star)

3. Read aloud and translate: ajtó · játék · hajó

▼ Show answer

AWY-toh (door) · YAH-tayk (toy; game) · HAW-yoh (ship)

4. Which day is szombat, which is péntek, and which is hétfő?

▼ Show answer

szombat = Saturday · péntek = Friday · hétfő = Monday.

5. Say "to the left" and "to the right", and "on Monday".

▼ Show answer

balra · jobbra · hétfőn

6. Why is jó pronounced "YOH" and not "JOH"?

▼ Show answer

In Hungarian, **j** is the "y" of *yes*, never the English "j" of *jam*.

Coming Up in Chapter 15

Now the **soft consonants**: **gy** (a soft "dy") and **ty** (a soft "ty"). These two sounds don't exist in English, but they appear in very common words like *nagy* (big), *egy* (one) and *magyar* (Hungarian).

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 15 · The Soft Consonants I: GY and TY

The Soft Consonants — gy ty

Hungarian has four "**soft**" consonants, written *gy*, *ty*, *ny*, *ly*. They're made with the **middle of the tongue** pressed against the roof of the mouth, a position English doesn't use as its own sound. Today you'll meet the first two, **gy** and **ty**, which appear in some of the most common Hungarian words, including *magyar* ("Hungarian") and *egy* ("one"). By the end, you'll be able to say *Magyar vagyok*: "I am Hungarian".

✨ Two New Letters

gy
Gy gy

a soft "**dy**", like the "d" in *duke* as many Scottish speakers say it ("dyuke")

respelled **dy**

Mouth tip: say "d" and "y" together as one quick sound, with the middle of the tongue pressed up against the roof of the mouth. It is **one letter**: *nagy* is NAWDY, not "nag-y".

ty
Ty ty

a soft "**ty**", like the "t" in *tune* as many Scottish speakers say it ("tyune")

respelled **ty**

Mouth tip: the unvoiced partner of *gy*: the same tongue position, but no buzz. It is also one letter: *kutya* is KU-tyaw.

A Good Model for Scottish Speakers

Many Scottish speakers say *tune* as "tyune" and *duke* as "dyuke", keeping a small "y" glide after the consonant. That is almost exactly the Hungarian *ty* and *gy*. If your accent doesn't do this, try "*did you*" and "*got you*" said fast, as in "didja" and "gotcha", and slow the middle down: that's the zone.

gy Is Not g + y

Compare **ág** (AHG, "branch") with **ágy** (AHDY, "bed"). The extra *y* changes the sound completely: *gy* is a different letter, not *g* followed by *y*. The same is true of *ty* (not *t + y*), *ny* and *ly*.

Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	nagy	NAWDY	big; great	<i>gy</i>
2	egy	EHDY	one; a, an	<i>gy</i>
3	hegy	HEHDY	mountain	<i>gy</i>
4	magyar	MAW-dyawr	Hungarian (person or language)	<i>gy</i> in the middle
5	gyerek	DYEH-rehk	child	<i>gy</i> at the start
6	ágy	AHDY	bed	long á, then <i>gy</i>
7	gyár	DYahr	factory	<i>gy</i> , long á
8	gyors	DYORSH	fast	<i>s = sh</i>
9	kutya	KU-tyaw	dog	<i>ty</i>
10	tyúk	TYOOK	hen	<i>ty + long ú</i>
11	hattyú	HAWT-tyoo	swan	<i>tty = a long ty</i>
12	gyertya	DYEHR-tyaw	candle	<i>gy</i> and <i>ty</i> together

Doubled Soft Consonants

A doubled soft consonant keeps the pattern from Chapter 2 and writes only the **first** letter twice: the long *ty* in *hattyú* is spelled **tty**, and a long *gy* is **ggy**. (Not "tyty".) You hold the sound for an extra beat. Chapter 18 returns to this.

Your First "I Am..." — Magyar vagyok

With *gy* in hand, you can say who you are. Hungarian uses *vagyok* ("I am") and *vagy* ("you are"), and it doesn't need the word for "I" or "you".

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH
Magyar vagyok.	<i>MAW-dyawr VAW-dyok.</i>	I am Hungarian.
Magyar vagy?	<i>MAW-dyawr VAWDY?</i>	Are you Hungarian?
Nem vagyok magyar.	<i>NEHM VAW-dyok MAW-dyawr.</i>	I am not Hungarian.
Tanár vagyok.	<i>TAW-nahr VAW-dyok.</i>	I am a teacher.

Real Hungarian Tip — Magyarország

Magyar means "Hungarian" (the people and the language), and **ország** (OR-sahg) means "country", so **Magyarország** (MAW-dyawr-or-sahg) is "Hungary", literally "the land of the Magyars". The English word "Hungary" comes from a different root, which is why the two names look so unlike.

Numbers Readable So Far

NUMBER	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	NOTE
0	nulla	<i>NUL-law</i>	<i>Chapter 3</i>
1	egy	<i>EHDY</i>	<i>new today</i>

NUMBER	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	NOTE
2	kettő · két	KEHT-teuu · KAYT	két before a noun
3	három	HAH-rom	long á
5	öt	EUT	Chapter 6
6	hat	HAWT	Chapter 6
7	hét	HAYT	Chapter 4
9	kilenc	KIH-lehnts	c = ts
10	tíz	TEEZ	Chapter 5

The missing numbers, 4 (négy) and 8 (nyolc), use the letter ny, which is next chapter.



Mini-Dialogs

① A Big Dog — Nagy a kutya?

A:

Mi ez?

MIH EHZ?

What is this?

B:

Ez a kutya.

EHZ aw KU-tyaw.

This is the dog.

A:

Nagy?

NAWDY?

Is it big?

B:

② Where Is the Child? — Hol a gyerek?

A:

Hol a gyerek?

HOL aw DYEh-rehk?

Where is the child?

B:

Az ágyban.

awz AHDY-bawn.

In bed.

A:

És a kutya?

AYSH aw KU-tyaw?

And the dog?

B:

Igen, nagy!

IH-gehn, NAWDY!

Yes, big!

A kertben.

aw KEHRT-behn.

In the garden.

③ Are You Hungarian? — Magyar vagy?

A:

Magyar vagy?

MAW-dyawr VAWDY?

Are you Hungarian?

B:

Igen, magyar vagyok.

IH-gehn, MAW-dyawr VAW-dyok.

Yes, I am Hungarian.

A:

Jó!

YOH!

Good!

Review: Chapter 14 — Days

Cover the English and read the week aloud: hétfő · kedd · szerda · csütörtök · péntek · szombat · vasárnap. Then say "on Monday" and "on Saturday": hétfőn · szombaton.



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. What sounds do **gy** and **ty** make?

▼ Show answer

A soft "dy" and a soft "ty", made with the middle of the tongue against the roof of the mouth, like the "d" in *duke* and the "t" in *tune* with a "y" glide.

2. Read aloud and translate: nagy · egy · hegy

▼ Show answer

NAWDY (big) · EHDY (one) · HEHDY (mountain)

3. Read aloud and translate: kutya · tyúk · hattyú

▼ Show answer

KU-tyaw (dog) · TYOOK (hen) · HAWT-tyoo (swan)

4. How do ág and ágy differ in sound and meaning?

▼ Show answer

AHG means "branch" (a hard g); AHDY means "bed" (the soft gy).

5. Say "I am Hungarian" and "Are you Hungarian?"

▼ Show answer

Magyar vagyok. · Magyar vagy?

6. Count in Hungarian: 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10.

▼ Show answer

egy · öt · hat · hét · kilenc · tíz

Coming Up in Chapter 16

The other two soft consonants: **ny** (like the "ny" in *canyon* or Spanish *ñ*) and **ly** (which is pronounced exactly like *j*, a "y"). You'll then be able to say 4 and 8 (*négy*, *nyolc*), and read *anya* (mother) and *nyár* (summer).

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 16 · The Soft Consonants II: NY and LY



The Other Two Soft Consonants — ny ly

The last two soft consonants are **ny** and **ly**. One of them is easy to say and the other is a spelling quirk: **ny** sounds like the "ny" in canyon (Spanish ñ), and **ly** sounds exactly like **j**, a plain "y". With them you can say all the numbers from 0 to 10, and read the signs for "open" and "closed".



Two New Letters

ny

Ny ny

like the "ny" in *canyon* or the Spanish ñ in *año*

respelled **ny**

Mouth tip: press the middle of the tongue against the roof of the mouth and let the sound out through the nose, as in *canyon*. It is **one letter**: *anya* is AW-nyaw, not "an-ya".

ly

Ly ly

said **exactly like j**, a plain "y" as in *yes*

respelled **y**

Remember: not "l" + "y". Long ago it was a soft "l", but today *ly* and *j* are one sound. *hely* = HEHY, *foljó* = FO-yoh.

ly and j Sound the Same, So Learn the Spelling

Because **ly** and **j** are pronounced alike, you can't tell from the sound which one a word uses: *foljó* (FO-yoh, "river") is spelled with *ly*, while *hajó* (HAW-yoh, "ship") is spelled with *j*. Hungarians learn the spelling of each word, just as English speakers learn *their* / *there*. For reading aloud it makes no difference: **both are "y"**.

Watch the Letters in Order: négy and nyolc

Read the letters in order, grouping the digraphs. In **négy** (four) you have *n* + *é* + *gy*: it's NAYDY, with a plain "n". In **nyolc** (eight) the *n* and *y* belong together as *ny*: it's NYOLTS.



Read It — New Words

You can read all of these. Stress is on the first syllable.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	nyár	NYAHR	summer	ny
2	anya	AW-nyaw	mother	ny in the middle
3	kenyér	KEH-nyayr	bread	ny, long é
4	könyv	KEUNYV	book	ö then ny
5	nyelv	NYEHLV	tongue; language	two meanings
6	nyitva	NYIHT-vaw	open	on shop doors
7	hely	HEHY	place	ly = y
8	folyó	FO-yoh	river	ly = y
9	gólya	GOH-yaw	stork	ly = y
10	király	KIH-rah-y	king	final ly
11	melyik	MEH-yihk	which	a question word
12	milyen	MIH-yehn	what kind of; how	a question word



The Numbers 0 to 10 — Complete

NUMBER	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	NUMBER	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT
0	nulla	NUL-law	6	hat	HAWT
1	egy	EHDY	7	hét	HAYT
2	kettő · két	KEHT-teuu · KAYT	8	nyolc	NYOLTS
3	három	HAH-rom	9	kilenc	KIH-lehnts
4	négy	NAYDY	10	tíz	TEEZ
5	öt	EUT			

? More Question Words

With *ny* and *ly* you can now read the whole set of basic question words.

HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
hány	HAHNY	how many	Hány? (How many?)
melyik	MEH-yihk	which	Melyik? (Which one?)
milyen	MIH-yehn	what kind of; how	Milyen a kenyér? (What is the bread like?)

Together with *mi*, *ki*, *hol*, *hová*, *honnán*, *mikor* and *miért* from earlier chapters, that's every question word you need.

Real Hungarian Tip — Nyitva and Zárva

On shop doors and signs, **nyitva** (NYIHT-vaw) means "open" and **zárva** (ZAHR-vaw) means "closed". You'll see them everywhere, often next to opening hours, with the days written as you learned in Chapter 14: *hétfő–péntek* (Monday to Friday). Even before you can read a full sentence, those two words will save you a wasted trip.



Mini-Dialogs

① Mother and Father — Ki ez?

A:

Ki ez?

KIH EHZ?

Who is this?

B:

Ez az anya.

EHZ awz AW-nyaw.

This is the mother.

A:

És ő?

AYSH EUU?

And he?

B:

Ő az apa.

EUU awz AW-paw.

He is the father.

② Open or Closed? — Nyitva?

A:

Nyitva?

NYIHT-vaw?

Is it open?

B:

Nem, zárva!

NEHM, ZAHR-vaw!

No, closed!

A:

Hétfőn?

HAYT-feuun?

On Monday?

B:

Igen, hétfőn zárva.

IH-gehn, HAYT-feuun ZAHR-vaw.

Yes, closed on Monday.

③ A Book — Ez egy könyv

A:

Mi ez?

MIH EHZ?

What is this?

B:

Ez egy könyv.

EHZ EHDY KEUNYV.

This is a book.

A:

Magyar könyv?

MAW-dyawr KEUNYV?

A Hungarian book?

B:

Igen, magyar!

IH-gehn, MAW-dyawr!

Yes, Hungarian!

Review: Chapter 15 Words

Cover the English and read these again: nagy (big) · egy (one) · hegy (mountain) · magyar (Hungarian) · gyerek (child) · ágy (bed) · gyár (factory) · gyors (fast) · kutya (dog) · tyúk (hen) · hattyú (swan) · gyertya (candle).

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. What sounds do **ny** and **ly** make?

▼ Show answer

ny = the "ny" of *canyon* (Spanish ñ). ly = a plain "y", exactly like j.

2. Read aloud and translate: nyár · anya · könyv

▼ Show answer

NYAHR (summer) · AW-nyaw (mother) · KEUNYV (book)

3. Read aloud and translate: hely · folyó · gólya

▼ Show answer

HEHY (place) · FO-yoh (river) · GOH-yaw (stork)

4. Count from 0 to 10 in Hungarian.

▼ Show answer

nulla · egy · kettő · három · négy · öt · hat · hét · nyolc · kilenc · tíz

5. What do **nyitva** and **zárva** mean?

▼ Show answer

Open and closed, as on shop doors.

6. Why can't you tell by sound whether a word is spelled with **ly** or **j**?

▼ Show answer

Because both are pronounced as a plain "y". You learn the spelling of each word (*fol*yó with ly, *haj*ó with j).

Coming Up in Chapter 17

The last six letters: **dz** and **dzs**, and the rare letters **q**, **w**, **x**, **y** (found mostly in names and foreign words). After that, all 44 letters of the Hungarian alphabet will be done.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 17 · The Last Six Letters: DZ, DZS, Q, W, X, Y



The Final Letters — dz dzs q w x y

Six letters remain, and they're all **rare**. **dz** and **dzs** do appear in a few real words (*dzsem*, "jam"), whereas **q**, **w**, **x** and **y** are found mostly in family names and foreign words. When you've finished this chapter, you'll have met **all 44 letters** of the Hungarian alphabet.

a	á	b	c	cs	d	dz	dzs
e	é	f	g	gy	h	i	í
j	k	l	ly	m	n	ny	o
ó	ö	ő	p	q	r	s	sz
t	ty	u	ú	ü	ű	v	w
x	y	z	zs				

All 44 letters. Today's six are outlined; every other letter you have already met.

✨ dz and dzs

dz

Dz dz

a voiced "ts": like the "ds" in *adds*, one quick sound

respelled **dz**

dzs

Dzs dzs

the English "j" of *jam* and *judge*

respelled **dzh**

Remember: the English "j" sound is spelled **dzs** in Hungarian, because the letter *j* is already taken for

Tip: the voiced partner of *c* ("ts"). It's rare: *madzag* = MAW-dzawg (string), *bodza* = BO-dzaw (elderflower).

"y". *dzsem* = DZHEHM.

The "J" Swap — A Handy Summary

Hungarian **j** is the English "y" (*jó* = YOH), and the English "j" sound is Hungarian **dzs** (*dzsem* = DZHEHM, "jam"). So a Hungarian reading the word *jam* aloud would say "yam", and you now know why.

✨ q, w, x and y

LETTER	SOUND	WHERE YOU'LL MEET IT
q	"kv"	Very rare. Hungarian usually spells the sound <i>kv</i> (<i>kvíz</i> , "quiz"). <i>q</i> survives in a few foreign names and terms.
w	"v"	Foreign words and names. The letter's name is <i>dupla vé</i> ("double v"), and WC is said <i>vécé</i> (VAY-tsay); web is said "VEHB".
x	"ks"	Loanwords: <i>taxi</i> (TAWK-sih), <i>fax</i> (FAWKS), <i>extra</i> (EHKS-traw).
y	"i"	On its own, mostly at the end of old-fashioned family names as a spelling of "i": <i>Esterházy</i> (ESH-tehr-hah-zih). Otherwise it's part of <i>gy</i> , <i>ly</i> , <i>ny</i> , <i>ty</i> .

Old Spellings in Surnames

Many Hungarian surnames keep old-fashioned spellings that are pronounced simply: **th** = **t** (*Tóth* = TOHT, *Horváth* = HOR-vaht), **ch** = **cs** (*Széchenyi* = SAY-cheh-nyih), and **y** = **i** at the end of a name (*Esterházy*). If you meet a Hungarian name that "breaks the rules", it's probably an old spelling.

📖 Read It — Words With the Rare Letters

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	dzsem	DZHEHM	jam	<i>dzs = "j"</i>
2	dzsungel	DZHUN-gehl	jungle	<i>dzs = "j"</i>
3	dzsúdó	DZHOO-doh	judo	<i>dzs; long ú</i>
4	dzsessz	DZHEHS-s	jazz	<i>ssz = a long "s"</i>
5	madzag	MAW-dzawg	string	<i>dz</i>
6	bodza	BO-dzaw	elderflower; elder	<i>dz</i>
7	taxi	TAWK-sih	taxi	<i>x = ks</i>
8	fax	FAWKS	fax	<i>x = ks</i>
9	extra	EHKS-traw	extra	<i>x = ks</i>
10	xilofon	KSIH-lo-fon	xylophone	<i>x = ks at the start</i>
11	WC	VAY-tsay	toilet	<i>w = v; said as the letter names</i>
12	web	VEHB	web; website	<i>w = v</i>

Mini-Dialogs

① A Taxi — Taxi!

A:

Taxi!

TAWK-sih!

Taxi!

② The Toilet — Hol a WC?

A:

Hol a WC?

HOL aw VAY-tsay?

Where is the toilet?

B:

Hol?

HOL?

Where?

A:

Ott, a téren!

OTT, aw TAY-rehn!

There, in the square!

B:

Balra.

BAWL-raw.

To the left.

A:

Köszönöm!

KEU-seu-neum!

Thank you!

③ Bread and Jam — Kenyér és dzsem

A:

Kenyér?

KEH-nyayr?

Bread?

B:

Igen, és dzsem!

IH-gehn, AYSH DZHEHM!

Yes, and jam!

A:

Jó!

YOH!

Good!

Review: Chapter 16 Words

Cover the English and read these again: nyár (summer) · anya (mother) · kenyér (bread) · könyv (book) · nyelv (language) · nyitva (open) · hely (place) · folyó (river) · gólya (stork) · király (king) · melyik (which) · milyen (what kind).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. How many letters does the Hungarian alphabet have, and how are they divided?

▼ Show answer

44 letters: 14 vowels (6 back, 4 front unrounded, 4 front rounded) and 30 consonant letters, including the digraphs cs, dz, gy, ly, ny, sz, ty, zs and the trigraph dzs.

2. What do **dz** and **dzs** sound like?

▼ Show answer

dz = a voiced "ts" (as in *adds*); dzs = the English "j" of *jam*.

3. How does Hungarian write the English "j" sound, and what sound does the Hungarian letter **j** make?

▼ Show answer

The English "j" is written **dzs** (*dzsem*); the Hungarian **j** is the "y" of *yes*.

4. Read aloud and translate: **dzsem** · **dzsúdó** · **dzsungel**

▼ Show answer

DZHEHM (jam) · DZHOO-doh (judo) · DZHUN-gehl (jungle)

5. How is the letter **w** pronounced, and how do Hungarians say "WC"?

▼ Show answer

w = "v". "WC" is said *vécé* (VAY-tsay).

6. Read aloud and translate: **taxi** · **fax** · **extra**

▼ Show answer

TAWK-sih (taxi) · FAWKS (fax) · EHKS-traw (extra). The letter x is "ks".

Coming Up in Chapter 18

All 44 letters are done. Chapter 18 shows why **length matters**: short and long vowels, and single and double consonants, can change a word's meaning. You'll learn the pairs, and how long digraphs like *ssz* and *ccs* are written.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 18 · Length Matters



Length Matters — Hosszú és rövid

You now know all 44 letters. This chapter is about **time**. In Hungarian a sound can be **short** or **long**, and the difference can change a word's meaning: *hat* is "six", *hát* is "back". English speakers rarely hear length this way, so it deserves its own chapter.



Long Vowels

The accent marks you've been learning (á é í ó ö → ő ú ü → ű) show a **long** vowel. For **i, u, ö, ü** the long version is the same vowel held longer. For **a/á** and **e/é** the quality changes as well (you met this in Chapters 1 and 4).

SHORT	SAY IT	ENGLISH	LONG	SAY IT	ENGLISH
kar	KAWR	arm	kár	KAHR	damage; a pity
hat	HAWT	six	hát	HAHT	back (body)
ver	VEHR	beats, hits	vér	VAYR	blood
fel	FEHL	up	fél	FAYL	half; is afraid
kor	KOR	age, era	kór	KOHR	disease



Long (Double) Consonants

A **doubled consonant** is a **long** consonant: don't say it twice, **hold** it for about twice as long, like the "n" in English *unnamed* or the "t" in *hot tea* said carefully.

SHORT	SAY IT	ENGLISH	LONG	SAY IT	ENGLISH
tol	<i>TOL</i>	pushes	toll	<i>TOLL</i>	feather; pen
hal	<i>HAWL</i>	fish	hall	<i>HAWLL</i>	hears
kel	<i>KEHL</i>	rises, gets up	kell	<i>KEHLL</i>	must; is needed
sok	<i>SHOK</i>	many, much	sokk	<i>SHOKK</i>	shock

Practise the Hold

Say *kel* (rises), then *kell* (must) with a slightly longer "l". Record yourself if you can: the long one should sound clearly longer. **Stress is unchanged:** it's still on the first syllable of every word, whether the sounds are long or short.

Doubling Digraphs: ssz, ccs, tty, ggy

Digraphs (two-letter sounds) double in a special way: **only the first letter is written twice**, not the whole digraph. Doubled sz is **ssz**, doubled cs is **ccs**, doubled ty is **tty**, and doubled gy is **ggy**. The sound is simply the long version: hold it.

SHORT	LONG (WRITTEN)	EXAMPLE	SAY IT	ENGLISH
sz	ssz	hosszú	<i>HOS-soo</i>	long
cs	ccs	öccs	<i>EUCH-ch</i>	younger brother
ty	tty	hattyú	<i>HAWT-tyoo</i>	swan
gy	ggy	meggy	<i>MEHD-dy</i>	sour cherry
ny	nny	könny	<i>KEUN-ny</i>	tear (from the eye)

Funny Detail: Hosszú Is Long

The word *hosszú* ("long") contains a long consonant (**ssz**) and a long vowel (**ú**), so it really is long. Remember that *ssz* is a doubled *sz*, so say a long English "s", not "sh".

Read It — Words With Long Sounds

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	tessék	TEHSH-shayk	please; here you are	ss = long "sh"
2	asszony	AWS-sony	woman; married woman	ssz = long "s"
3	kettő	KEHT-teuu	two	tt; long ó
4	ennyi	EHN-nyih	this much	nny
5	hosszú	HOS-soo	long	ssz + ú
6	hattyú	HAWT-tyoo	swan	tty + ú
7	kell	KEHLL	must	ll
8	hall	HAWLL	hears	ll
9	hát	HAHT	back	long á
10	vér	VAYR	blood	long é
11	könny	KEUN-ny	tear	nny
12	meggy	MEHD-dy	sour cherry	ggy

Mini-Dialogs

① Please — Tessék!

A:

Tessék!

TEHSH-shayk!

Here you are!

B:

Köszönöm!

KEU-seu-neum!

Thank you!

② Must I? — Kell?

A:

Kell?

KEHLL?

Is it needed?

B:

Igen, kell.

IH-gehn, KEHLL.

Yes, it is.

③ Numbers — Hat és kettő

A:

Hat és kettő?

HAWT AYSH KEHT-teuu?

Six and two?

B:

Nyolc!

NYOLTS!

Eight!

Review: Chapter 17 Words

Read these aloud once more: dzsem (jam) · dzsungel (jungle) · madzag (string) · taxi (taxi) · fax (fax) · extra (extra) · web (web).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Which is "six" and which is "back": *hat* or *hát*?

▼ Show answer

hat (HAWT) = six; *hát* (HAHT) = back.

2. What does a doubled consonant tell you about how to say it?

▼ Show answer

Hold it for longer. Don't say it twice.

3. How is a doubled *sz* written? And a doubled *cs*?

▼ Show answer

ssz and **ccs**: only the first letter of the digraph is doubled.

4. Read aloud and translate: *kel* · *kell*

▼ Show answer

KEHL (rises) · KEHLL (must, is needed): the second has a longer "l".

5. Read aloud and translate: *hosszú* · *hattyú* · *tessék*

▼ Show answer

HOS-soo (long) · HAWT-tyoo (swan) · TEHSH-shayk (please; here you are)

6. Where does the stress fall in *hattyú* and in *tessék*?

▼ Show answer

On the first syllable, always: **HAT**-tyú, **TES**-sék. A long vowel later in the word (the *ú*, the *é*) does not move the stress.

Coming Up in Chapter 19

You'll learn the **names of the letters** so you can spell words aloud, how alphabetical order treats digraphs, and how to read Hungarian place names such as Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged, Győr, Pécs

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 19 · Spelling Aloud and Reading Names

Spelling Aloud and Reading Names — Betűzés és nevek

Every Hungarian letter has a **name**, used when you spell a word aloud, on the phone, or at a hotel desk. This chapter teaches the names, how a Hungarian dictionary orders the alphabet, and how to read six well-known place names.

The Letter Names

Most consonant names are the letter plus **-é** (*bé, cé, dé*) or **e-** plus the letter (*ef, el, em*). Digraphs have names too, and count as **one** letter: *cs* is "csé", *sz* is "esz".

LETTER	NAME (SAY IT)	LETTER	NAME (SAY IT)
a	AW	á	AH
b	BAY	c	TSAY
cs	CHAY	d	DAY
dz	DZAY	dzs	DZHAY
e	EH	é	AY
f	EHF	g	GAY
gy	DYAY	h	HAH
i	IH	í	EE
j	YAY	k	KAH

LETTER	NAME (SAY IT)	LETTER	NAME (SAY IT)
l	<i>EHL</i>	ly	<i>EHY</i>
m	<i>EHM</i>	n	<i>EHN</i>
ny	<i>EHNY</i>	o	<i>O</i>
ó	<i>OH</i>	ö	<i>EU</i>
ő	<i>EUU</i>	p	<i>PAY</i>
q	<i>KOO</i>	r	<i>EHR</i>
s	<i>EHSH</i>	sz	<i>EHS</i>
t	<i>TAY</i>	ty	<i>TYAY</i>
u	<i>U</i>	ú	<i>OO</i>
ü	<i>UE</i>	ű	<i>UUE</i>
v	<i>VAY</i>	w	<i>DOOP-law VAY</i>
x	<i>IHKS</i>	y	<i>IHP-sih-lon</i>
z	<i>ZAY</i>	zs	<i>ZHAY</i>

The Rare Letters Have Odd Names

q is "kú", **w** is "dupla vé" (double v), **x** is "iksz" and **y** is "ipszilon". Spelling a name with a digraph? Say the digraph's own name once: *Szabó* is *esz*, *zé*, *a*, *bé*, *ó*.

In a dictionary or a phone list, Hungarian treats each digraph as **one letter**, placed after its first letter: **c, cs, d, dz, dzs, e, g, gy, l, ly, n, ny, s, sz, t, ty, z, zs**. Accented vowels sit right after their plain partners (*a, á; o, ó, ö, ő*). So *cukor* (sugar) comes **before** *csak* (only), and *gomb* (button) comes before *gyerek* (child).



Reading Place Names

#	NAME	SAY IT	WHAT IT IS	NOTE
1	Budapest	<i>BOO-daw-pesht</i>	the capital	<i>s = sh</i>
2	Debrecen	<i>DEH-breh-tsehn</i>	city in the east	<i>c = ts</i>
3	Szeged	<i>SEH-gehd</i>	city in the south	<i>sz = s</i>
4	Győr	<i>DYEUUR</i>	city in the north-west	<i>gy = dy; long ő</i>
5	Pécs	<i>PAYCH</i>	city in the south-west	<i>é = ay; cs = ch</i>
6	Miskolc	<i>MIH-shkolts</i>	city in the north-east	<i>s = sh; c = ts</i>

Names Go Family Name First

Hungarians say the **family name first**: *Szabó Anna* is Anna Szabó. You will see this on signs, forms and phone lists.



Mini-Dialogs

① Spell It — Betűzés

A:

Mi a neve?

MIH aw NEH-veh?

What is your name?

② Where? — Hol van?

A:

Hol van Pécs?

HOL VAWN PAYCH?

Where is Pécs?

B:

Szabó Anna.

SAW-boh AWN-naw.

Anna Szabó.

A:

Hogy írják?

HODY EER-yahk?

How is it spelt?

B:

Esz, zé, a, bé, ó.

EHS, ZAY, AW, BAY, OH.

S-Z-A-B-O (with the accent).

B:

Délen.

DAY-lehn.

In the south.

③ Which Town? — Melyik város?

A:

Melyik város?

MEH-yik VAH-rosh?

Which town?

B:

Szeged!

SEH-gehd!

Szeged!

Review: Chapter 18 Words

tessék (please) · kell (must) · hall (hears) · hosszú (long) · hattyú (swan) · könny (tear).



Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Spell *Győr* aloud with letter names (gy, ő, r).

▼ Show answer

gyé, ő, er: DYAY, EUU, EHR.

2. Which comes first in a Hungarian dictionary: *cukor* or *csak*?

▼ Show answer

cukor, because *c* comes before *cs*.

3. How many letters is *Szeged* in Hungarian alphabetical terms?

▼ Show answer

Five: sz, e, g, e, d (sz counts as one).

4. Read aloud: Debrecen · Miskolc · Pécs

▼ Show answer

DEH-breh-tsehn · MIH-shkolts · PAYCH

5. What is the name of the letter *w*?

▼ Show answer

dupla vé ("double v"): DOOP-law VAY.

6. Which name comes first in *Szabó Anna*: family name or given name?

▼ Show answer

The family name, Szabó.

Coming Up in Chapter 20

The last chapter: **reading practice** with longer sentences using everything you have learned, and a Course Complete recap. After that, Hungarian Basic 1 is the next step.

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 20 · Reading Practice and Course Complete



Reading Practice — Olvasási gyakorlat

You know every letter, the harmony rules and the length rules. Now put it together: read each sentence **aloud** from the Hungarian, using the respelling only to check yourself. Remember: **stress on the first syllable**, and hold the long sounds.

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	WATCH FOR
1	Jó reggelt!	YOH REHG-gehl!	Good morning!	gg = long g
2	Köszönöm szépen!	KEU-seu-neum SAY-pehn!	Thank you very much!	sz = s; é = ay
3	Egy kávé, kérem.	EHDY KAH-vay, KAY-rehm.	One coffee, please.	gy = dy; long á, é
4	Hol van a WC?	HOL VAWN aw VAY-tsay?	Where is the toilet?	w = v; c = ts
5	Budapest szép város.	BOO-daw-pesht SAYP VAH-rosh.	Budapest is a beautiful city.	s = sh; sz = s
6	A kenyér és a dzsem finom.	AW KEH-nyayr AYSH aw DZHEHM FIH-nom.	The bread and the jam are tasty.	ny, dzs
7	Ez a könyv jó.	EHZ aw KEUNYV YOH.	This book is good.	ö; ny
8	A hal nem hall.	AW HAWL NEHM HAWLL.	The fish does not hear.	short l / long ll
9	Viszontlátásra!	VIH-sont-lah-tah- shraw!	Goodbye!	sz = s; long á; s = sh

Words You Have Not Met Yet

A few words here (*kávé, kérem, finom, város, szép, jó, nem, ez*) are new vocabulary; they are included to give you real sentences to read. You will learn them properly in Hungarian Basic 1.

Final Check — Gyakorlatok

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. What does the letter *s* sound like, and what does *sz* sound like?

▼ Show answer

s = "sh"; *sz* = "s".

2. Which vowels take back endings and which take front endings?

▼ Show answer

Words with *a á o ó u ú* take back endings; words with *ö ő ü ű* take front endings. *e é i í* are neutral, and mixed words follow the rules in Chapters 8–10.

3. Where does the stress fall in every Hungarian word?

▼ Show answer

On the first syllable.

4. What is the difference in sound between *hal* and *hall*?

▼ Show answer

The *l* in *hall* is held longer.

5. Read aloud: **Viszontlátásra!**

▼ Show answer

VIH-sont-lah-tah-shraw! (Goodbye!)

6. Spell *Pécs* with letter names.

▼ Show answer

pé, é, csé: PAY, AY, CHAY.

Course Complete — Recap

CHAPTERS	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW...
1–2	Back vowels a á o ó	Say and spot the back vowels, and tell short from long.
3–5	u ú, e é, i í	Read every plain and long vowel.
6–7	ö ő, ü ű	Read the rounded front vowels, with double acute marks.
8–10	Vowel harmony	Pick the right ending for back, front and mixed words.
11–12	b p d t g k, f v h m n l z	Read the consonants that match English.
13	r s sz zs	Handle the big swap: s = sh, sz = s.
14	c cs j	Read c = ts, cs = ch and j = y.
15–16	gy ty ny ly	Read the soft consonants.
17	dz dzs q w x y	Read the rare letters in names and loanwords.
18	Length	Tell short from long sounds, and write doubled digraphs.
19	Letter names	Spell aloud, alphabetise with digraphs, read place names.

What Next?

Congratulations: you can read Hungarian aloud. The next step is **Hungarian Basic 1**, a practical conversation course where you start using the language: greetings, introductions, ordering and more.