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HUNGARIAN LESSON

Hungarian Alphabet 1 · Chapter 14 · C, CS and J

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).