

HU

HUNGARIAN LESSON

Hungarian Alphabet 1 • Chapter 7 • The Last Vowels

Hungarian Alphabet 1

Chapter 7 · Rounded Front Vowels Completed: Ü Ű

abc The Last Vowels — ü ú

The final pair of vowels is **ü** and **ű**, 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.

ű

Ű · ű

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 (uee)
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 ű
2	fű	FUUE	grass	long ű
3	tűz	TUUEZ	fire	long ű
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"

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	NOTE
7	ünne <i>p</i>	<i>UEN-nehp</i>	holiday; feast	double <i>n</i> : held
8	hűtő	<i>HUUE-teuu</i>	fridge	ű then ő
9	tüdő	<i>TUE-deuu</i>	lung	short ü, long ő
10	bűn	<i>BUUEN</i>	sin; crime	long ű
11	kürt	<i>KUERT</i>	horn (the instrument)	tapped <i>r</i>
12	füst	<i>FUESHT</i>	smoke	<i>s</i> 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?

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.

② The Fridge — Hol a hűtő?

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 ú

The letters ő and ú 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: *ű* · *ű*

▼ Show answer

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

2. How do you make an *ű*?

▼ 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* · *fű* · *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* · *ű* · *á* · *ő* · *i*

▼ Show answer

ú = back · *é* = front unrounded · *ű* = 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.