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HUNGARIAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 10 · Asking for Directions

Hungarian Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 10 · Asking for Directions



Asking for Directions — Útbaigazítás

This is one of the most practical chapters of the course. You'll learn to ask where something is, to understand simple directions, to describe where things are with next to, behind and between, and to say that you are lost. You will also use the three-way -hoz / -hez / -höz ending from the alphabet course. Every line has a respelling beneath it.

① Where Is the Station? — Hol van ...?

A:

Elnézést, hol van a vasútállomás?

EHL-nay-zaysht, HOL VAWN aw VAW-shoot-ahl-lo-mahsh?

Excuse me, where is the railway station?

B:

Ott van.

OTT VAWN.

It's over there.

A:

Köszönöm szépen.

KEU-seu-neum SAY-pehn.

Thank you very much.

② Straight, Then Right — Egyenesen, jobbra

A:

Elnézést, hol van a posta?

EHL-nay-zaysht, HOL VAWN aw POSH-taw?

Excuse me, where is the post office?

B:

Menjen egyenesen, aztán forduljon jobbra.

MEHN-yehn EH-dyeh-neh-shehn, AWZ-tahn FOR-dul-yon YOB-braw.

Go straight on, then turn right.

A:

Egyenesen, aztán jobbra. Értem, köszönöm.

EH-dyeh-neh-shehn, AWZ-tahn YOB-braw. AYR-tehm, KEU-seu-neum.

Straight on, then right. I understand, thank you.

③ Near or Far? — Messze van?

A:

Messze van?

④ Next To — Mellett

A:

Hol van a mosdó?

MEHS-seh VAWN?

Is it far?

B:

Nem, közel van. Öt perc gyalog.

NEHM, KEU-zehl VAWN. EUT PEHRTS

DYAW-log.

No, it's near. Five minutes on foot.

HOL VAWN aw MOSH-doh?

Where is the toilet?

B:

A bank mellett.

AW BAWNK MEHL-leht.

Next to the bank.

A:

Köszönöm.

KEU-seu-neum.

Thank you.

⑤ I'm Lost — Eltévedtem

A:

Elnézést, eltévedtem. Egy szállodát keresek.

EHL-nay-zaysht, EHL-tay-vehd-tehm. EHDY

SAHL-lo-daht KEH-reh-shehk.

Excuse me, I'm lost. I'm looking for a hotel.

B:

Melyik szállodát?

MEH-yihk SAHL-lo-daht?

Which hotel?

A:

A Duna Szállodát.

AW DU-naw SAHL-lo-daht.

The Duna Hotel.

B:

Menjen egyenesen a hídig.

MEHN-yehn EH-dyeh-neh-shehn aw HEE-dig.

Go straight on as far as the bridge.

⑥ Asking a Friend (informal) — Hogy jutok el?

A:

Szia! Hogy jutok el a bankhoz?

SIH-aw! HODY YU-tok EHL aw BAWNK-hoz?

Hi! How do I get to the bank?

B:

Menj egyenesen, aztán fordulj balra.

MEHNY EH-dyeh-neh-shehn, AWZ-tahn FOR-duly BAWL-raw.

Go straight on, then turn left.

A:

Kösz!

KEU-sih!

Thanks!



Key Phrases — Fontos kifejezések

SITUATION	FORMAL (ÖN)	INFORMAL (TE)
Where is ...?	Hol van a ...? <i>HOL VAWN aw</i>	Hol van a ...? <i>HOL VAWN aw</i>
Which way is ...?	Merre van a ...? <i>MEHR-reh VAWN aw</i>	Merre van a ...? <i>MEHR-reh VAWN aw</i>
Go straight on	Menjen egyenesen! <i>MEHN-yehn EH-dyeh-neh-shehn</i>	Menj egyenesen! <i>MEHNY EH-dyeh-neh-shehn</i>
Turn left / right	Forduljon balra / jobbra! <i>FOR-dul-yon BAWL-raw / YOB-braw</i>	Fordulj balra / jobbra! <i>FOR-duly BAWL-raw / YOB-braw</i>
Is it far?	Messze van? <i>MEHS-seh VAWN</i>	Messze van? <i>MEHS-seh VAWN</i>
It's near	Közel van. <i>KEU-zehl VAWN</i>	Közel van. <i>KEU-zehl VAWN</i>
Five minutes on foot	Öt perc gyalog. <i>EUT PEHRTS DYAW-log</i>	Öt perc gyalog. <i>EUT PEHRTS DYAW-log</i>
I'm lost	Eltévedtem. <i>EHL-tay-vehd-tehm</i>	Eltévedtem. <i>EHL-tay-vehd-tehm</i>
I'm looking for ...	... keresek. <i>KEH-reh-shehk</i>	... keresek. <i>KEH-reh-shehk</i>

Directions — Irányok

The four words you need most: **balra** (left), **jobbra** (right), **egyenesen** (straight on) and **ott** (there). Instructions use the **imperative**: *Menjen!* (formal) and *Menj!* (informal). Learn these as set phrases: the full system comes later.

Places You Will Look For — Helyek

PLACE	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT
railway station	vasútállomás / pályaudvar	VAW-shoot-ahl-lo-mahsh / PAHY-yaw-ud-vawr
bus / tram stop	megálló	MEHG-ahl-loh
metro	metró	MEHT-roh
tram	villamos	VIHL-law-mosh
post office	posta	POSH-taw
bank	bank	BAWNK
pharmacy	patika	PAW-tih-kaw
toilet	mosdó / WC	MOSH-doh / VAY-tsay
street	utca	UT-tsaw
square	tér	TAYR
bridge	híd	HEED
corner	sarok	SHAW-rok
church	templom	TEHM-plom



Position Words — Helyviszonyok

*Hungarian says "next to the bank" as a bank mellett: the position word comes **after** the noun, like a preposition in reverse.*

MEANING	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	EXAMPLE
next to	mellett	MEHL-leht	a bank mellett AW BAWNK MEHL-leht
in front of	előtt	EH-leuutt	a posta előtt AW POSH-taw EH-leuutt

MEANING	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	EXAMPLE
behind	mögött	MEU-geutt	a templom mögött <i>AW TEHM-plom MEU-geutt</i>
between	között	KEU-zeutt	a bank és a posta között <i>AW BAWNK AYSH AW POSH-taw KEU-zeutt</i>
opposite	szemben	SEHM-behn	a bankkal szemben <i>AW BAWNK-kawl SEHM-behn</i>

"To" a Place: -hoz / -hez / -höz

To say how to get to a place, add the three-way ending you learned in Hungarian Alphabet 1 (Chapter 9): **-hoz** (back vowels), **-hez** (front unrounded) or **-höz** (front rounded). *Hogy jutok el a bankhoz?* means "How do I get to the bank?"

PLACE	...TO IT	SAY IT	HARMONY
bank	bankhoz	BAWNK-hoz	back vowel: -hoz
posta	postához	POSH-tah-hoz	back; final a lengthens: -hoz
szálloda	szállodához	SAHL-lo-dah-hoz	back: -hoz
templom	templomhoz	TEHM-plom-hoz	back: -hoz
híd	hídhoz	HEED-hoz	híd is neutral: takes the back form
étterem	étteremhez	AYT-teh-rehm-hehz	front: -hez

As Far As: -ig

The ending **-ig** means "as far as, up to" and has just one form: *a hídig* ("as far as the bridge"), *a sarokig* ("as far as the corner"). So *Menjen egyenesen a hídig* is "Go straight on as far as the bridge".



Three More Verbs — Igék

Menni is irregular (megyek, mész, megy ...): you will need it every day, so learn it well.

	MENNI (TO GO)	FORDULNI (TO TURN)	KERESNI (TO LOOK FOR)
én (I) <i>AYN</i>	megyek <i>MEH-dyehk</i>	fordulok <i>FOR-du-lok</i>	keresek <i>KEH-reh-shehk</i>
te (you) <i>TEH</i>	mész <i>MAYS</i>	fordulsz <i>FOR-duls</i>	keresel <i>KEH-reh-shehl</i>
ő, Ön <i>EUU, EUN</i>	megy <i>MEHDY</i>	fordul <i>FOR-dul</i>	keres <i>KEH-rehsh</i>
mi (we) <i>MIH</i>	megyünk <i>MEH-dyuenk</i>	fordulunk <i>FOR-du-lunk</i>	keresünk <i>KEH-reh-shuenk</i>
ti (you, pl.) <i>TIH</i>	mentek <i>MEHN-tehk</i>	fordultok <i>FOR-dul-tok</i>	kerestek <i>KEH-rehsh-tehk</i>
ők (they) <i>EUUK</i>	mennek <i>MEHN-nehk</i>	fordulnak <i>FOR-dul-nawk</i>	keresnek <i>KEH-rehsh-nehk</i>



Vocabulary — Szókincs

20 key words. Read the Hungarian first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed first syllable).

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	hol	<i>HOL</i>	where	adj
2	merre	<i>MEHR-reh</i>	which way; in which direction	adj
3	balra	<i>BAWL-raw</i>	to the left	adj
4	jobbra	<i>YOB-braw</i>	to the right	adj

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
5	egyenesen	<i>EH-dyeh-neh-shehn</i>	straight on	adj
6	messze	<i>MEHS-seh</i>	far	adj
7	közel	<i>KEU-zehl</i>	near	adj
8	mellett	<i>MEHL-leht</i>	next to	adj
9	előtt	<i>EH-leuutt</i>	in front of; before	adj
10	mögött	<i>MEU-geutt</i>	behind	adj
11	között	<i>KEU-zeutt</i>	between	adj
12	szemben	<i>SEHM-behn</i>	opposite	adj
13	utca	<i>UT-tsaw</i>	street	noun
14	tér	<i>TAYR</i>	square	noun
15	sarok	<i>SHAW-rok</i>	corner	noun
16	híd	<i>HEED</i>	bridge	noun
17	posta	<i>POSH-taw</i>	post office	noun
18	bank	<i>BAWNK</i>	bank	noun
19	megálló	<i>MEHG-ahl-loh</i>	stop (bus, tram)	noun
20	metró	<i>MEHT-roh</i>	metro; underground	noun

Real Hungarian Tip — Budapest's Metro and Trams

Budapest has a famous transport system. The yellow **M1** metro line, opened in 1896, was the first underground railway on the European continent, and the city's yellow **villamos** (trams) run along the Danube and over the bridges. Stops are called **megálló**, and the city's transport company is the **BKK**.

Budapest's Three Big Stations

Budapest has three main railway stations named after their direction: **Keleti** (East), **Nyugati** (West) and **Déli** (South), each called a **pályaudvar**. If someone tells you to go to the *Keleti pályaudvar*, they mean the East station. You will meet the word again in Chapter 12.

How Hungarian Addresses Work

In Hungarian addresses the **street name comes first, then the house number**: *Váci utca 10* ("10 Váci Street"), and the postcode comes before the town: *1052 Budapest, Váci utca 10*. Streets are called *utca* (street), *út* (road), *tér* (square) or *körút* (boulevard).

Start with Elnézést

Whenever you stop a stranger to ask the way, begin with **Elnézést!** ("Excuse me!"), as in the first chapter, and finish with **Köszönöm szépen!** It is polite, and it signals that you are about to ask a question, so the other person is ready to help.

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

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

1. Ask where the post office is.

▼ Show answer

Hol van a posta?

2. Say "Go straight on, then turn right" (formal).

▼ Show answer

Menjen egyenesen, aztán forduljon jobbra.

3. Say "The bank is next to the post office."

▼ Show answer

A bank a posta mellett van.

4. Say you are lost and looking for a hotel.

▼ Show answer

Eltévedtem. Egy szállodát keresek.

5. Ask how to get to the bank (informal).

▼ Show answer

Hogy jutok el a bankhoz?

6. Which ending means "as far as"?

▼ Show answer

-ig: a hídig, a sarokig.

Coming Up in Chapter 11

Booking a hotel: **Szeretnék egy szobát foglalni** ("I'd like to book a room"), **egyágyas** and **kétágyas**, counting nights, **reggeli** (breakfast) and **Foglalásom van** ("I have a reservation").