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HUNGARIAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 2 · Introducing Yourself

Hungarian Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 2 · Introducing Yourself

🍌 Introducing Yourself — Bemutatkozás

Now that you can greet people, let's tell them who you are. In this chapter you'll learn to say your name, ask someone else's, say you're pleased to meet them, introduce a friend, and use the verb **lenni** ("to be"), including its surprising third-person behaviour. Every line has a respelling beneath it.

① Meeting Someone (formal) — Örvendek

A:

Jó napot kívánok! A nevem Kovács
János.

*YOH NAW-pot KEE-vah-nok! AW NEH-vehm
KO-vahch YAH-nosh.*

Good day! My name is János Kovács.

B:

Jó napot! Nagy Anna vagyok.
Örvendek!

*YOH NAW-pot! NAWDY AWN-naw VAW-
dyok. EUR-vehn-dehk!*

Good day! I'm Anna Nagy. Pleased to meet
you!

A:

Szintén!

SIHN-tayn!

Likewise!

② Asking and Spelling a Name — Hogy hívják?

A:

Hogy hívják?

HODY HEEV-yahk?

What is your name?

B:

Philip vagyok.

FIH-lihp VAW-dyok.

I'm Philip.

A:

Hogy írják?

HODY EER-yahk?

How do you spell it?

B:

Pé, há, i, el, i, pé.

PAY, HAH, IH, EHL, IH, PAY.

P-H-I-L-I-P.

③ Meeting a Friend (informal) — Mi a neved?

A:

Szia! Mi a neved?

④ Introducing a Colleague — Ez Anna

A:

Ez Anna. Ő a kollégám.

EHZ AWN-naw. EUU aw KOL-lay-gahm.

This is Anna. She is my colleague.

SIH-aw! MIH AW NEH-vehd?

Hi! What's your name?

B:

Péter vagyok. És te?

PAY-tehr VAW-dyok. AYSH TEH?

I'm Péter. And you?

A:

Anna. Örülök!

AWN-naw. EU-reu-leuk!

Anna. Pleased to meet you!

B:

Én is örülök.

AYN IHSH EU-reu-leuk.

Me too.

B:

Szia, Anna! Örülök!

SIH-aw, AWN-naw! EU-reu-leuk!

Hi, Anna! Pleased to meet you!

C:

Szia! Én is.

SIH-aw! AYN IHSH.

Hi! Me too.

⑤ Are You Mr Kovács? — Ön Kovács úr?

A:

Ön Kovács úr?

EUN KO-vahch OOR?

Are you Mr Kovács?

B:

Igen, én vagyok.

IH-gehn, AYN VAW-dyok.

Yes, that's me.

A:

Örvendek.

EUR-vehn-dehk.

Pleased to meet you.

B:

Szintén.

SIHN-tayn.

Likewise.

⑥ Who Is That? — Ki ő?

A:

Ki ő?

KIH EUU?

Who is that?

B:

Ő Anna.

EUU AWN-naw.

That's Anna.

A:

Itt van?

IHTT VAWN?

Is she here?

B:

Igen, itt van.

IH-gehn, IHTT VAWN.

Yes, she is here.



Key Phrases — Fontos kifejezések

SITUATION	FORMAL (ÖN)	INFORMAL (TE)
My name is ...	A nevem ... <i>AW NEH-vehm</i>	A nevem ... / ... vagyok <i>AW NEH-vehm / ... VAW-dyok</i>
I am ...	... vagyok <i>... VAW-dyok</i>	... vagyok <i>... VAW-dyok</i>
What is your name?	Hogy hívják? / Mi a neve? <i>HODY HEEV-yahk / MIH AW NEH-veh</i>	Hogy hívnak? / Mi a neved? <i>HODY HEEV-nawk / MIH AW NEH-vehd</i>
Pleased to meet you	Örvendek! / Örülök! <i>EUR-vehn-dehk / EU-reu-leuk</i>	Örülök! <i>EU-reu-leuk</i>
Likewise / Me too	Szintén! <i>SIHN-tayn</i>	Én is! <i>AYN IHSH</i>
Are you Mr Kovács / Péter?	Ön Kovács úr? <i>EUN KO-vahch OOR</i>	Te Péter vagy? <i>TEH PAY-tehr VAWDY</i>
How do you spell it?	Hogy írják? <i>HODY EER-yahk</i>	Hogy írják? <i>HODY EER-yahk</i>
This is ...	Ez ... <i>EHZ</i>	Ez ... <i>EHZ</i>



The Personal Pronouns — Személyes névmások

Hungarian pronouns are short, and you often leave them out, because the verb ending already tells you who is speaking: Philip vagyok is enough for "I am Philip". Use **én** when you want to stress it: **Én** is örülök ("I'm pleased too").

PERSON	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	NOTES
I	én	AYN	
you (informal, one person)	te	TEH	friends, family, peers
he / she	ő	EUU	the same word for both: no he/she difference
you (formal, one person)	Ön	EUN	written with a capital; used with ő-forms
we	mi	MIH	
you (informal, plural)	ti	TIH	
they	ők	EUUK	

🌟 The Verb "To Be" — Lenni

The most important Hungarian verb has a surprise: in the **third person** (he, she, it, Ön) it is **left out** before a noun or an adjective. Look at how the three verbs in the table below conjugate, and notice that *lenni* has a blank in the ő row for sentences like *Ő Anna*.

	LENNI (TO BE)	HÍVNI (TO CALL)	ÖRÜLNI (TO BE GLAD)
én (I) AYN	vagyok VAW-dyok	hívok HEE-vok	örülök EU-reu-leuk
te (you) TEH	vagy VAWDY	hívsz HEEVS	örülsz EU-reuls
ő, Ön (he/she; formal you) EUU, EUN	van / (nothing) VAWN	hív HEEV	örül EU-reul
mi (we) MIH	vagyunk VAW-dyunk	hívunk HEE-vunk	örülünk EU-reu-luenk

	LENNI (TO BE)	HÍVNI (TO CALL)	ÖRÜLNI (TO BE GLAD)
ti (you, plural) <i>TIH</i>	vagytok <i>VAWDY-tok</i>	hívtok <i>HEEV-tok</i>	örültök <i>EU-reul-teuk</i>
ők (they) <i>EUUK</i>	vannak <i>VAWN-nawk</i>	hívnak <i>HEEV-nawk</i>	örülnek <i>EU-reul-nehk</i>

Where Is the Third-Person "Is"?

You say **Ő Anna** ("She is Anna") and **Péter magyar** ("Péter is Hungarian"), with **no verb**. But when you talk about *where* someone is, the verb returns: **Ő itt van** ("She is here"). The same goes for the plural: **Ők itt vannak** ("They are here"). For "I am" and "you are" the verb is always there: *Philip vagyok, Péter vagy*.

Names on Forms — Nevek

In Hungarian the **family name comes first**: Kovács János is János Kovács. On a form you will see two boxes:

WORD	MEANING	SAY IT
vezetéknév	family name; surname	VEH-zeh-tehk-nayv
keresztnev	first name; given name	KEH-rehst-nayv
név	name	NAYV

Vocabulary — Szókincs

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

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	név	NAYV	name	noun

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
2	keresztnev	<i>KEH-rehst-nayv</i>	first name	noun
3	vezetéknév	<i>VEH-zeh-tehk-nayv</i>	family name; surname	noun
4	betű	<i>BEH-tuue</i>	letter (of the alphabet)	noun
5	én	<i>AYN</i>	I	noun
6	te	<i>TEH</i>	you (informal)	noun
7	ő	<i>EUU</i>	he; she	noun
8	Ön	<i>EUN</i>	you (formal)	noun
9	ez	<i>EHZ</i>	this	noun
10	ki	<i>KIH</i>	who	noun
11	kolléga	<i>KOL-lay-gaw</i>	colleague	noun
12	barát	<i>BAW-raht</i>	friend (male)	noun
13	itt	<i>IHTT</i>	here	adj
14	vagyok	<i>VAW-dyok</i>	I am	verb
15	hívják	<i>HEEV-yahk</i>	they call (you): what you're called	verb
16	örülök	<i>EU-reu-leuk</i>	I'm glad	verb
17	örvendek	<i>EUR-vehn-dehk</i>	pleased to meet you	phrase
18	szintén	<i>SIHN-tayn</i>	likewise	phrase
19	nagyon	<i>NAW-dyon</i>	very	adj
20	is	<i>IHSH</i>	also; too	adj

Real Hungarian Tip — Hungarians Often Translate Your Name

Many foreign first names have a Hungarian equivalent, and Hungarians may use it: **Philip** is **Fülöp** (*FUE-leup*), John is *János*, Peter is *Péter*, Anna is *Anna*. You don't have to use it: *Philip* *vagyok* is perfectly fine, but don't be surprised if someone calls you by the Hungarian form.

Name Days — Névnap

Hungarians celebrate **name days** (*névnap*, *NAYV-naup*) alongside birthdays: each day of the calendar belongs to a name, and people with that name get flowers, chocolates or a small gift. It is a good reason to know that your name has a Hungarian form.

Örvendek or Örülök?

Örvendek is the more formal "pleased to meet you", and **Örülök** (literally "I'm glad") works in every situation, formal or informal. If you only remember one, remember **Örülök**!

Ő Means He and She

Hungarian has **no he/she distinction**: **ő** covers both. That is why *Ő Anna* ("She is Anna") and *Ő Péter* ("He is Péter") use the same pronoun. The gender comes from the name or the context, not the grammar.

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

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

1. Introduce yourself with your name, informally.

▼ Show answer

Philip vagyok. or **A nevem Philip.** (your own name)

2. Ask a stranger politely what their name is, and then ask a friend.

▼ Show answer

Hogy hívják? · Mi a neved?

3. Say "Pleased to meet you" in the formal way and in the all-purpose way.

▼ Show answer

Örvendek! · Örülök!

4. Say "This is Anna. She is my colleague."

▼ Show answer

Ez Anna. Ő a kollégám.

5. Is the verb "is" used in Ő Anna? And in Ő itt van?

▼ Show answer

Not in Ő Anna (noun, no verb). Yes in Ő itt van (place: the verb van is used).

6. Which comes first in Hungarian, the family name or the first name?

▼ Show answer

The family name: Kovács János.

Coming Up in Chapter 3

Numbers, age and contact details: counting from 0 to 100, saying how old you are with **éves** and reading out a phone number. A three-part chapter.