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HUNGARIAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 2 · Chapter 1 · Your Daily Routine

Hungarian Basic Conversation 2

Chapter 1 · Your Daily Routine

Your Daily Routine — A napirendem

Welcome to Hungarian Basic Conversation 2. Course 1 gave you phrases for single situations. This course moves to **describing your life**: routines, plans, opinions and the past. We start with an ordinary day: when you get up, what you eat, when you work and when you go to bed. You will also meet one of Hungarian's trickiest and most typical features, the **verb prefix that moves**. Every dialog line has a respelling beneath it.

① Getting Up — Hánykor kelsz fel?

A:

Hánykor kelsz fel?

HAHNY-kor KEHLS FEHL?

What time do you get up?

B:

Hétkor kelek fel. És te?

HAYT-kor KEH-lehk FEHL. AYSH TEH?

I get up at seven. And you?

A:

Én fél nyolckor.

AYN FAYL NYOLTS-kor.

At half past seven.

② A Working Day (Philip's) — Hétköznapi

A:

Mit csinálsz hétköznapi?

MIT CHIH-nahls HAYT-keuz-nawp?

What do you do on weekdays?

B:

Reggel hétkor felkelek, nyolckor már dolgozom.

REHG-gehl HAYT-kor FEHL-keh-lehk,

NYOLTS-kor MAHR DOL-go-zom.

In the morning I get up at seven, and by eight I'm working.

A:

Meddig dolgozol?

MEHD-dig DOL-go-zol?

Until when do you work?

B:

Ötig.

EU-tig.

Until five.

③ Meals (Nagymama's day) — Ebéd és vacsora

A:

Mikor ebédelsz?

MIH-kor EH-bay-dehls?

When do you have lunch?

B:

Délben ebédelek, és este hétkor vacsorázom.

DAYL-behn EH-bay-deh-lehk, AYSH ESHH-teh

HAYT-kor VAW-chaw-rah-zom.

I have lunch at noon, and dinner at seven in the evening.

④ Always Early? — Mindig korán?

A:

Mindig korán kelsz fel?

MIN-dig KO-rahn KEHLS FEHL?

Do you always get up early?

B:

Nem, hétvégén általában későn kelek fel.

NEHM, HAYT-vay-gayn AHL-taw-lah-bawn

KAY-sheuun KEH-lehk FEHL.

No, at weekends I usually get up late.

A:

Én is.

AYN IHSH.

Me too.

⑤ Evenings (Philip's) — Este

A:

Mit csinálsz este?

MIT CHIH-nahls ESHH-teh?

What do you do in the evening?

B:

Tévét nézek, vagy olvasok.

TAY-vayt NAY-zehk, VAWDY OL-vaw-shok.

I watch TV, or I read.

A:

Hánykor fekszel le?

HAHNY-kor FEHK-sehl LEH?

What time do you go to bed?

B:

Tizenegykor.

TIH-zehn-ehdy-kor.

⑥ A Day Off — Szabadnap

A:

Hétfőn dolgozol?

HAYT-feuun DOL-go-zol?

Do you work on Monday?

B:

Igen, hétfőtől péntekig. Hétvégén pihenek.

IH-gehn, HAYT-feuu-teuul PAYN-teh-kig.

HAYT-vay-gayn PIH-heh-nehk.

Yes, Monday to Friday. At weekends I rest.

A:

Szerencsés vagy!

SEH-rehn-chaysh VAWDY!

You're lucky!

At eleven.

Key Phrases — Fontos kifejezések

SITUATION	FORMAL (ÖN)	INFORMAL (TE)
What time do you get up?	Hánykor kel fel? <i>HAHNY-kor KEHL FEHL</i>	Hánykor kelsz fel? <i>HAHNY-kor KEHLS FEHL</i>
What do you do on weekdays?	Mit csinál hétköznap? <i>MIT CHIH-nahl HAYT-keuz-nawp</i>	Mit csinálsz hétköznap? <i>MIT CHIH-nahls HAYT-keuz-nawp</i>
When do you have lunch?	Mikor ebédel? <i>MIH-kor EH-bay-dehl</i>	Mikor ebédelsz? <i>MIH-kor EH-bay-dehls</i>
Until when do you work?	Meddig dolgozik? <i>MEHD-dig DOL-go-zihk</i>	Meddig dolgozol? <i>MEHD-dig DOL-go-zol</i>
I get up at seven	Hétkor kelek fel. <i>HAYT-kor KEH-lehk FEHL</i>	(same)
I usually ...	Általában ... <i>AHL-taw-lah-bawn</i>	(same)
I never ...	Soha nem ... <i>SHO-haw NEHM</i>	(same)

A Day in Verbs — Egy nap igékben

The activities of an ordinary day, in the infinitive and in the "I" form. Several are **-ik verbs** (reggelizem, vacsorázom, lefekszem, alszom), whose "I" form ends in **-om** / **-em** / **-öm** instead of **-ok** / **-ek** / **-ök**.

MEANING	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	"I ..."	SAY IT
to get up	felkelni	FEHL-kehl-nih	felkelek	FEHL-keh-lehk

MEANING	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	"I ..."	SAY IT
to have breakfast	reggelizni	REHG-geh-liz-nih	reggelizem	REHG-geh-lih-zehm
to have lunch	ebédelni	EH-bay-dehl-nih	ebédelek	EH-bay-deh-lehk
to go home	hazamenni	HAW-zaw-mehn-nih	hazamegyek	HAW-zaw-meh-dyehk
to have dinner	vacsorázni	VAW-chaw-rahz-nih	vacsorázom	VAW-chaw-rah-zom
to watch TV	tévét nézni	TAY-vayt NAYZ-nih	tévét nézek	TAY-vayt NAY-zehk
to read	olvasni	OL-vawsh-nih	olvasok	OL-vaw-shok
to go to bed	lefeküdni	LEH-feh-kued-nih	lefekszem	LEH-fehk-sehm
to sleep	aludni	AW-lud-nih	alszom	AWL-som

Verbs with Prefixes — Igekötős igék

Many Hungarian verbs begin with a little **prefix** (*fel-* "up", *le-* "down", *haza-* "home", *meg-* a completing prefix). It sits in front of the verb in a plain sentence, but **jumps behind the verb** when something else is stressed, such as a time word, a question word or *nem*.

SENTENCE TYPE	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	NOTES
Neutral: prefix + verb together	Felkelek.	FEHL-keh-lehk	the prefix <i>fel-</i> sits in front of the verb
A time word comes first: prefix goes after the verb	Hétkor kelek fel.	HAYT-kor KEH-lehk FEHL	"at seven (is when) I get up"
A question word comes first	Hánykor kelsz fel?	HAHNY-kor KEHLS FEHL	

SENTENCE TYPE	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	NOTES
Negative: <i>nem</i> + verb + prefix	Nem kelek fel korán.	NEHM KEH-lehk FEHL KO-rahn	"I don't get up early"
Going home	Hazamegyek. / Ötkor megyek haza.	HAW-zaw-meh-dyehk / EUT-kor MEH-dyehk HAW-zaw	<i>haza</i> is a prefix too

The Rule of Thumb

Neutral sentence → **prefix first** (*Felkelek.*). **Time word, question word or nem in front** → **prefix after the verb** (*Hétkor kelek fel., Nem kelek fel.*). This also explains the questions you will hear all the time: *Hánykor kelsz fel?* and *Mikor mészhaza?*



When — Mikor?

PART OF THE DAY	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT
in the morning	reggel	REHG-gehl
before noon	délelőtt	DAY-leh-leuut
at noon	délben	DAYL-behn
in the afternoon	délután	DAYL-oo-tahn
in the evening	este	EHS-h-teh
at night	éjjel	AY-yehl
ON ...	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT
Monday	hétfőn	HAYT-feuun
Tuesday	kedden	KEHD-dehn
Wednesday	szerdán	SEHR-dahn

ON ...	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT
Thursday	csütörtökön	CHUE-teur-teu-keun
Friday	pénteken	PAYN-teh-kehn
Saturday	szombaton	SOM-baw-ton
Sunday	vasárnap	VAW-shahr-nawp

Times and Days: -kor, -tól ... -ig and -n

-kor gives a time (*hétkor, fél nyolckor*), **-tól ... -ig** gives a range (*nyolctól ötig*, "from eight to five"), and the days take **-n / -on / -en / -ön** (*hétfőn*), except **vasárnap**, which takes nothing. Remember from Basic 1: *fél nyolc* is 7:30, so *fél nyolckor* is "at half past seven".

How Often — Milyen gyakran?

FREQUENCY	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT
always	mindig	MIN-dig
usually	általában	AHL-taw-lah-bawn
often	gyakran	DYAWK-rawn
sometimes	néha	NAY-haw
rarely	ritkán	RIT-kahn
never	soha nem	SHO-haw NEHM
early / late	korán / későn	KO-rah / KAY-sheuun
every day	naponta	NAW-pon-taw

Three More Verbs — Igék

Notice that reggelizni and aludni are **-ik verbs**: their "I" forms are reggelizem and alszom, and their "you" forms end in -el / -ol, not -sz. (Kelni is perfectly regular.)

	KELNI (TO GET UP)	REGGELIZNI (TO HAVE BREAKFAST)	ALUDNI (TO SLEEP)
én (I) <i>AYN</i>	kelek <i>KEH-lehk</i>	reggelizem <i>REHG-geh-lih-zehm</i>	alszom <i>AWL-som</i>
te (you) <i>TEH</i>	kelsz <i>KEHLS</i>	reggelizel <i>REHG-geh-lih-zehl</i>	alszol <i>AWL-sol</i>
ő, Ön <i>EUU, EUN</i>	kel <i>KEHL</i>	reggelizik <i>REHG-geh-lih-zihk</i>	alszik <i>AWL-sihk</i>
mi (we) <i>MIH</i>	kelünk <i>KEH-luenk</i>	reggelizünk <i>REHG-geh-lih-zuenk</i>	alszunk <i>AWL-sunk</i>
ti (you, pl.) <i>TIH</i>	keltek <i>KEHL-tehk</i>	reggeliztek <i>REHG-geh-lihs-tehk</i>	alszotok <i>AWL-so-tok</i>
ők (they) <i>EUUK</i>	kelnek <i>KEHL-nehk</i>	reggeliznek <i>REHG-geh-lihz-nehk</i>	alszanak <i>AWL-saw-nawk</i>

Vocabulary — Szókincs

20 key words. Read the Hungarian first; the respelling is under every line (CAPITALS = the stressed first syllable).

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	felkelni	<i>FEHL-kehl-nih</i>	to get up	verb
2	reggelizni	<i>REHG-geh-liz-nih</i>	to have breakfast	verb
3	ebédelni	<i>EH-bay-dehl-nih</i>	to have lunch	verb
4	vacsorázni	<i>VAW-chaw-rahz-nih</i>	to have dinner	verb
5	aludni	<i>AW-lud-nih</i>	to sleep	verb

#	HUNGARIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
6	lefeküdni	LEH-feh-kued-nih	to go to bed; to lie down	verb
7	hazamenni	HAW-zaw-mehn-nih	to go home	verb
8	olvasni	OL-vawsh-nih	to read	verb
9	tévé	TAY-vay	TV	noun
10	naponta	NAW-pon-taw	every day; daily	adj
11	hétköznapi	HAYT-keuz-nawp	on weekdays	adj
12	mindig	MIN-dig	always	adj
13	általában	AHL-taw-lah-bawn	usually	adj
14	gyakran	DYAWK-rawn	often	adj
15	néha	NAY-haw	sometimes	adj
16	soha	SHO-haw	never	adj
17	korán	KO-rah-n	early	adj
18	későn	KAY-sheuun	late	adj
19	már	MAHR	already; by now	adj
20	meddig	MEHD-dig	until when; how long	adj

Real Hungarian Tip — Soha Nem: Double Negatives Are Normal

Hungarian happily uses **two negatives**: **Soha nem iszom kávét** ("I never drink coffee") literally says "never I don't drink coffee". That is correct, and *nem* must stay. The same goes for *senki nem* ("nobody") and *semmi nem* ("nothing"), which you will meet later.

Meals: Ebéd Is the Big One

Traditionally the main meal of the Hungarian day is **ebéd** (lunch), often with soup and a main course. **Vacsora** (dinner) is lighter, and many people have a small afternoon snack called **uzsonna** (*U-zhon-naw*). Breakfast, **reggeli**, is quick: bread, butter, cold meats or a roll.

Felkelek or Kelek Fel?

A beginner often worries about which order is right. The simplest guide: if your sentence starts with a *time* (*Hétkor ...*), a *question* (*Hánykor ...?*) or *nem*, the prefix goes **after** the verb. If it just starts with the verb or with *én*, keep the prefix in front: *Én felkelek*. Both orders are real Hungarian: the difference is where the emphasis lies.

Szabadnap and Hétköznapi

Hétköznapi (weekday) is built from *hét* (week) + *köz* (between) + *nap* (day): the days *between* weekends. A day off is a **szabadnap** ("free day"), and informally many Hungarians say *szabi* for time off.

Try It Yourself — Gyakorlatok

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

1. Say "I get up at seven." Which comes first, *hétkor* or *kelek*?

▼ Show answer

Hétkor kelek fel. The time word comes first, so the prefix *fel* goes after the verb.

2. Ask a friend what time they go to bed.

▼ Show answer

Hánykor fekszel le?

3. Say "I have lunch at noon and dinner at seven."

▼ Show answer

Délben ebédelek, este hétkor vacsorázom.

4. Say "At weekends I usually get up late."

▼ Show answer

Hétvégén általában későn kelek fel.

5. Say "I work from Monday to Friday."

▼ Show answer

Hétfőtől péntekig dolgozom.

6. Say "I never watch TV." Does *nem* stay?

▼ Show answer

Soha nem nézek tévét. Yes: *nem* stays after *soha*.

Coming Up in Chapter 2

Hobbies and free time: **Szeretek úszni** ("I like swimming") versus **Szeretem a zenét** ("I like the music"). This chapter introduces the second set of verb endings, the **definite conjugation**, which you have only used in set phrases such as *Kérem* so far.