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HUNGARIAN LESSON

Question Words

? Question Words — Kérdőszók

Six short conversations built entirely around asking questions — meeting someone, talking about where you live, your age and languages, and making plans. Natural, everyday Hungarian your family will recognise.

Pronunciation quick-guide: **cs** = "ch" (church) **sz** = "s" (sun) **zs** = "zh" (measure) **gy** = soft "dj"
ny = "ny" (canyon) **j / ly** = "y" (yes) **s** = "sh" (shop)

① Meeting Someone New — Ismerkedés

A:

Szia! Hogy hívnak?

Hi! What's your name?

B:

Zsófia vagyok. És téged?

Zsófia = "Zho-fi-a"

I'm Zsófia. And you?

A:

Én Péter vagyok. Örülök, hogy
találkoztunk.

I'm Péter. Nice to have met you.

② Where Do You Live — Hol laksz?

A:

Hol laksz?

Where do you live?

B:

Budapesten lakom. És te, hol élsz?

I live in Budapest. And you, where do you
live?

A:

Én Debrecenben élek.

I live in Debrecen.

③ Age and Languages — Kor és nyelvek

A:

Hány éves vagy?

How old are you?

B:

Huszonkettő éves vagyok. És te?

huszonkettő = 22

I'm 22. And you?

④ Asking Why — Miért tanulod?

A:

Miért tanulsz magyarul?

Why are you learning Hungarian?

B:

Mert a családommal szeretnék
beszélni.

A:

Én ötvenkettő éves vagyok. Milyen
nyelveket beszélsz?

ötvenkettő = 52

I'm 52. What languages do you speak?

B:

Angolul és magyarul beszélek.

I speak English and Hungarian.

családommal = "with my family" (family + -mal suffix)

Because I want to speak with my family.

A:

Mióta tanulsz a nyelvet?

Since when have you been learning the
language?

B:

Egy éve már.

For a year already.

⑤ Shopping — Vásárlás

A:

Ez mennyibe kerül?

How much does this cost?

B:

Ezer forintba.

A thousand forints.

A:

És melyik sajt a legjobb?

And which cheese is the best?

B:

Ez a trappista, nagyon finom.

This trappista, it's very tasty.

⑥ Making Plans — Tervezés

A:

Mikor találkozunk?

When shall we meet?

B:

Szombaton, ha ráérsz.

Saturday, if you're free.

A:

Kivel jössz még?

Who else are you coming with?

B:

A testvéremmel jövök.

I'm coming with my sibling.



Vocabulary — Szókincs

20 key question words and phrases. Question words that attach to "ki" (who) with a case suffix — *kivel, kinek, kié* — are shown as one combined word, exactly the way they're actually said.

#	HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH	TYPE	NOTE
1	ki	who	pronoun	refers to people
2	mi	what	pronoun	refers to things
3	hol	where	adverb	location — "where (at)"
4	hova / hová	where to	adverb	direction of movement
5	honnan	from where	adverb	Honnan jössz? — Where are you from?
6	mikor	when	adverb	
7	miért	why	adverb	
8	hogyan / hogy	how	adverb	hogy is the shorter, everyday form
9	hány	how many	adjective	used directly before a noun
10	mennyi	how much	adjective	for uncountable amounts
11	hány éves	how old	phrase	Hány éves vagy? — How old are you?
12	hányszor	how many times	adverb	
13	milyen	what kind of / what... like	adjective	Milyen nyelveket beszélsz? — What languages do you speak?
14	melyik	which	pronoun	choosing from a known set
15	mennyi ideig	how long	phrase	asking about duration
16	hánykor	at what time	phrase	hány + -kor (at) suffix
17	kivel	with whom	phrase	ki + -vel (with) suffix
18	kinek	to / for whom	phrase	ki + -nek (to/for) suffix
19	kié	whose	phrase	ki + -é (possessive) suffix
20	mióta	since when	adverb	for an ongoing duration

Real Hungarian Tip — Watch the Tone of "Ki": A direct *Ki vagy te?* ("Who are you?") can sound confrontational in Hungarian, almost like a challenge — not the friendly opener it looks like in English. For a natural first meeting, ask *Hogy hívnak?* ("What are you called?") instead, the way Dialog ① does. *Ki vagy te?* and its cousin *Ki jár erre?* ("Who goes there? / Who's coming this way?") are better saved for situations that genuinely call for a bit of suspicion or surprise. Separately, notice Dialog ②'s two verbs for "to live" — *lakni* (*Hol laksz?*) is the everyday word for where you reside, while *élni* (*Hol élsz?*) is used just as commonly in conversation but leans slightly more general/literary ("to live" in the broader sense) — both are completely natural and you'll hear them used interchangeably by your Hungarian family.