A Hungarian Language Course

Introduction

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Introduction

Magyar (pronounced /Mawdyar/), as the Hungarians call their language, is spoken by the approximately 11 million inhabitants of Hungary, as well as another 4 million people in neighboring countries and a million others scattered around the world. It belongs to the Finno-Ugric language family, which includes Finnish and Estonian, but its closest relatives are several obscure languages spoken in Siberia. Hungarian is not at all related to the Indo-European languages which surround it, and is very different both in vocabulary and in grammar. Hungarian is an agglutinative language, meaning that it relies heavily on suffixes and prefixes. The grammar is seemingly complex, yet there is no gender, a feature that most English speakers grapple with when learning other European languages. Hungarian does use the Roman alphabet however, and after learning a few simple rules one can easily read Hungarian. Pronunciation is also very easy, especially compared to other neighboring languages like Czech, German, and Russian.

This course was designed for beginners and no previous knowledge of Hungarian is assumed. However, the lessons may also be helpful for those people who have had previous experience and would like to improve their grammar or just simply brush up.

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Alphabet and Pronunciation

Consonants

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Consonants

The following are pronounced and written as in English:

b, d, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, t, v, z

Notes:

g is always hard as in 'gun', never soft as in 'gem'

r is rolled off the tongue, though not really trilled

t is pronounced with the tongue touching the back of the teeth (dental)

The following consonants are pronounced and/or spelled differently than in English, and require special attention:

c is pronounced like the *ts* in 'bats'

cs is the English *ch* as in 'check'

gy is one sound pronounced like *dy*, or the *d* in 'adulation'

j, ly are both pronounced as *y* like 'yes'

ny is pronounced like the Spanish ñ and like the *ni* in the English word 'onion'

s Be careful! This is always pronounced like *sh* as in 'shun' and 'ship'

sz like a regular English *s* as in 'sell', never pronounced as a *z* like 'rose'

ty a soft *t* sound, pronounced much as it looks; say 'at your' fast

zs like the *s* in 'pleasure'

The letters **q, w, x, y** are not Hungarian and appear only in foreign words or in some family names. The English sound /j/ as in 'jet' appears in foreign words and is spelled ***dzs*** in Hungarian.

Note: Double consonants are pronounced long, like the final and initial /k/ sound in 'book-case'. When a double consonant occurs at the end of a word, try to linger on the sound slightly. With consonants like ***gy, ny, ty, sz***, etc. only the first letter of the cluster is doubled (ssz, ggy, etc.)

Vowels

a hard to describe, but rather like the sound in 'awe' and the British 'hot'

á a very open sound, between the *a* in 'matter' and the *a* in (American) 'father'

e the sound in 'set' and 'bed'

é Like the sound in 'way' but with the back of the tongue higher in the mouth

i not quite as short as the sound in 'sit', more like the short *ee* in 'feet' and 'meet'

í a long *ee* as in 'feed' and 'bleed'

o like the sound in 'stole' and 'sold'

ó a long *o*, as in 'rogue' and 'rode'

u a short *oo* as in 'boot'

ú a long *oo* as in 'food' and 'cool'

ö as in German *ö*, say French 'peu' and 'le'

ő a longer version of *ö*, like German 'schön' (Note: **ő** really looks like an *o* with a quotation mark or double acute accent on top)

ü like German *ü* and French *u* as in 'début'. English speakers, round lips as if to say *o* but say *ee*

ű a longer version of *ü* (Note: like **ő**, written with double accent on top)

Note: There are no diphthongs in Hungarian, so always pronounce each vowel separately.

Stress

Stress in Hungarian falls on the first syllable of the word. The accent marks over the various vowels DO NOT alter stress, but rather the quality of the vowel. And although stress is on the first syllable, every syllable is pronounced distinctly (unlike English, where many unstressed vowels become *schwa* and the ends of words are often swallowed).

Lesson One: Some Basics

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

Vocabulary

magyar (remember **gy** is pronounced like *dy*) - Hungarian

igen - yes

nem - no, not

angol - English

amerikai (remember to pronounce the last two vowels separately) - American

nyelv - language

szép - beautiful

itt - here

nő - woman

férfi - man

nagyon - very

város - city

és - and

vagyok - I am

könnyű - easy

Some sample sentences:

A nő magyar és a férfi angol.

The woman is Hungarian and the man is English.

A város nagyon szép.

The city is very beautiful.

Amerikai vagyok.

I am American.

A magyar nyelv könnyű.

The Hungarian language is easy.

Grammar

The Definite Article

You probably deduced from the above sentences that the definite article in Hungarian is **A**. Remember to pronounce it like *aw* and not like the English indefinite article 'a'. **A** corresponds to the English 'the' and before a word beginning with a vowel, **A** becomes **Az**.

A város - *the city*

Az autó - *the car*

Equational Sentences

You also probably noticed that in the above sentences there was a construction like 'A város szép' and 'A nő magyar' in which there was no verb corresponding to the English 'is'. Hungarian does have a verb 'is' and it is often used, but for sentences like these, called equational sentences, it can be omitted. This rule however, only applies to 3rd person subjects.

Personal Pronouns and the Irregular Verb 'Lenni'

The personal pronouns in Hungarian are as follows, along with their corresponding forms of the verb 'lenni', *'to be'*:

én vagyok *I am*	**mi vagyunk** *we are*
te vagy *you are*	**ti vagytok** *you (plural) are*
ő van *he, she, it is*	**ők vannak** *they are*

Note: There is also a personal pronoun **'maga'** and its plural form **'maguk'** which are the formal, or polite form of 'you'. It uses the 3rd person verb forms however.

Te angol vagy?

Are you English (For example, one teenager to another)

Maga magyar? (remember, we can omit 'van')

Are you Hungarian? (Say, one adult stranger to another)

Like German, French, and other European languages, the forms **te** and **ti** are used only when speaking with close friends, family, children, or among young people.

Omission of Personal Pronoun

When using verbs, the ending signifies the person and number, so the use of the personal pronouns is optional and they are used mainly for emphasis. Note the following sentences:

Amerikai vagyok. (also note the preferred word order here)

Angol vagy?

Itt vagyunk. *(We are here)*

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Magyar vagyok.

2. Itt vagytok.

3. A város nagyon szép.

4. Az angol nyelv könnyű.

5. Itt a férfi.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. I am American.

7. The city is here.

8. The Hungarian language is easy.

9. The woman is very beautiful.

10. Yes, we are here.

Answers

1. *I am Hungarian.*

2. *You (plural, familiar) are here.*

3. *The city is very beautiful.*

4. *The English language is easy.*

5. *The man is here.*

6. *Amerikai vagyok.*

7. *Itt a város.*

8. *A magyar nyelv könnyű.*

9. *A nő nagyon szép.*

10. *Igen, itt vagyunk.*

Lesson Two: More Basics

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

Vocabulary

ott - there

mi? - what?

ki? - who?

az - that *(a different word than the definite article, but looks and sounds the same)*

ez - this

köszönöm - thank you

mi a neve? - what's your name? (polite)

a nevem - my name is...

asztal - table

pincér *(remember **c** is 'ts')* - waiter

jól - well

hol? - where?

is - also

hogy? - how?

egy - a, an, one

autó - car

Some sample sentences:

Mi az?

What is that?

Ez egy autó és az egy asztal.

This is a car and that is a table.

Köszönöm, jól vagyok.

Thank you, I am good (well)

Hol a pincér? Ott.

Where is the waiter? There.

Grammar

The Indefinite Article

The indefinite article in Hungarian is **egy**, which also means 'one'. However, it is used less frequently than in English. Look at the following sentences:

Ő turista.

He is (a) tourist.

Egyetemista vagyok.

I am (a) student.

In the above sentences, the article is required in English, but not in Hungarian. You will get a feel of when to use the article once you have been exposed to more sentences and had some practice.

Ez and Az

The Hungarian words **ez** and **az** correspond to English 'this' and 'that' respectively, in the context of both 'that book is good' and 'that is a book' (French, for example, makes a difference between 'that' in these two contexts). When **ez** or **az** is modifying the noun, as in 'that book', the Hungarian noun must be preceded by the definite article **a** or **az**. Examine the following sentences:

Ki ez?

Who's this?

Ez az autó szép.

This car is pretty.

Az az autó is szép.

That car is also pretty.

Ez az asztal.

This is the table.

Note: **Ez az asztal** can mean 'this is the table' or 'this table...' but here it must be the former because the latter is not a complete sentence.

Greetings

Here are some practical greetings:

Jó reggelt (kívánok) - Good morning

Jó napot (kívánok) - Hello *(formal, literally 'good day')*

Jó estét (kívánok) - Good evening

Jó éjszakát (kívánok) - Good night

Note: the above expression are both formal and informal. The **kívánok** is optional and slightly more formal. With **kívánok**, the expressions mean 'I wish you good morning', etc...

A viszontlátásra - Goodbye *(formal)*

Szervusz (**Szervusztok** to more than one person) - Hello/Goodbye *(informal)*

Szia (**Sziasztok** to more than one person) - Hello/Goodbye *(more informal)*

Hogy van? - How are you? *(formal)*

Hogy vagy? - How are you? *(informal)*

Note: When you ask **Hogy vagy?** in Hungarian, you are *really* asking how they are, unlike in English where 'how are you' is a polite greeting. A good answer to the question would be: **Jól vagyok**, 'I am fine (well)'.

Vowel Harmony

Vowel harmony is a very important concept in Hungarian. Vowels are divided into two categories, front and back. Examine the following table:

Back Vowels	**a á o ó u ú**
Front Vowels	**e é i í ö ő ü ű**

The concept is important when adding suffixes and, as you will discover, Hungarian has *plenty* of suffixes. Suffixes usually come in groups of two, so which one to use depends on whether the word is a **front word** (consisting of front vowels) or a **back word** (consisting of back vowels). A word that is mixed (contains both front and back vowels) is most often a back word, and in the case of a compound word (two words put together) one must use the vowels in the second word. And, finally, sometimes there is a third suffix to chose from that applies only words in what is called the **-ö, ő, ü, ű-** sub-category. This may seem confusing at first, but take a look at some sample words and it may seem clearer:

Back Words	Front Words	Front ö,ő,ü,ű Words
asztal	étterem	ül
barát	üveg	külföld
gulyás	keres	küld
virág (mixed)	útlevél (compound)	

Vowel harmony will be important when discussing verb endings in Lesson Three.

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Turista vagy.

2. Ez az asztal szép.

3. Az az autó.

4. Jó napot, hol egy pincér?

5. Ott a nő.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. This is the man.

7. This language is easy.

8. What is that?

9. Where is a car?

10. Good morning, how are you? I am fine, thank you.

Which vowel category do the following words fall into:

11. nyelv

12. anya

13. fogalom

14. egyetem

15. pincér

16. Magyarország

17. Lengyelország

18. üveg

19. külföld
20. világ

Answers

1. *You are a tourist.*
2. *This table is pretty.*
3. *That is the car.*
4. *Hello, where is a waiter?*
5. *The woman is there.*

6. *Ez a férfi.*
7. *Ez a nyelv könnyű.*
8. *Mi az?*
9. *Hol egy autó?*
10. *Jó reggelt, hogy van(or vagy)? Köszönöm, jól vagyok.*

11. *front*
12. *back*
13. *back*
14. *front*
15. *front*
16. *back*
17. *back (compound)*
18. *front*
19. *Front, ö,ő,ü,ű sub-category*
20. *back (mixed)*

Lesson Three: Intro to Verbs & More

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

Vocabulary

tanul - he, she, it studies, learns

ért - he, she, it understands

beszél - he, she, it speaks

lakik - he lives

eszik - he eats (irregular infinitve **enni**)

ül - he, she, it sits

lát - he, she, it sees

dolgozik - he, she, it works

étterem - restaurant

nem - not

de - but

magyarul - Hungarian *(adverb, used with the verbs 'study' and 'speak')*

angolul - English *(adverb like magyarul)*

-ban/-ben - *suffix* in

Some sample sentences:

Beszél magyarul?

Does he (or you formal) speak Hungarian?

Nem, angolul beszél.

No, he speaks English.

Nem lakik Londonban.

He doesn't live in London.

Grammar

Verbs

In the above vocabulary, you were given several verbs in their 3rd person singular form. This is the verb **stem** and is very important. To this stem, Hungarian attaches suffixes to signify person and number. The suffixes are as follows for the indefinite (don't worry about what this means until Lesson Four) present tense conjugation:

	singular	plural
1st person	-ok, -ek, -ök	-unk, -ünk
2nd person	-sz	-tok, -tek, -tök
3rd person	--nothing--	-nak, -nek

You may be wondering why there is sometimes more than one suffix in a box. Well, this is where vowel harmony becomes important. In the above table, where there is more than one suffix listed the first one is used for back verbs, the second for front verbs, and the third for ö,ő,ü,ű verbs. Look at the following three tables for the conjugations of the back verb **'tanul'** and the front verbs **'beszél'** and **'ül'**.

tanulni - *to study*

én **tanulok**	mi **tanulunk**
te **tanulsz**	ti **tanultok**
ő/maga **tanul**	ők/maguk **tanulnak**

beszélni - *to speak*

én **beszélek**	mi **beszélünk**
te **beszélsz**	ti **beszéltek**
ő/maga **beszél**	ők/maguk **beszélnek**

In the following table, only the suffixes which differ from a regular front verb are in boldface:

ülni - *to sit*

én **ülök**	mi **ülünk**
te **ülsz**	ti **ültök**
ő/maga **ül**	ők/maguk **ülnek**

Notes:

The form ending in **-ni** above each table is the infinitive form. However, in most dictionaries and in these lessons you will find the verbs given in their third person singular form (e.g. **tanul**, **ért**).

The present tense corresponds to English 'I study', 'I am studying', and 'I do study'.

Some exceptions:

1. Many Hungarian verbs stems end in **-ik**. With these verbs there are two things to note. The **-ik** appears *only* in the 3rd person singular, it is dropped before adding other suffixes. And for the first person singular, the suffixes don't end with 'k' but with 'm'. So the verb **lakik** (lakni) 'to live' is conjugated: **lakom, laksz, lakik, lakunk, laktok, laknak**. (Note: Some Hungarians do not follow this rule and therefore would say lakok, etc., but that is not correct).

2. Verb stems ending in **-s**, **-z**, or **-sz** have alternate endings for the 2nd person singular for phonetic reasons. The suffix is **-l**, preceded by the appropriate **link vowel**, **o**, **e**, or **ö**. So the verb **eszik** 'to eat' (an -ik verb also) is conjugated: **eszem, eszel, eszik, eszünk, esztek, esznek**.

3. Verb stems ending in two consonants or -ít require a link vowel **a/e/ö** before the **-sz**, **-nak/-nek**, and *-ni* (infinitive) suffixes. And before the **-tok/-tek** suffix there must be a link vowel **o/e/ö**. Here is the verb **mond** (mondani) 'to say': **mondok, mondasz, mond, mondunk, mondotok, mondanak**.

This is enough about verbs for one lesson!

The -ban/-ben Suffix

The English prepositions 'in' and 'inside' correspond to the suffix **-ban/-ben** in Hungarian. By now you know all about vowel harmony, so you know that **-ban** is used for back words and **-ben** is used for front words.

Negation

Negation is simple. Just add **nem** before the verb.

More sample sentences:

Tanulok Philadelphiában.

I am studying (or I study) in Philadelphia.

Értek, de nem értesz.

I understand, but you don't understand.

Én nem lakom Los Angeles-ben, de ő ott lakik.

I don't live in Los Angeles, but he lives there.

Magyarul beszéltek? Nem, angolul beszélünk.

Do you (plural) speak Hungarian? No, we speak English.

Látsz?

Do you see?

Itt ülnek.

They are sitting here.

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Tanulnak Rómában.
2. Nem beszélek angolul.
3. Ott lakom.
4. Jól beszélsz magyarul.
5. Ki ért?

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. I am eating.
7. Do you (singular, formal) study Hungarian?
8. He is sitting here also.
9. Where do you (plural) study.
10. That waiter works in the restaurant.

Answers

1. *They are studying in Rome.*
2. *I don't speak English.*
3. *I live there.*
4. *You speak Hungarian well.*
5. *Who understands?*

6. *Eszem.*
7. *Tanul magyarul?*
8. *Ö is ül itt.*
9. *Hol tanultok?*
10. *Az a pincér dolgozik az étteremben.*

Lesson Four: Using Verbs

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

Vocabulary

For all nouns, the accusative suffix (see below) is given in parentheses

ház (-at) - house

ismer - to know (to be acquainted with, French 'connaitre', Spanish 'conocer')

küld - to send

olvas - to read

könyv (-et) - book

szeret - to like, love

valami (-t) - something

gulyás (-t) - goulash (Hungarian stew)

akar - to want

kér - to ask for, to want (polite)

kérek/kérem - please (literally, 'I ask for')

There are a lot of sample sentences given in the grammar section:

Grammar

Direct Objects

A direct object is the receiver of the action of a verb. 'Cake' is the object in the sentence 'I eat the cake' and 'me' is the object in the sentence 'he likes me'. A verb which can take a direct object is called a **transitive verb**. Some verbs like 'be', 'go' and 'live' are unable to take direct objects. These are called **intransitive verbs**. In English, we can identify the direct object by word order. The sentences 'Mike likes Jane' and 'Jane likes Mike' contain the same words but are different because of the order in which they appear. In Hungarian word order is flexible and the direct object is recognizable by a suffix **-t**. This is called the **accusative** suffix. Many words ending in a consonant need a link vowel before the suffix, **e** for front words and most often **o** but sometimes **a** for back words. For words ending in vowels, often the final vowel is lengthened. This sounds tricky and it kind of is, so don't worry too much about the link vowel, the important part is the **-t**. Just try to learn each form as you come across it, and eventually you will get a feel for it. Look at the following sentences:

Látok egy házat.

I see a house.

Ismerek egy pincért

I know a waiter.

Magyart tanulok.

I am studying Hungarian.

Note: this means I am studying a Hungarian lesson (or something), for the general sense of 'I study Hungarian', most likely **magyarul** would be used.

Mit olvasol? (remember -sz becomes -l after stems ending in s,z,sz)

What are you reading?

There will be more examples with the accusative suffix following the next grammar section.

Indefinite and Definite Verb Conjugations

In Hungarian there are two types of verb conjugation for each tense. Last lesson you were presented with the **indefinite** and in this lesson you will learn the **definite**. This is an essential part of Hungarian grammar and it may seem difficult at the beginning. Here are the basic rules just to give you an idea of what we are dealing with here:

The **indefinite** conjugation is used when:

1. The verb is intransitive (incapable of taking a direct object).

2. The object of the transitive verb is indefinite (something general, preceded by the indefinite article *egy*). Also when there is no object as in the sentence 'Now I am reading'.

3. The object of the verb is a 1st or 2nd person, e.g. 'they like you', 'you like me'. It is not necessary to state the 1st or 2nd person object, the use of the indefinite is enough (see samples below).

The **definite** conjugation is used when:

1. The object of the transitive verb is definite (preceded by the article 'a, az'; a personal or place name)

2. The object of the verb is a 3rd person, e.g. 'I like him', 'We understand it', They like you *(formal)*. Again it is not necessary to use the object, the use of the definite conjugation implies it.

Take at look at some English examples to help get a better understanding:

Indefinite Sentences	**Definite Sentences**
I eat a cake.	I am eating the cake.
I am going to the store.	I like the movie.
We ran today.	You understood the question.
Did you buy something?	He gave the gift to John.
What did you do?	I know Eva.
He likes me.	She likes him.
I live in Philadelphia.	Do you understand? (implied 'it')

The Definite Conjugation

Here are the suffixes for the definite conjugation in the present tense, followed by the conjugations of the back verb **tud** and the front verbs **ért** and **küld**

	singular	plural
1st person	-om, -em, -öm	-juk, -jük
2nd person	-od, -ed, -öd	-játok, -itek
3rd person	-ja, -i	-ják, -ik

tudni - *to know*

én **tudom**	mi **tudjuk**
te **tudod**	ti **tudjátok**
ő **tudja**	ők **tudják**

érteni - *to understand*

én **értem**	mi **értjük**
te **érted**	ti **értitek**
ő **érti**	ők **értik**

In the following table, only forms which differ from a regular front verb are in boldface:

küldeni - *to send*

én **küldöm**	mi küldjük
te **küldöd**	ti külditek
ő küldi	ők küldik

Some exceptions:

1. For verb stems ending in **-s**, **-sz**, or **-z** with any suffix beginning with the letter **j**, the **j** is dropped and the final consonant of the stem is doubled. Remember, **sz** becomes **ssz** when doubled. Here is the back verb **olvasni** 'to read' with the exceptional forms in bold: olvasom, olvasod, **olvassa, olvassuk, olvassátok, olvassák**.

2. For **-ik** verbs, the -ik suffix is dropped from the stem in all forms of the definite conjugation.

Sample sentences using both indefinite and definite verbs: (Pay close attention!)

Olvasni szeretek. (indef.)

I like to read.

Szeretem a könyvet. (def.)

I like the book.

Ez a pincér ismeri a nőt. (def.)

This waiter knows the woman.

Nem értem. (def.)

I don't understand (it).

Értesz? (indef.)

Do you understand me (or us)?

Egy házat akarok. (indef.)

I want a house.

A gulyást kérem. (def.)

I'd like (I ask for) the goulash. Also: *The goulash, please.*

Ismerem Rómát. (def.)

I know Rome.

Tanul magyarul? (indef.)

Does he study Hungarian?

Ismered a nyelvet? Igen, ismerem. (def., def.)

Do you know (Are you familiar with) the language? Yes, I know it (Yes, I do).

Hol dolgoztok? (indef.)

Where do you (plural) work?

Laci szeret. (indef.)

Laci loves me OR *us* OR *you*.

Note: In cases like this, context will usually make it clear.

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Jó reggelt, mit olvasol?

2. Szeretem a magyar nyelvet.

3. Hol tanulnak?

4. Én ismerem Évát, de ő nem ismer. (Note use of personal pronouns for emphasis)

5. Látsz egy asztalt? Ülni akarok.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. I would like (want) to speak Hungarian.

7. Do you see the woman there?

8. This house is very pretty.

9. Where is the restaurant? I don't see it.

10. We live in the city.

Answers

1. *Good morning, what are you reading?*

2. *I love the Hungarian language.*

3. *Where do they study?*

4. *I know Eva, but she doesn't know me.*

5. *Do you see a table? I want to sit.*

6. *Kérek magyarul beszélni.*

7. *Látod ott a nőt?*

8. *Ez a ház nagyon szép.*

9. *Hol van az étterem? Nem látom.*

10. *A városban lakunk.*

Review: Lessons One to Four

Lesson One Review

Lesson Two Review

Lesson Three Review

Lesson Four Review

Additional Exercises

Answers

There was a lot of material covered in Lessons One to Four, so this review is just to help clarify things and get some practice using the grammar and vocabulary. Also some minor details will be given that were left out of the previous grammar lessons. The vocabulary in each section will be from all four lessons, plus maybe a few new words.

Lesson One Review

In Lesson One, you learned about the definite article **A/Az**, equational sentences, omission of the personal pronoun, and the verb **Lenni** 'to be'. These are all pretty easy grammar points, but perhaps the general sentence structure was a little confusing. So the following sentences are just for you to see more examples of Hungarian sentence structure in order to improve your understanding of how the language works. Remember though, that word order is very flexible and there is almost always more than one way to form the same sentence.

Amerikai vagyok.

I am a American.

Note: this is the usual word order, but if you said 'Vagyok amerikai' you would be perfectly understood. So don't sweat about word order, you will get it right in time. Just realize that the order of many Hungarian sentences will seem the exact *opposite* of English, especially in longer sentences.

Ez a pincér magyar, de az a pincér angol.

This waiter is Hungarian, but that waiter is English.

Note the lack of 'is' in this and the following two sentences.

Az étterem nagyon nagy (big).

The restaurant is very big.

A nyelv szép.

The language is pretty.

BUT, van is used when describing WHERE or HOW someone is:

Laci a házban van.

Laci is in the house.

Hogy van Kati?

How is Kati

Remember, with the first and second persons, the verb 'to be' is needed. Also remember that the personal pronoun (I, you...) can be omitted. Here are a few sentences, with the optional personal pronoun in parentheses:

A nevem John. (Én) Egyetemista vagyok.

My name is John. I am a student.

(Ti) Hogy vagytok? -(Mi) Jól vagyunk.

How are you (plural)? We are well.

(Te) Az autóban vagy. (Én) A házban vagyok.

You are in the car. I am in the house.

Lesson Two Review

In Lesson Two, you learned about the indefinite article **egy**, the demonstrative pronouns **ez** and **az**, basic greetings, the concept of **vowel harmony**. The lesson should seem pretty easy now, after having seen lessons three and four. The following sentences are just for you to see more examples of word usage and order.

Ez az autó nagy. Ez a nagy autó. Ez a nagy autó szép.

This car is big. This is the big car. This big car is pretty.

Note the differences in the use of **ez** in these three sentences. Also note that in the first sentence 'nagy' is a predicate adjective and therefore follows the noun, while in the second and third sentences 'nagy' modifies 'autó' and therefore precedes it.

John pincér Londonban.

John is a waiter in London.

Remember that **egy** is used less than in English, especially in equational sentences.

Látok egy pincért.

I see a waiter.

(Egy) városban lakom.

I live in a city.

Here are two short dialogues using the greetings you learned:

Gabi and Kati are good friends from college.

Gabi: Szia Kati! Hogy vagy?

Kati: Koszi (short for köszönöm), nagyon jól vagyok. És te, hogy vagy?

Gabi: Jól, köszönöm. Dolgozol?

Kati: Igen, sokat (sok - 'a lot') dolgozom. Szia!

Gabi: Szia Kati!

Translation:

G: Hi Kati! How are you?

K: I'm very good thanks. And you, how are you?

G: Good thank you. Are you working?

K: Yes, I am working a lot (Note use of accusative suffix -t on 'sok'). Bye!

G: Bye Kati!

Péter and Mária are colleagues at work.

Péter: Jó napot Mária. Hogy van?

Mária: Köszönöm, jól vagyok. És maga, hogy van?

Péter: Jól vagyok, köszönöm. A viszontlátásra.

Mária: Viszontlátásra.

Translation:

P: Hello, Maria. How are you?

M: I am well thank you. And you, how are you?

P: I'm well thank you. Goodbye.

M: Goodbye.

Notes: The A is optional before 'viszontlátásra'. And if you want to express more gratitude for something you can say 'Köszönöm szépen' or 'Nagyon szépen köszönöm', which both mean 'thank you very much' in ascending order of niceness.

Lesson Three Review

In Lesson Three you learned the indefinite verb conjugation, negation, and the **ban/ben** suffix. The **ban/ben** suffix and negation are very straightforward and you have already seen many sentences in which they appear. As for the indefinite conjugation, you should memorize the basic pattern and remember the exceptions. The **-ik** verbs are very common, but also very easy since the only two things to remember is that the -ik drops off in all forms but the 3rd person singular and the the first person singular always ends with **-m**. The next group of exceptions are the verb stems ending in **s, z, sz**. Just remember that the second person singular ends in **-ol/-el/-öl**, as opposed to **-sz**. The last group of exceptions includes verb stems ending in **-ít** (notice the í has an accent) or ending in two consonants. These verbs require a link vowel before several of the suffixes, see Lesson Three for details.

In the following sentences, pay attention to the conjugation of the verb as well as the usage:

Tanulok Londonban.

I study in London.

Látok egy asztalt.

I see a table.

Eszem (egy) gulyást

I am eating (a) goulash.

Jól beszélsz magyarul.

You speak Hungarian well.

Egy könyvet olvasol?

Are you reading a book?

Dolgozni szeretek.

I love to work.

Egy nagy, szép házban lakom.

I live in a big, pretty house.

Mit mondasz (mondani 'to say')?

What are you saying? (Remember that 'what' is the object, so it takes the accusative suffix)

Én ismerem (definite) Pétert, de ő nem ismer (indef.).

I know Peter, but he doesn't know me.

Lesson Four Review

Lesson Four covered the accusative suffix **-t**, and the definite vs. indefinite conjugations.

There are a few details left to mention about the accusative before reviewing the definite conjugation. Look at the following sentences:

Egy nagy, szép autót látok.

I see a big, pretty car.

Notice that the object 'autó' is preceded by two adjectives, but only 'autó' get the suffix **-t**. So the rule is, only the last word in the cluster gets the accusative marker. Following is another example sentences, this time with two objects. Only the last word in each cluster is marked with the **-t**.

Egy nagy házat és egy szép autót kérek.

I'd like a big house and a pretty car.

BUT:

Ezt a nagy autót szeretem.

*I like **this** big car.*

Azt a könyvet olvasom.

*I am reading **that** book.*

If the noun is preceded by one of the demonstratives **ez** or **az**, the demonstrative suffix mirrors that of the noun. In other words, if the suffix **-t** appears on **ez/az** as well as the object. As for the other modifying words in the cluster, they remain untouched as in the sentences above.

It should also be mentioned that some words like **étterem** drop the final vowel when adding the -t suffix. So 'I see the restaurant' would be: Látom az **éttermet**. You don't yet know any other words that follow this pattern, and if any come up in the vocabulary, the accusative form will be given.

Re-read the explanation given in Lesson Four about when to use the definite conjugation. You really just need to practise. Here are some sample sentences to help you:

Egy autót akarok.

I want a car.

Az autót akarom.

I want the car.

Nem ismered Pétert?

You don't know Peter?

Akarok angolul tanulni.

I want to study English.

Szeretem a magyar nyelvet.

I love the Hungarian language.

Additional Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Hol laknak? -Kanadában.
2. Éva ismeri Pétert?
3. Kérek magyarul tudni.
4. Nem látom az éttermet. Látod?
5. Szeretem ezt a könyvet.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. Do you understand that woman?
7. Where is Béla? -He is in the city.
8. This car is very big.
9. I like this big house.
10. I'd like a goulash.

In the following sentences, give the appropriate Hungarian translation of the English in parentheses:

11. (Are you eating) azt a gulyást?
12. (I speak) magyarul.

13. (We don't see) a pincért.

14. Akarok angolul (to know)

15. (He likes) ezt a könyvet.

Conjugate the verbs **tudni**, **érteni**, and **olvasni** along with the personal pronouns in the indefinite and definite forms.

Answers

1. *Where do they live? -In Canada.*

2. *Does Eva know Peter?*

3. *I want to know Hungarian.*

4. *I don't see the restaurant. Do you see it?*

5. *I like/love this book.*

6. *Érted azt a nőt?*

7. *Hol van Béla? -Ő a városban van.*

8. *Ez az autó nagyon nagy.*

9. *Szeretem ezt a nagy házat.*

10. *Egy gulyást kérek.*

11. *Eszed*

12. *Beszélek*

13. *Nem látjuk.*

14. *tudni*

15. *Szereti*

Tudni:

indefinite - *én tudok, te tudsz, ő tud, mi tudunk, ti tudtok ők tudnak*

definite - *én tudom, te tudod, ő tudja, mi tudjuk, ti tudjátok, ők tudják*

Érteni:

indefinite - *én értek, te értesz, ő ért, mi értünk, ti értetek, ők értenek*

definite - *én értem, te érted, ő érti, mi értjük, ti értitek, ők értik*

Olvasni:

indefinite - *én olvasok, te olvasol, ő olvas, mi olvasunk, ti olvastok, ők olvasnak*

definite - *én olvasom, te olvasod, ő olvassa, mi olvassuk, ti olvassátok, ők olvassák*

Lesson Five: Motion

If you have not looked at the Review of Lessons One to Four, you have missed a few new grammar points which may appear in this lesson.

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

Vocabulary

The accusative suffix for each noun is given in parentheses

barát (-ot) - friend

most - now

sok (-at) - a lot (of) *(noun or adj.)*

nagy - big

posta ('-t) - post office

egyetem (-et) - university

kórház (-at) - hospital

Magyarország (-ot) - Hungary *(literally 'Hungarian country')*

szálloda ('-t) - hotel

hová - to where

vagy - or

orvos (-t) - doctor

New suffixes appear in the grammar section.

Grammar

There Is/There Are

Expressing 'there is/are' in Hungarian is easy. They just use **Van** and **Vannak**, which you recognize as the 3rd person singular and plural forms of the verb **lenni** 'to be'. Look at these sentences and pay attention to word order:

Van egyetem Philadelphiában?

Is there a university in Philadelphia?

Egy nagy posta van a városban.

There is a big post office in the city.

Az étteremben sok asztal van.

There are a lot of tables in the restaurant.

Note: following **sok** the noun appears in singular always.

I can't give any sentences with **vannak** because you don't know any plurals yet, but it is used the same way obviously.

When you want to negate and say 'there is not', use the word **nincs**. 'Nem van' is incorrect. The negation of 'nem vannak' is **nincsenek**, but there will be examples in Lesson Seven when the plural is covered.

Nincs ott kórház.

There is not a hospital there (There is no hospital there).

Nincs asztal?

Isn't there a table?

The Irregular Verb Menni 'to go'

Here is the conjugation of the verb **menni** with the irregular forms in bold. Example sentences will follow the next grammar section.

én megyek	mi megyünk
te **mész**	ti **mentek**
ő megy	ők **mennek**

Note: Menni is an intransitive verb, so there is no definite conjugation.

Prepositions of Motion

While English has the preposition 'to' to express motion, Hungarian uses a suffix to express the same idea. This is the same idea of the **ban/ben** suffix which you learned in Lesson Three.

The basic suffix for 'to' or 'into' is **ba/be** (obviously one for back and one for front words). Look at the following sentences:

Az orvos a kórházba megy.

The doctor is going to/into the hospital.

Mész Londonba?

Are you going to London?

However, there are two other suffixes which mean 'to', but have slightly different meanings.

The **ra/re** suffix means 'on to'. You see above that **ba/be** is used with place names. Well, for Hungarian places names the **ra/re** suffix is used:

Megyünk Magyarországra. Nem megyünk Amerikába.

We are going to Hungary. We are not going to America.

Most mentek Budapestre?

Are you going to Budapest now?

Mennek az egyetemre. (see note below)

They are going to the university.

Note: Some Hungarian cities do take **ba/be**, most notably Győr and Debrecen. At one time these cities lay outside Hungary which is the reason they take the suffix used with foreign place names. Some nouns also take **ra/re**, such as **posta** and **egyetem**.

The final suffix meaning 'to (a point in space, as opposed to an enclosed space)' is **hoz/hez/höz**. English examples where this would be used are: 'to my friend's', 'to John's'. Similar to French 'chez' and German 'bei'. Look at the following:

Évához megyünk.

We are going to Eva's.

Egy baráthoz megyek.

I am going to a friend's.

So you can now see the three categories of motion: to an enclosed place, on to, and to a point in space. These three distinctions are important and they also apply to the suffixes meaning 'at', 'in', 'on', and 'from' which will be covered next lesson. So for now memorize these three suffixes, **ba/be, ra/re, hoz/hez/höz** and remember how they are used.

Hol vs. Hová

Hová is the question word that corresponds to the above suffixes. It is used when followed by a verb of motion. Look at the following sentences:

Hol vagy? -Itt vagyok, a szállodában.

Where are you? -I am here, in the hotel.

BUT:

Hová megy? -A postára megyek. VAGY Londonba VAGY Pestre

Where are you going? -I'm going to the post office OR to London OR to Pest.

Hová akar menni? -Péterhez akarok menni.

Where do you want to go? -I want to go to Peter's.

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Az orvos a kórházban van.
2. Van egy asztal? -Igen, sok asztal van.
3. Éva az egyetemre megy.
4. Az étterembe mentek.
5. Nincs itt nagy szálloda.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. Peter is in the restaurant.
7. I am going to the hotel now.
8. Where are they going?
9. There is no car in the house!
10. Are you going to London or to Budapest?

Conjugate the verb 'menni' with the personal pronouns.

Answers

1. *The doctor is in the hospital.*
2. *Is there a table? -Yes there are a lot of tables.*
3. *Éva is going to the university.*
4. *You (pl.) are going to the restaurant.*
5. *There is no big hotel here.*

6. *Péter az étteremben van.*
7. *A szállodába most megyek.*
8. *Hová mennek?*

9. *Nincs autó a házban!*

10. *Londonba vagy Budapestre mész?*

Menni: *Én megyek, te mész, ő megy, mi megyünk, ti mentek, ők mennek.*

Lesson Six: Location and Numbers 1-10

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

Vocabulary

The accusative suffix for each noun is given in parentheses.

honnan? - from where?

ide - to here

oda - to there

innen - from here

onnan - from there

mikor? - when?

színház (-at) - theatre

utazik - to travel

ember (-t) - person

mozi (-t) - movie theatre

ma - today

épület (-et) - building

bolt (-ot) - store

iroda ('-t) - office

hány? - how many?

Some sample sentences:

Hová megy Péter? -Oda megy.

Where is Peter going? -He's going there.

Honnan jössz (see below)? -Onnan jövök (see below).

Where are you coming from? -I'm coming from there.

Ma megyek a boltba.

I'm going to the store today.

Mikor utazol?

When are you travelling?

Grammar

The Irregular Verb Jönni 'to come'

Here is the conjugation of the verb **jönni**. This verb can be used with the question word **honnan** 'from where'. Example sentences will follow the next grammar section.

én **jövök**	mi **jövünk**
te **jössz**	ti **jöttök**
ő **jön**	ők **jönnek**

Note: Jönni is an intransitive verb, so there is no definite conjugation.

Honnan jössz? Where do you come from?

You'll be able to answer this after the next section...

Location

Last lesson, you learned that there were three suffixes used to express the English 'to'. **ba/be** means 'to or into an enclosed space'. **ra/re** means 'on to', or 'to' with Hungarian place names. And **hoz/hez/höz** means 'to a point in space'.

In this lesson you will learn two other sets of suffixes: one set for expressing location (at, in, on) and one set for expressing *from* a location. Each of these sets are broken into three groups exactly as suffixes **ba/be** etc...

The following tables shows all of these suffixes in relation to each other:

	Honnan?	Hol?	Hová?
an enclosed space	**ból/ből** 'from'	**ban/ben** 'in'	**ba/be** 'to,into'
on some surface	**ról/ről** 'from'	link vowel +**N** 'on'	**ra/re** 'on to,to'
a point in space	**tól/től** 'from'	**nál/nél** 'at'	**hoz/hez/höz** 'to'

Note: the irregular nouns that took **ra/re** also take **N** and **ról/ről**

Here are some sample sentences to help you:

Az asztalnál ülünk.

We are sitting at the table.

Az irodában dolgozik.

He works at/in the office.

Magyarországon lakom. Budapesten.

I live in Hungary. In Budapest.

Londonból Romába utazom.

I am travelling from London to Rome.

Pétertől vagy a moziból jössz?

Are you coming from Peter's or the movies?

Budapestről Debrecenbe mennek.

They are going from Budapest to Debrecen.

Egy étteremben eszünk.

We are eating in a restaurant.

Az épületbe mész?

Are you going into the building?

A postán van.

He/she is at the post office.

Note: a location like **szálloda** or **étterem** or **iroda** could in theory take either **ban/ben** or **hoz/hez/höz** (and their counterparts), depending on the meaning. If you say **'a szállodában'** you mean specifically inside the hotel. But **'a szállodánál'** means at the hotel, just in front of the entrance or something. So you would tell a taxi driver to take you **'a szállodához'** unless you want him to walk you inside the hotel.

Now answer the question: **Honnan jössz?**

Numbers 1 to 10

Here is how you count to ten in Hungarian:

Egy - 1

Kettő (két before a noun) - 2

Három - 3

Négy - 4

Öt - 5

Hat - 6

Hét - 7

Nyolc - 8

Kilenc - 9

Tíz - 10

After numbers or any quantifier (a lot, some, a few, how many, etc..) the noun always appears in singular.

Két autót akarok.

I want two cars.

Kilenc embert látok.

I see nine men.

Hány színház van Bécsben? (Bécs=Vienna)

How many theatres are there in Vienna?

Négy színház van Bécsben.

There are four theatres in Vienna.

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Szegedről jön. (Szeged is a town in the south of Hungary)
2. Sok ember van most a szállodában.
3. Két gulyást kérek.
4. Egy barátnál vagyunk.
5. Magyarországon lakom, de Amerikában akarok lakni.
6. Onnan a színházba megyek.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

7. They are coming from Kati's.
8. I am travelling to Hungary today.
9. There are ten people in the house.
10. I study Hungarian in Budapest.
11. Are you going from New York to Vienna or to Budapest?
12. I like to go to the movies (cinema).

Conjugate the verb **jönni**.

Answers

1. *He comes/is coming from Szeged.*
2. *There are a lot of people in the hotel now.*
3. *I'd like two goulashes.*
4. *We are at a friend's.*
5. *I live in Hungary, but I want to live in America.*
6. *I am going to the theatre from there.*

7. *Katitól jönnek.*
8. *Ma utazom Magyarországra.*
9. *Tíz ember van a házban.*
10. *Budapesten tanulok magyarul.*
11. *New York-ból Bécsbe vagy Budapestre mész?*
12. *Szeretek a moziba menni.*

Jönni: *Jövök, jössz, jön, jövünk, jöttök, jönnek.*

Lesson Seven: Plural and Numbers 10 to 100

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

Vocabulary

The accusative suffix for each noun is given in parentheses

fiú (-t) - boy

lány (-t) - girl

gyerek (-et) - child

fa ('-t) - tree

csak - only

iskola ('-t) - school

hoz - to bring

étlap (-ot) - menu

kutya ('-t) - dog

víz (-et) - water

bor (-t) - wine

üveg (-et) - bottle

pohár (poharat) - glass *(drinking)*

régi - old *(non-living things only)*

új - new

néhány - some, a few

iszik - to drink (irregular infinitive **inni**)

Some sample sentences:

A pincér négy étlapot hoz.

The waiter is bringing four menus.

Ez a régi autó nagyon szép.

This old car is very pretty.

Grammar

Numbers 10 to 100

Here are more numbers for you to learn:

tizenegy - 11

tizenkettő - 12

tizenhárom - 13

tizennégy - 14

tizenöt - 15

tizenhat - 16

tizenhét - 17

tizennyolc - 18

tizenkilenc - 19

húsz - 20

huszonegy - 21

huszonkettő - 22

harminc - 30

harmincegy - 31

harminchárom – 33

negyven – 40

negyvenegy – 41

negyvennégy – 44

ötven – 50

ötvenöt – 55

hatvan – 60

hetven – 70

nyolcvan – 80

kilencven – 90

száz - 100

Notes:

-Make sure to pronounce **tizenegy** (11) and **tizennégy** (14) differently.

-And notice for numbers four and above, the suffix **van/ven** makes the number forty, fifty, sixty, etc.

-If the word **harminc** looks really far off from **három**, notice that the first four letters are just **három** without the accent and the 'o'.

Remember that after any quantifier the noun appears in the singular. So 'a hundred books' is still 'a hundred book' in Hungarian. Here are some sentences:

Száz ember van az étteremben.

There are a hundred people in the restaurant.

Csak tizenhárom egyetemista van ma.

There are only thirteen students today.

Sok fiú van az iskolában, de csak néhány lány van.

There are a lot of boys in the school, but only a few girls.

The Plural

Forming the plural in Hungarian is as easy as in English. In English you add -s or -es, and in Hungarian you add a **-K**. With words ending in a consonant, a link vowel **o/e/ö** is required before the **K** as with the accusative suffix -t. Some words use the link vowel **a**, but these are the same words that use **a** with the -t suffix. One difference from the -t suffix is that while sometimes -t can appear without a link vowel after a consonant, **-K** cannot. Look a the following table giving nouns plus their accusative and plural forms:

Noun	Accusative	Plural
nyelv	nyelvet	nyelvek
barát	barátot	barátok
kutya	kutyát	kutyák
ház	házat	házak
város	várost	városok

The plural is kind of funny in Hungarian. As you already know, nouns appear in singular after any type of quantifier. As for verbs, if the subject consists of a plural noun (gyerekek, emberek, etc.), then the verb must be in plural as well. BUT, if the subject consists of more than one singular subject (a férfi és a nő, etc.), then the verb can be either in singular or plural, it doesn't matter. Here are a few sentences:

A gyerekek a házban vannak.

The children are in the house.

Péter és Zsuzsa a városban van.

Peter and Zsuzsa (Susan) are in the city.

Gabi és Anna Magyarországra utazik.

Gabi and Anna are travelling to Hungary.

You should note also the plurals **Ezek/Azok** 'these/those':

Ezek az új fák.

These are the new trees.

Remember that the form **nincsenek** is used with plurals in the places where **nincs** is used in the singular:

A gyerekek nincsenek a házban.

The children are not in the house.

Lastly, many times more than one suffix can appear on a noun. The plural always comes first. When the suffix **-t** follows a plural, the link vowels are always **a/e**. Other suffixes (e.g. **-N**) take **o/e** as usual. Look at these samples:

Szeretem ezeket az új fákat.

I like these new trees.

Látod azokat a gyerekeket?

Do you see those children?

Az étlapok az asztalokon vannak.

The menus are on the tables.

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Egy üveg bort és két poharat kérek.
2. Néhány új könyv van az asztalon.
3. A pincér az étlapokat hozza?
4. Hetvenöt ember van itt.
5. Péter és Béla Londonba megy.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. Do you (plural) see those old trees?
7. The children are in the house.
8. There are thirty boys and twenty girls in the school.
9. Kati and János are in Budapest.
10. These dogs are drinking water.

Answers

1. *I'd like a bottle of wine and two glasses.*
2. *There are some new books on the table.*
3. *Is the waiter bringing the menus?*
4. *There are seventy-five people here.*
5. *Peter and Bela are going to London.*

6. *Látjátok azokat a régi fákat?*
7. *A gyerekek a házban vannak.*
8. *Harminc fiú és húsz lány van az iskolában.*
9. *Kati és János Budapesten van.*
10. *Ezek a kutyák vízet isznak.*

Lesson Eight: Possession

Vocabulary

Grammar

Exercises

Answers

This lesson is rather long with a lot of material, so I suggest doing it in parts.

Vocabulary

The accusative suffix for each noun is given in parentheses

túl - too

anya ('-t) - mother

apa ('-t) - father

pénz (-t) - money

feleség (-et) - wife

férj (-et) - husband

név (nevet) - name

sajnos - unfortunately

nehéz - difficult

tanár (-t) - teacher

kocsi (-t) - car *(more colloquial than autó)*

újság (-ot) - newspaper

térkép (-et) - map

There are lots of sample sentences in the grammar section below.

Grammar

Part One: Possession

To express possession in Hungarian, a suffix is added to the noun. Which suffix to use depends of course on person (my book, his book, etc..) and on vowel harmony, and also on whether the noun ends in a consonant or a vowel. The following chart lists the suffixes. These suffixes ONLY apply to singular nouns.

Possessive Suffixes for Singular Nouns

Person	word ends in vowel	word ends in consonant
1st singular	-m	**-om**/-em/-öm
2nd singular	-d	**-od**/-ed/-öd
3rd singular	-ja/-je	-a/-e
1st plural	-nk	-unk/-ünk
2nd plural	-tok/-tek/-tök	**-otok**/-etek/-ötök
3rd plural	-juk/-jük	-uk/-ük

Notes:

-The suffixes **-om, -od, -otok** are in bold because certain nouns take the alternate forms **-am, -ad, -atok**. These are the same nouns that take the link vowel **a** with other suffixes.

-Some nouns ending in a consonant take **ja/je** in the third person. For example: **barátja** 'his/her friend', **újságja** 'his/her newspaper'

-Many nouns have irregularities such as accent dropping or adding, vowel dropping, and consonant dropping. So just notice these things. Soon there will be a glossary of all the words in the course in which the 3rd peron singular possessive suffix will be shown (this form is more often irregular). So for now just pay attention to the sentences.

Here are some nouns declined with all of the possessive suffixes:

nyelv: nyelvem, nyelved, nyelve, nyelvünk, nyelvetek, nyelvük

my language, your language, his/her language, our language, etc...

város: városom, városod, városa, városunk, városotok, városuk

autó: autóm, autód, autója, autónk, autótok, autójuk

név: (note loss of accent) nevem, neved, neve, nevünk, nevetek, nevük

ház: (note link vowel **a**) házam, házad, háza, házunk, házatok, házuk

étterem: (note loss of vowel) éttermem, éttermed, étterme, éttermünk, éttermetek, éttermük

Note: the irregularities in the last three examples also occur when these nouns are in the accusative: **házat, nevet, éttermet**. So these irregularities are consistent between varying suffixes.

Here are some sentences using the possessives. Note the use of the definite article **a/az**.

A férjem a házban van.

My husband is in the house.

Egy barátunkhoz megyünk

We are going to our friend's.

Mi a neve?

What is his/her name? OR *What is your (polite) name?*

Mikor utazik az anyád Magyarországra?

When is your mother travelling to Hungary?

The personal pronouns can be added for emphasis:

Az én könyvem új, de az ő könyve nagyon régi.

My book is new, but his book is very old.

Part Two: Expressing 'to have'

There is no verb 'to have' in Hungarian, so instead there is a construction using the possessive suffixes which serves the purpose. Basically, the possessive suffixes are used along with the word **van** 'there is/are'. So 'I have a book' appears 'There is my book' ('There is' in the sense of existence, not as in 'over there'). Look at the following sentences and note word order:

Van pénzem.

I have money.

Nincs pénzem.

I don't have any money.

Sajnos, nincs amerikai kocsim.

Unfortunately, I don't have an American car.

Szép nagy autód van.

You have a big, pretty car.

Van kutyájuk?

Do they have a dog?

Szép háza van.

He (or she or you polite) has a pretty house.

The **nak/nek** suffix is the English dative 'to', and must be used when the possessor is named. The possession takes the possessive suffix as above:

Péternek sok pénze van.

Peter has a lot of money.

Literally: To Peter there is a lot of (his) money.

A gyerekeknek nincs jó tanáruk.

The children don't have a good teacher.

Note: In this sentence **'tanáruk'** could be replaced with **'tanára'**, since the plural suffix on 'gyerek' is enough to show that the possessor is plural. **'Tanára'** is more common, but don't worry about this, either one is OK.

A feleségemnek új kocsija van.

My wife has a new car.

Kinek van újságja?

Who has a newspaper?

As you learned above, a phrase like **'a tanárom'** ('my teacher') can be emphasized by adding the personal pronoun **'az én tanárom'**. Likewise, the sentence **'pénzem van'** ('I have money') can be emphasized. But instead of the personal pronoun, the **nak/nek** suffix is declined with a possessive suffix. So the emphatic sentence would be **'nekem van pénzem'**. The declension of **nek-** is: **nekem, neked, neki, magának, nekünk, nektek, nekik, maguknak** (to me, to you, to him/her, etc...).

Words in parentheses are optional:

(Magának) van térképe?

Do you (polite) have a map?

(Nekik) van kocsijuk. Az (ő) kocsijuk túl nagy.

They have a car. Their car is too big.

Note: **ő** is always used instead of **ők** in a possessive structure. The suffix **-juk** is enough to denote the plural 'their'

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Az ő háza túl nagy.

2. A pénzem a házban van.

3. Ma a barátomhoz akarok menni.

4. Sajnos, nincs kutyánk. A feleségem nem szereti.

5. A férjed magyar?

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. I have a big, pretty map.

7. Peter doesn't have a car.

8. My friend lives in Hungary.

9. Where is your wife?

10. The Hungarian book is too difficult.

The following words have singular possessive suffixes. Make the suffixes plural:

Example: autóm --> autónk

11. térképed

12. újságja

13. könyvem

14. kocsija

15. éttermed

The following words have plural possessive suffixes. Make the suffixes singular:

Example: házuk --> háza

16. autótok

17. tanárunk

18. barátjuk

19. gyereketek

20. kutyánk

Answers

1. *His/her house is too big.*

2. *My money is in the house.*

3. *I want to go to my friend's today.*

4. *Unfortunately, we don't have a dog. My wife doesn't like them.*

5. *Is your husband Hungarian?*

6. *Egy szép nagy térképem van.*

7. *Péternek nincs kocsija/autója.*

8. *A barátom Magyarországon lakik.*

9. *Hol a feleséged?*

10. *A magyar könyv túl nehéz.*

11. *térképetek*

12. *újságjuk*

13. *könyvünk*

14. *kocsijuk*

15. *éttermetek*

16. *autód*

17. *tanárom*

18. *barátja*

19. *gyereked*

20. *kutyám*

Review: Lessons Five to Eight

Lesson Five Review

Lesson Six Review

Lesson Seven Review

Lesson Eight Review

Additional Exercises

Answers

There was a lot of material covered in Lessons Five to Eight, so this review is meant to help clarify things and for you to get some more practice using the grammar and vocabulary. Also some minor details will be given that were left out of the previous grammar lessons. In each section, grammar and vocabulary may be from all eight lessons, plus maybe a few new words.

Lesson Five Review

In Lesson Five, you learned how to say there is/there are, the irregular verb **menni**, prepositions of motion, and the difference between **hol** and **hová**. For each of these topics there is nothing new to add. If any of these topics seems complicated, hopefully this review will help you because you will see more examples of these principles in use.

Hová mész?

Where are you going.

Budapestre és Győrbe megyek. (Remember Győr is an exception)

I am going to Budapest and Győr.

Sok nagy szálloda van New York-ban.

There are many big hotels in New York.

Egy orvost akarok látni a kórházban.

I want to see a doctor in the hospital.

Hol van az egyetem?

Where is the university?

Ma megyünk a barátunkhoz Szegedre.

Today we are going to Szeged, to our friend's.

Lesson Six Review

Lesson Six covered the irregular verb **jönni**, the numbers one to ten, and the various suffixes meaning 'in/on/at' and 'from'. When to use which suffixes can be rather confusing. Look carefully at the following dialogue, which includes several new words:

Gyula: Hová mész?

Tamás: Rómába megyek.

Gyula: Hol van Róma? Franciaországban?

Tamás: Nem! Róma Olaszországban van.

Gyula: Most már (already) tudom. Honnan mész? Budapestről?

Tamás: Igen, Budapestről Bécsbe, és Bécsből Rómába megyek. Rómaban egy barátnőmhöz megyek.

Gyula: Értem. Jó utat!

Tamás: Köszi. Te mit csinálsz?

Gyula: Én, maradok Magyarországon.

Tamás: Jó szórakozást.

Translation:

G: Where are you going?

T: I'm going to Rome.

G: Where's Rome? In France?

T: No! Rome is in Italy.

G: Now I know. From where are you going? From Budapest?

T: Yes, from Budapest to Vienna and from Vienna to Rome. In Rome I am going to my girlfriend's.

G: I understand. Have a good trip.

T: Thanks. What are you doing?

G: Me, I'm staying in Hungary.

T: Have a good time.

With the numbers, the important thing to remember is that the following noun will always be singular. Here are some sentences:

Két barát megy a moziba.

Two friends are going to the movies.

Notice the singular verb and also remember that **kettő** becomes **két** before nouns.

Kilenc gyereket akarok.

I want nine children.

Három egyetem van Philadelphiában.

There are three universities in Philadelphia.

Lesson Seven Review

Compared to Lessons Five and Six, Lesson Seven was rather easy. You learned the numbers up to 100 and how to form the plural. The following is a list of some words you know, and a couple you don't yet know, along with their plurals. Try covering the right-hand column at first and see if you can come up with the correct plural.

singular	**plural**
étlap	étlapok
ember	emberek
asztal	asztalok
étterem	éttermek
egyetemista	egyetemisták
név	nevek
levél (letter)	levelek
dolog (thing)	dolgok
család (family)	családok

The best way to learn the numbers is to practice using them. Do the following addition problems based on the example given. You will need the word **meg**, which means 'plus' in this context (it also has other meanings).

example: 9 + 4

and you say: Kilenc meg négy, az tízenhárom (9+4=13)

1. 1 + 3
2. 2 + 15
3. 11 + 24
4. 25 + 38
5. 99 + 1
6. 84 + 12
7. 47 + 32
8. 22 + 51
9. 60 + 10

10. 75 + 7

1. *egy meg három, az négy.*
2. *kettő meg tízenöt, az tízenhét.*
3. *tízenegy meg húszonnégy, az harmincöt.*
4. *húszonnöt meg harmincnyolc, az hatvanhárom.*
5. *kilencvenkilenc meg egy, az száz.*
6. *nyolcvannégy meg tízenkettő, az kilencvenhat.*
7. *negyvenhet meg harminckettő, az hetvenkilenc.*
8. *húszonkettő meg ötvenegy, az hetvenhárom.*
9. *hatvan meg tíz, az hetven.*
10. *hetvenöt meg hét, az nyolcvankettő.*

Lesson Eight Review

Lesson Eight was rather difficult with a lot of material. Make sure you have read and understand all of the fine points mentioned in the various notes in the grammar section. After Lesson Eight, you should now be able to recognize the patterns of Hungarian. I mean a couple things by this. First, The suffixes for the possessive should be very easy since they follow a pattern very similar to the verb suffixes. So by recognizing this similarity, you will become more proficient at using both verbal and possessive suffixes. Second, now you know that certain nouns seem to be irregular (take different link vowel like **házat**, drop a vowel like **éttermet**, etc.) consistently. In theory, grammar at the beginning can be very tough, but once you have an idea of the big picture things should begin to make more sense.

Here are some more sentences using the different possessive structures. In some sentences there are optional words in parentheses:

Két gyerekem van.

I have two children.

Since you don't yet know how to say 'I have children', or how to use the possessive suffixes with any plural noun, try to use a quantifier when you can, so that the noun with appear in singular.

A feleségem Magyarországon van.

My wife is in Hungary.

A férje az irodájából jön.

Her husband is coming from his office.

Egy üveg borom és két poharam (notice it takes link vowel **a**) van.

I have a bottle of wine and two glasses.

Mikor utazik az apád Angliába?

When is your father travelling to England?

Katinak nagy háza van.

Kati has a big house.

Additional Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

11. Mikor jössz Bécsbe?

12. Hány ember van a szállodában?

13. Én és feleségem a lengyel (Polish) barátunkhoz megyünk.

14. Csak (only) nyolcvankilenc forintom van. Hány van neked?

15. Most már értem. Köszi.

Translate the following into Hungarian:

16. I want to see your (formal) husband.

17. They don't want to travel to Moscow (Moszkva).

18. You (plural) don't know how to speak German (németül).

19. When does Eva work in her office?

20. We want to see Warsaw (Várso).

In the following sentences, give the appropriate Hungarian translation of the English word(s) in parentheses:

21. Szeretem a (your (plural) friend).

22. (Their house) nagyon szép.
23. (They are reading) a könyvet.
24. (Do you understand) a gyerekeket?
25. (They are eating) a gulyást.

Answers

11. *When are you coming to Vienna?*
12. *How many people are in the hotel?*
13. *My wife and I are going to our Polish friend's.*
14. *I only have 89 forints. How many to you have?*
15. *Now I understand. Thanks.*

16. *A férjét akarok látni.*
17. *Nem akarnak Moszkvába utazni.*
18. *Németül nem tudtok beszélni.*
19. *Mikor dolgozik Éva az irodájában.*
20. *Akarunk Vársót látni.*

21. *barátotokot (did you remember the accusative -ot? I did at first too...)*
22. *Házuk*
23. *Olvassák (remember j assimilates for verbs ending in s,sz,z).*
24. *Érted*
25. *Eszik*

Lesson Nine: Past Tense

Vocabulary

Grammar

The lesson will be done soon, please be patient! As with all new lessons, there are bound to be typos and accidental mistakes. Please let me know if you see any or if anything looks funny.

Vocabulary

The accusative suffix for each noun is given in parentheses

park (-ot) - park

játszik - to play

sör (-t) - beer

kávé (-t) - coffee

jegy (-et) - ticket

ad - to give

utca ('-t) - street

drága - expensive

olcsó - cheap

akkor - then

után - after (postposition: follows the noun) **vacsora** - dinner

kap - to get

Some sample sentences:

A gyerekek a parkban jatszanak.

The children are playing in the park.

A bor nagyon drága, de a sör olcsó.

Wine is very expensive, but beer is cheap.

Vacsora után kérek kávét.

After dinner, I want (to have) coffee.

Grammar

Past Tense: Indefinite and Definite Conjugations

Like the present tense, the verbs in the past tense have separate endings for the definite and indefinite conjugations, and of course different endings for front and back vowel verbs. Also like the present, verb stems ending in certain letters or letter combinations have special rules. The past tense is characterized by the letter **t** plus a suffix, which usually looks similar to the present tense suffix. However, it is more complicated than just that. Here are the suffixes for the past tense with the rules governing their use following:

Indefinite Conjugation

	singular	plural
1st person	-am, -em	-unk, -ünk
2nd person	-ál, -él	atok, -etek
3rd person	----	-ak, ek

Definite Conjugation

	singular	plural
1st person	-am, -em	-uk, -ük
2nd person	-ad, -ed	átok, -étek
3rd person	-a, -e	-ák, ék

The Very Important Rules:

When conjugating a verb in the past you must consider four things: person, vowel harmony, indefinite/definite, and which category it falls into (see below).

Category 1: Verb stems ending in **l, r, n, ny,** or **j** (e.g. tanul, kér) take **t** plus any of the suffixes (stem + **t** + suffix).

Category 2: Verb stems ending in 2 consonants (e.g. ért) OR **-ít** (e.g. tanít) OR monosyllabic stems ending in **t** (e.g. jut) take **ott/ett/ött** before the suffixes.

Category 3: All other stems take **t** before the suffix, EXCEPT in the 3rd person singular indefinite form which takes the suffix **ott/ett/ött** (+ zero suffix).

Note 1: The verbs **látni, küldeni, mondani** (to say), and **kezdeni** (to start) fall into category 3, NOT 2 as expected.

Note 2: Many verbs, including lenni *'to be'*, enni *'to eat'*, and inni *'to drink'* have irregular past tenses. As a rule, verbs with irregular infinitves have irregular pasts.

Here are some sample conjugations, followed by some sentences using the past tense:

kérni + t (category 1)

	indefinite	definite
1st sing.	kértem	kértem
2nd sing.	kértél	kérted
3rd sing.	kért	kérte
1st plural	kértünk	kértük
2nd plural	kértetek	kértétek
3rd plural	kértek	kérték

játszani + ott (category 2)

	indefinite	definite
1st sing.	játszottam	játszottam
2nd sing.	játszottál	játszottad
3rd sing.	játszott	játszotta
1st plural	játszottunk	játszottuk
2nd plural	játszottatok	játszottátok
3rd plural	játszottak	játszották

adni + t; except 3rd sing. indef. + ott (category 3)

	indefinite	definite
1st sing.	adtam	adtam
2nd sing.	adtál	adtad
3rd sing.	adott	adta
1st plural	adtunk	adtuk
2nd plural	adtatok	adtátok
3rd plural	adtak	adtátok

Source:

https://www.personal.psu.edu/adr10/hungarian.html