

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #2

An Exciting Day in Hungary

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Hungarian
 - Main
 - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#2

DIALOGUE - HUNGARIAN

MAIN

1. Anne : Halló, mit csinálsz?
2. Balázs : Halló, éppen tanulok és zenét hallgatok. És te?
3. Anne : Én éppen telefonálok.
4. Balázs : Ha-ha.
5. Anne : Na jó, csak ülök. Csinálunk valamit este?
6. Balázs : Naná. Mindjárt átmegyek.
7. Anne : Oké, várlak.

ENGLISH

1. Anne : Hello, what are you doing?
2. Balázs : Hello, I am studying and listening to music. How about you?
3. Anne : I am on the phone.
4. Balázs : Ha-ha.
5. Anne : All right, I'm just sitting around. Shall we do something tonight?
6. Balázs : Of course. I'm going over.
7. Anne : I'm waiting.

VOCABULARY

Hungarian	English	Class
zene	music	noun
tanul	study	verb
át-	over	prefix
ül	sit	verb
hallgatni	to listen to	verb
telefonál	make a phone call	verb
mindjárt	right away, soon	adverb
éppen	right now, just now	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sok féle zene van és még több alkategória. There are many types of music, and many more subgenres.	Vannak akik azt mondják, hogy a zene az univerzális nyelv. Some say music is the universal language.
zenei hangok music notes	A lány fejhallgatóval hallgat zenét. "The girl is listening to music with headphones."
A popzene nem jó. "Pop music isn't good."	jogot tanul study law
A gimnazisták a könyvtárban tanulnak. The high school students are studying in the library.	könyvtárban tanul study at a library
együtt tanul study together	A gimnazisták a könyvtárban tanultak. The high school students studied in the library.
Minden nap tanulok az iskolában aztán pedig otthon este három órát. I study every day at school, and for three hours each night.	Nagyon szeretek tanulni. "I like studying a lot."
A könyvtárban tanulok. "I am studying at the library."	Átülök melléd. "I'll switch seat to next to you."
A hullámlovas a kerítésen ül. "The surfer is sitting on the fence."	A szomorú tinédzser egyedül üldögél. "The sad teenager is sitting alone."
Bármilyen zenét meghallgatok. "I'll listen to any kind of music."	Az ember telefonál. "The person is making a telephone call."
Telefonálsz az enyémről? "Do you want to call from mine?" (use my phone)	Mindjárt kezdődik a film. "The movie is about to start."
Éppen telefonálok. "I'm on the phone."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Éppen

Éppen means "right now, at the moment, when." Since Hungarian doesn't differentiate between simple present (I do) and present continuous (I am doing), a lot of time a simple present sentence without the context, can be translated into English both ways. But if you see *éppen*, it is a continuous sentence.

For example:

1. *Éppen zuhanyozom.*
"I am taking a shower now."
2. *Tamás éppen alszik.*
"Thomas is sleeping right now."
3. *Éppen ebédelünk.*
"We're having lunch now."

Na jó

Na jó is similar to "all right" in English, as in the sentence:

1. *Na jó, kezdjük!*
"All right, let's begin."

With a different tone, it can also convey reluctant agreement:

1. *Na jó, neked adom a sütit.*
"All right, I'll give the cookie to you."
2. *Na jó, na jó, hallgatok rád.*
"All right, all right, I'll listen to you."

Mindjárt

You can start the sentence by saying *mindjárt*. It means "soon, right away."

For example:

1. *Mindjárt csengetek.*
"I'll ring the doorbell in a second."
2. *Mindjárt vége a sulinak.*
"School is over soon."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Hungarian Verb Conjugation System.

Halló, éppen tanulok és zenét hallgatok. És te?

"Hello, I am studying and listening to music. How about you?"

In this lesson, we are going to start cracking the Hungarian verb conjugation system.

The plan is to study all these nice and easy, not rushing things. Covering the entire verb conjugation system, even just for the present tense will take more than one lessons.

The first thing you should know is that Hungarian verbs conjugate differently for the same tense and the same person, depending on definite-indefinite nature of the following object. This is called definite conjugation and indefinite conjugation.

How do I know that the following noun is indefinite?

If the noun is preceded by the indefinite article *egy* "a, an," no article or quantities like *három, sok* ("three" and "many" respectively), you use the indefinite conjugation. You also use the indefinite conjugation with verbs that can't take objects (so called intransitive verbs) like "sleep," "go," "come," or *alszik, megy, jön*.

From the point of view of conjugation, Hungarian words can be divided into 3-6 groups. Most verbs are regular, this is the biggest group. The other groups include verbs ending in *-ik*, verbs ending in *-s, -z* or *-sz* and irregular verbs. Depending on the textbook, you may find this last group divided into further sub-groups.

Without further ado, here is the indefinite, present tense conjugation of regular verbs.

Person	Ending	Example (<i>szeret</i> - "love")
<i>én</i> "I"	<i>-ok, -ek, -ök</i>	<i>szeretek</i>
<i>te</i> "you"	<i>-sz</i>	<i>szeretsz</i>
<i>ő</i> "he, she it and you (formal)"	-	<i>szeret</i>
<i>mi</i> "we"	<i>-unk, -ünk</i>	<i>szeretünk</i>
<i>ti</i> "you, plural"	<i>-tok, -tek, -tök</i>	<i>szerettek</i>
<i>ők</i> "they"	<i>-nak, -nek</i>	<i>szeretnek</i>

How to use this table?

You grab a verb from the dictionary (chances are that it will be regular). Dictionaries will provide you with the third person singular form, to which you attach the necessary ending from this table.

I see more than one ending per row. Which one do I need?

You may have to go back to our lessons on vowel harmony. Depending on the vowels of the verb, you choose different endings. Simply put, if the verb has front vowels (*e, é, i, í, ü, ű, ö, ő*) you use the ending with a front vowel. If the verb has back vowels (*a, á, u, ú, o, ó*) use the ending with the back vowel. In case of mixed vowels, the last vowel determines the ending. If there are three different endings, the ones with *ö, ü* will go with verbs that have *ö* and *ü*.

Below is a list of regular verbs, see if you can find the ending for each person.

1. *rajzol*
"draw"
2. *üt*
"hit"
3. *kap*
"receive"
4. *ír*
"write"
5. *beszél*
"talk"
6. *tud*
"know, can"

This lesson was more about the necessary grammar background than actual examples. In our next lesson, you'll practice the conjugation of these regular verbs (you will be able to check your results for the ones above) and you'll also hear about other conjugation related facts as well.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Hungarian in Hollywood

You may be thinking that Hungarian is devilishly difficult, especially after that last grammar point. Well, you are not the only one. Every now and then Hungarian pops up in a Hollywood picture and is usually filed in the "weird and exotic" folder. Next time you're watching some of these big budget productions, keep your ears open for some Hungarian.

In the movie Blade Runner, Edward James Olmos speaks in a mixture of Hungarian, German and Spanish to Harrison Ford.

There is a long monologue delivered by a dying person in The Usual Suspect about the iconic Kayser Söze (which is not a Hungarian name).

This is somewhat unflattering, but the cannibalistic, ugly gnomes in the Van Helsing movie only speak Hungarian (very badly too).

You may catch a couple of sentences in The Whole Nine Yards, Eyes Wide Shut, The English Patient and Chicago, among many others.