

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #4

A Hectic Schedule in Hungary

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#4

DIALOGUE - HUNGARIAN

MAIN

1. Balázs : Mostanában sokat tanítasz?
2. Anne : Sokat. 24 órát egy héten.
3. Balázs : Az nagyon sok. Fordítasz is?
4. Anne : Nem tudok. Még csak kicsit tudok magyarul. Te mit mondasz?
5. Balázs : Szerintem nagyon jól beszélsz.
6. Anne : Na csend, még írnom kell egy kicsit.

ENGLISH

1. Balázs : Have you been teaching a lot recently?
2. Anne : Yes. 24 hours a week.
3. Balázs : That is a lot. Do you also do translations?
4. Anne : I can't. I can only speak a bit of Hungarian yet. What do you think?
5. Balázs : I think you speak very well.
6. Anne : All right, keep quiet, I have to write a bit more.

VOCABULARY

Hungarian	English	Class
hét	week	noun
tanít	teach	verb
mond	tell, say	verb
fordít	translate	verb
tud	know, can	verb
csend	silence	noun
mostanában	recently	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ez a hét jó volt. "This week was good."	Történelmet tanítok. I teach history.
A nő a gyerekeket tanítja. The woman is teaching the children.	tart egy órát teach a lesson
valakinek tanít teach to	A tanár az osztályt tanítja. The teacher is teaching the class.
A tanár az osztályt tanította. The teacher taught the class.	osztályt tanít teach a class
A tanár tanítja a gyerekeket a tanteremben. "The teacher is teaching the kids in the classroom."	Mit mond? "What is he/she saying?"
Fordítasz nekem? "Will you translate for me?"	Tudok egy jó helyet. "I know a good place."
Abban nem tud segíteni. "He can't help you with that."	Nem tudom a nevét. "I don't know his/her name."
Ez a lakás csendes? "Is this apartment quiet?"	Mostanában keveset eszem. "I haven't been eating much recently."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Mostanában

Mostanában is an adverb that means "nowadays, recently." As usual, since Hungarian doesn't have perfect tenses, you can simply put it in front of any kind of present tense sentence:

1. *Mostanában sokat dolgozom.*
2. "I've been working a lot recently."
3. *Mostanában nem kívánom a húst.*
4. "I haven't been feeling like eating meat at all recently."

Te mit mondasz

The literal translation for *te mit mondasz* is "what do you say." We use it in a context where you're asking for the other speaker's opinion or reassurance. The verb is *mond* or in second person singular: *mondasz*.

Ez így jó lesz. Te mit mondasz?

"This will do just fine. What's your opinion?"

Csend

Csend means silence, and it can also be used as a command. Unless you're talking to your friends, simply shouting *csend* is not a polite way to get attention (although you will get some).

If you want to ask your audience to shut up, you might want to say: *Egy kis csendet kérek*. "A bit of silence, please." This is an acceptable way to start speaking, even in formal circumstances.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on how to Conjugate Regular Verbs

Mostanában sokat tanítasz?

"Have you been teaching a lot recently?"

This is our third lesson on present tense, indefinite conjugation. In this lesson we're going to learn to conjugate another group of verbs, the ones that require linking vowels.

First, here is the conjugation table we've had so far (last lesson):

Person	Endings	Szeret - "love," front vowels	Tanul - "study," back vowels
én "I"	-ok, -ek, -ök	<i>szeretek</i>	<i>tanulok</i>
te "you"	-sz	<i>szeretsz</i>	<i>tanulsz</i>
ő "he, she it and you (formal)"	-	<i>szeret</i>	<i>tanul</i>
mi "we"	-unk, -ünk	<i>szeretünk</i>	<i>tanulunk</i>
ti "you, plural"	-tok, -tek, -tök	<i>szerettek</i>	<i>tanultok</i>
ők "they"	-nak, -nek	<i>szeretnek</i>	<i>tanulnak</i>

This one contains a front and a back vowel verb and you are supposed to be familiar with this terminology already.

In this lesson however, we have encountered three interesting verbs:

1. *tanít*
"teach"
2. *mond*
"say"

3. *fordít*
"translate"

These verbs are also considered regular. However, their conjugation will be somewhat different from the ones above. Here is a table with some highlighted elements, than a short explanation will follow.

Person	Endings	<i>Tanít</i> - "teach"	<i>Mond</i> - "say"	<i>Fordít</i> - "translate"
<i>én</i> "I"	-ok, -ek, -ök	<i>tanítok</i>	<i>mondok</i>	<i>fordítok</i>
<i>te</i> "you"	-asz, -esz	<i>tanítasz</i>	<i>mondasz</i>	<i>fordítasz</i>
<i>ő</i> "he, she it and you (formal)"	-	<i>tanít</i>	<i>mond</i>	<i>fordít</i>
<i>mi</i> "we"	-unk, -ünk	<i>tanítunk</i>	<i>mondunk</i>	<i>fordítunk</i>
<i>ti</i> "you, plural"	-otok, -etek, -ötök	<i>tanítotok</i>	<i>mondotok (mondtok)</i>	<i>fordítotok</i>
<i>ők</i> "they"	-anak, -enek	<i>tanítanak</i>	<i>mondanak</i>	<i>fordítanak</i>

If you look at this table carefully you'll see that it is almost exactly the same as the usual one, but second person singular and plural, as well as third person plural all got an extra vowel. Here is the reason: certain verbs require a so called connecting or linking vowel (highlighted) between them and the appropriate ending. This is usually because the ending starts with a consonant and the verb ends in a consonant as well. To avoid the awkward pronunciation, we add an extra vowel that is also determined by the vowel harmony rules.

The verbs that usually take a linking vowel in 2nd person singular, 2nd and 3rd person plural are verbs that:

- end in *-ít*, like *tanít*, *fordít*.
- end in two different consonants: *mond*.
- and sometimes ends in two of the same consonant: *hall* "hear."

Again, we consider them to be regular verbs (from the point of view of conjugation) that need linking vowels.

Here are a couple more examples:

1. *hevít*
"heat up"
2. *fenyít*
"discipline"
3. *fest*
"paint"
4. *küld*
"send"

5. *ment*
"save, rescue"

6. *hasít*
"slice"

Try to find the appropriate conjugation for the problematic persons and you can check your answers in our next lesson.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Hungarian Loanwords in English

Identifying the source of loanwords in Europe is not always very straightforward, since in a relatively small area you may find a large number of different languages living together. Just looking at Hungarian, which is surrounded by different Slavic and Germanic languages (and has received the influence of Turkic as well) you can imagine how complicated it is to trace the origins of single words. However there are some words in the English language where there is a consensus about their Hungarian origin.

"*Biro*" (or ballpoint pen) is definitely one of these. The object is named after the inventor, László Bíró. Not many people know this, but the phrase "itsy-bitsy" comes from Hungarian *ici-pici*. Also, the words "shako" (*csákó*) and "hussar" (*huszár*) got into English via other European languages. Finally, though there are counterarguments to this theory, the word "coach" started its way from the village of Kocs in Hungary, where the steel-spring suspension for carts was invented. Today, as you probably know already, *kocsi* means "car."