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HUNGARIAN FOR BEGINNERS

GRAMMAR with explanation

MAGYAR NYELV KÜLFÖLDIEKNEK

Hungarian for beginners

Grammar with explanation

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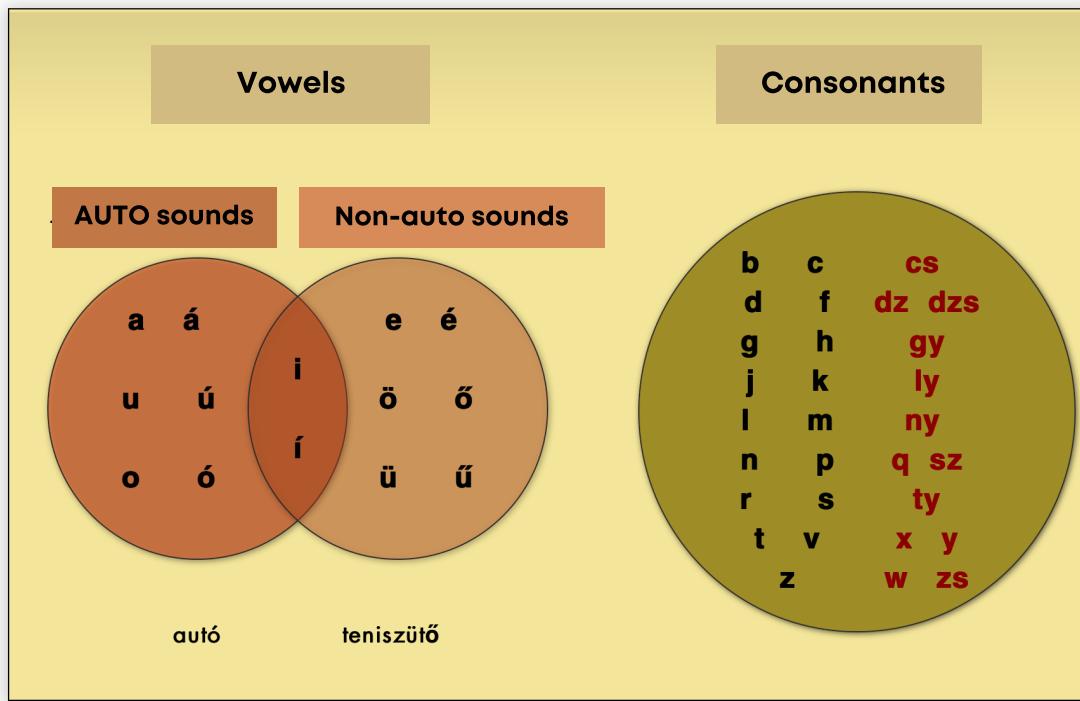
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A magyar ábécé

A Á B C CS D DZ
DZS E É F G GY H
I Í J K L LY M N
NY O Ó Ö Ő P Q
R S SZ T TY U Ú
Ü Ś X Y V W Z ZS



Vowels and consonants



Vowels and consonants

Hungarian has a quite different sounds system than English:

- You have to pronounce everything as it is written (Hungarian has a phonetical writing system).
- There are no diphthongs (when two vowels belong to one syllable).
- There are no reduced sounds (sounds that sound shorter or not at all sometimes).
- There are long vowels and short vowels. Long vowels have a point and long vowels have a strike: **á, é, í, ó,ő, ú, ű** are long.
- If a consonant is long we write it with two letters: **hal** (kort), **hall** (lang). You have to pronounce them twice as long.
- If a double letter is long we write only the first one twice: **meggy**, **asszony**, **hattú**.

The vowel harmony:

- Vowels are devided into two groups: back (**auto**) vowels and front (**non-auto**) vowels.
- Most words consist of only auto or only non-auto sounds. They are called auto words or non-auto words. Mixed words come from other languages (Latin, French, English) or they exist because the word is made of two words (**könyvtár**).
- There are linking vowels at suffixes. Almost all endings have at least 2 variants:

ház + ban, kert + ben

Auto words use a suffix with an auto linking vowel and non-auto words get a suffix with a non-auto vowel.

Mik?

I/a. -k

autók, ajtók, vevők, cipők

I/b. -'k

almák, leckék

II. -ok/-ak

asztalok, házak

III. -ek/-ök

székek, füzetek; mérnökök, törökök

-k

-'k

-ok

-ak

-ek

-ök



autó



autók

autó + k



alma



almák

alma + 'k



asztal



asztalok

asztal + ok



ház



házak

ház + ak



szék



székek

szék + ek



gyümölcs



gyümölcsök

gyümölcs + ök

The plural

The suffix for the plural is -k.

Good to know:

- If a word ends on a vowel than we put the -k immediately after the root:

autó - autók

- If a word ends on an -a or -e this will change to an -á or -é:

alma - almák

lecke - leckék

- If a word ends on a consonant than it is necessary to use a linking vowel. The linking vowel depends on if a word an auto word or a non-auto word is:

ház - házak

szék - székek



Én

singular	én te (tegező) ő	ön/maga (magázó)
plural	mi ti (tegező) ők	önök/maguk (magázó)

Personal pronouns

én	=	I
te	=	you
ő	=	he/ she / it
mi	=	we
ti	=	you (all)
ők	=	they

ön / maga	=	you (formal)
önök / maguk	=	you all (formal)

Good to know:

- Hungarian is gender neutral. There is only one word for he, she or it: ő
- The word **te** (you) is used for informal, **ön** or **maga** is formal.
- The Hungarian word for informal is: **tegez**. The word for formal is: **magáz**.

Vagyok

(Én)	magyar	diák	vagyok.
(Te) (tegező)			vagy.
Ön (magázó)			-
Ő			-
(Mi)	magyar	diákok	vagyunk.
(Ti) (tegező)			vagytok.
Önök (magázó)			-
Ők			-



The verb 'to be'

Hungarian is a gluing language: it works as LEGO. We build all words from small pieces. Every word has a **root**, this gets one or more **suffixes** that are glued onto it.

Verbs get a different suffix for every person. The 3rd person singular (he/she/it) has only the root.

The verb 'to be' (**van**) is typically omitted in the 3rd person singular:

Gábor orvos.

A gyerekek kicsik.



A, az, egy

az + autó, alma, asztal

a + lecke, ház, szék

egy autó, alma, asztal, lecke, szék, ház

The artical

The definite article ('the') has two forms: **a** en **az**.

- **a** is used if the word ends on a consonant:
a lecke, a ház, a szék
- **az** is used if the word ends on a vowel:
az autó, az alma, az asztal

The indefinite article ('a/an') has one form: **egy**.