Hungarian Language Course

http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/a/d/adr10/hungarian.html

Introduction

Magyar (pronounced /Madyar/), 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 from them 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
The following consonants 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'
i 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: ö 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 ö, 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

*magyar* (Remember *gy* is pronounced like *dy*) - Hungarian
*ágen* - yes
*nem* - no, not
*angol* - English
*amerikai* (Pronounce the last two vowels separately) - American
*nyelv* - language
*szép* - beautiful
*itt* - here
*nő* - woman
*férfi* - man
*nagy* - very
*város* - city
*és* - and
*vagy* - 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':

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Hungarian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am</td>
<td>én vagyok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are</td>
<td>mi vagyunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are</td>
<td>te vagy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You (plural) are</td>
<td>ti vagytok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He, She, It is</td>
<td>Ő van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are</td>
<td>Ők vannak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** There is also a personal pronoun 'magya' 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)

*Magya 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.* (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.
Lesson Two: More Basics

Vocabulary

ott - there
Mi? - What?
Ki? - Who?
az - that (different from the definite article - 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?
ey - 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' (In French, for example, there is 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. (Sziaszto 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back Vowels</th>
<th>Front Vowels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a á o ó u ú</td>
<td>é é i í ö ö ü ü</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 -ő, ŏ, ų, ųũ- sub-category. This may seem confusing at first, but take a look at some sample words and it may seem clearer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back Words</th>
<th>Front Words</th>
<th>Front ű, ŏ, ų, ųũ Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>asztal</td>
<td>étterem</td>
<td>ül</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barát</td>
<td>üveg</td>
<td>külföld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gulyás</td>
<td>keres</td>
<td>küld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virág</td>
<td>ütlevél (compound)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

Lesson Three: Intro to Verbs & More

Vocabulary
- tanul - he, she, it studies, learns
- ért - he, she, it understands
- beszél - he, she, it speaks
- lakik - he lives
- eszik - he eats (irregular infinitive 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st person</th>
<th>2nd person</th>
<th>3rd person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-ok, -ek, -ők</td>
<td>-sz</td>
<td>--nothing--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-unk, -ünk</td>
<td>-tok, -tek, -tök</td>
<td>-nak, -nek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 ő,ő,ü,ű verbs.

Look at the following three tables for the conjugations of the back verb 'tanul' and the front verbs 'beszéd' and 'ül'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tanulni - to study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>én tanulok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te tanulsz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ő/maga tanul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>beszélni - to speak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>én beszélek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te beszélsz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ő/maga beszéd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the following table, only the suffixes which differ from a regular front verb are in **boldface**.
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 too) is conjugated: eszem, eszel, eszik, eszünk, esztek, esznek.

3. Verb stems ending in two consonants or -it 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.
Lesson Four: Using Verbs

Vocabulary
For all nouns, the accusative suffix (see below) is given in parentheses
ház (-at) - house
ismer - to know (to be acquainted with, French 'connaître')
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')

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 pincéért.
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,sz,z)
What are you reading?

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 (it doesn't take 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.
Look at some English examples to get a better understanding:

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

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*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>-om, -em, -öm</td>
<td>-juk, -jük</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>-od, -ed, -öd</td>
<td>-játok, -itek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>-ja, -i</td>
<td>-ják, -ik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**tudni** - to know

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>én</td>
<td>tudom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>tudod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ő</td>
<td>tudja</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**értani** - to understand

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>én</td>
<td>értem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>érted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ő</td>
<td>érti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**küldeni** - to send

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>én</td>
<td>küldöm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>küldöd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ő</td>
<td>küldi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 the 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.
Review: Lessons One to Four

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 an 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:

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, kőszőnöm. 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 'Kőszőnöm szépen' or 'Nagyon szépen kőszőnöm', 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 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 -olf/-olf/-ol, as opposed to -sz. The last group of exceptions includes verb stems ending in -lt (Note that the i 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 beszél (egy) magyarat.
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 means '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:

2. Éva ismeri Pétert?
4. Nem látk a 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.
Lesson Five: Motion

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

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 is always in singular.

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 where 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>én megyek</th>
<th>mi megyünk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>te mész</td>
<td>ti mentek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ő megy</td>
<td>Ők mennek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Are you going to Budapest now?

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.

Hová 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.

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:

1. Peter is in the restaurant.
2. I am going to the hotel now.
3. Where are they going?
4. There is no car in the house!
5. Are you going to London or to Budapest?

Conjugate the verb ‘Menni’ with the personal pronouns.
Lesson Six: Location and Numbers 1-10

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjugation</th>
<th>Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>én jövök</td>
<td>mi jövünk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te jössz</td>
<td>ti jöttök</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Őjön</td>
<td>Ők jönnek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

In the 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Honnan?</th>
<th>Hol?</th>
<th>Hová?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an enclosed space</td>
<td>ból/ből 'from'</td>
<td>ban/ben 'in'</td>
<td>ba/be 'to,into'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on some surface</td>
<td>ról/ről 'from'</td>
<td>link vowel +N 'on'</td>
<td>ra/re 'onto, to'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a point in space</td>
<td>tól/től 'from'</td>
<td>nál/nél 'at'</td>
<td>hoz/hez/höz 'to'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 szállodához' 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.
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.
Lesson Seven: Plural and Numbers 10 to 100

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:
tizenne - 11
negyen - 40
tizenkettő - 12
negyvenegy - 41
tizenhárom - 13
negyvennégy - 44
tizennégy - 14
ötven - 50
tizenöt - 15
ötvenöt - 55
tizenhat - 16
hatvan - 60
tizenhét - 17
hetven - 70
tizennyolc - 18
nyolcvan - 80
tizenkilenc - 19
kilencven - 90
húsz - 20
száz - 100
huszongy - 21
huszonkettő - 22
harminc - 30
harmincegy - 31
harminchárom - 33

Notes:
- Make sure to pronounce tizennegy (11) and tizenne (14) differently.
- Note that for numbers four and above, the suffix van/ven is used for numbers 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 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 letter 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 at the following table giving nouns plus their accusative and plural forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nyelv</td>
<td>nyelvet</td>
<td>nyelvek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barát</td>
<td>barátot</td>
<td>barátok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kútya</td>
<td>kutyát</td>
<td>kutyák</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ház</td>
<td>házat</td>
<td>házak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>város</td>
<td>várost</td>
<td>városok</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

1. Do you (plural) see those old trees?
2. The children are in the house.
3. There are thirty boys and twenty girls in the school.
4. Kati and János are in Budapest.
5. These dogs are drinking water.
Lesson Eight: Possession

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>word ends in vowel</th>
<th>word ends in consonant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st singular</td>
<td>-m</td>
<td>-om/-em/-öm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd singular</td>
<td>-d</td>
<td>-od/-ed/-öd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd singular</td>
<td>-ja/-je</td>
<td>-a/-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st plural</td>
<td>-nk</td>
<td>-unk/-ünk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd plural</td>
<td>-tok/-tek/-tök</td>
<td>-otok/-etek/-ötök</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd plural</td>
<td>-jük/-júk</td>
<td>-uk/-ük</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- 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 person 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, városon, városunk, városotek, 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 férfjem 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 'ne kem van pénz em'. The declension of nek- is: ne kem, ne ked, ne ki, mag án ak, ne kün k, ne tek, ne ki k, mag uk n ak (to me, to you, to him/her, etc...).

Words in parentheses are optional:

(Mag án ak) Van tér ké pe?
Do you (polite) have a map?

(Nek ik) van kocs i j uk. Az (ő) kocs i j uk tú l nag y.
They have a car. Their car is too big.

Note: ő is always used instead of Ő in a possessive structure. The suffix -j uk is enough to denote the plural 'their'

Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Az ő háza tú l nag y.
2. A pén z em a há z ban van.
3. Ma a bar átom ho z ak ar ok menn i.
4. Saj nos, nincs kuty á n ak. A fe les é g em nem szer et i.
5. A fé r j ed mag y ar?

Translate the following into Hungarian:

6. I have a big, pretty map.
7. Peter doesn't have a car.
9. Where is your wife?
10. The Hungarian book is too difficult.

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

Example: aut ó m → aut ó n k
11. tér ké ped
12. ú jsá gia
13. kö nyv em
14. kocs i ja
15. ét ter med

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

Example: há z uk → há za
16. aut ó tok
17. tan á r un k
18. bar á t j uk
19. gy ere ke t ek
20. kuty án k
Review: Lessons Five to Eight

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: Hol van Róma? Franciaországban?*
*Tamás: Nem! Róma Olaszországban van.*
*Gyula: Most már (already) tudom. Honnan mész? Budapestről?*
*Gyula: Értem. Jó utat!*
*Tamás: Kösz! 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* in front of nouns.

*Kilenc gyerek akarok.*
I want nine children.

*Három egyetem van Philadelphia.*
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>étlap</td>
<td>étlapok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ember</td>
<td>emberek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asztal</td>
<td>asztalok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>étterem</td>
<td>éttermek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>egyetemista</td>
<td>egyetemisták</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>név</td>
<td>nevek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>levél (letter)</td>
<td>levelek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dolg (thing)</td>
<td>dolgok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>család (family)</td>
<td>családok</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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 férfje az irodájából jön.*
  Her husband is coming from his office.
- *Egy üveg borom és két poharam* (notice that it takes the 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?

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.
Lesson Nine: Past Tense

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indefinite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>-am, -em</td>
<td>-unk, -ünk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>-ál, -él</td>
<td>-atok, -etek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>-ak, ek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>-am, -em</td>
<td>-uk, -ük</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>-ad, -ed</td>
<td>-átok, -éttek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>-a, -e</td>
<td>-ák, ék</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 could be 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 infinitives have irregular pasts.

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

**Kérni + t (category 1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>indefinite</th>
<th>definite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st sing.</td>
<td>kértem</td>
<td>kértem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd sing.</td>
<td>kértél</td>
<td>kérte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd sing.</td>
<td>kért</td>
<td>kérte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st plural</td>
<td>kértünk</td>
<td>kértük</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd plural</td>
<td>kértetek</td>
<td>kértétek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd plural</td>
<td>kértek</td>
<td>kérték</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Játszani + ott (category 2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>indefinite</th>
<th>definite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st sing.</td>
<td>játszottam</td>
<td>játszottam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd sing.</td>
<td>játszottál</td>
<td>játszottad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd sing.</td>
<td>játszott</td>
<td>játszotta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st plural</td>
<td>játszottunk</td>
<td>játszottuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd plural</td>
<td>játszottatok</td>
<td>játszottátok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd plural</td>
<td>játszottak</td>
<td>játszották</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>indefinite</th>
<th>definite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st sing.</td>
<td>adtam</td>
<td>adtam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd sing.</td>
<td>adtá</td>
<td>adtad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd sing.</td>
<td>adott</td>
<td>adta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st plural</td>
<td>adtunk</td>
<td>adtuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd plural</td>
<td>adtatok</td>
<td>adtatók</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd plural</td>
<td>adtak</td>
<td>adtatók</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answers to Exercises

Lesson One
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.
10. Igen, itt vagyunk.

Lesson Two
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 vagyunk.

Lesson Three
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. Ő is ül itt.
9. Hol tanultok?
10. Az a pincér dolgozik az étteremben.

Lesson Four
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.
7. Látod ott a nőt?
8. Ez a ház nagyon szép.
10. A városban lakunk.
Review: Lessons One to Four

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?
8. Ez az autó nagyon nagy.
9. Szeretem ezt a nagy házat.
10. Egy gulyást kérek.

11. Eszed
12. Beszélek
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 olvaskanak
definite - én olvasom, te olvasd, ő olvassa, mi olvassuk, ti olvassátok, ők olvassák
Answers to Exercises

Lesson Five
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
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.
8. Ma utazom Magyarországra.
9. Tíz ember van a házban.
11. New York-ból Bécsbe vagy Budapestre mész?
12. Szeretek a moziba menni.

Jönni: Jövők, jössz, jön, jövünk, jöttök, jönnek.

Lesson Seven
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.
10. Ezek a kutyák vizet isznak.

Lesson Eight
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?
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. baráta
19. gyereked
20. kutyám
Review: Lessons Five to Eight

1. egy meg három, az négy.
2. kettő meg tizenöt, az tizenhét.
3. tízenegy meg húszonnégy, az harmincöt.
4. húszonnőt meg harmincnégy, az hatvanhárom.
5. kilencvenkilenc meg egy, az száz.
6. nyolcvennégy meg tizenkettő, 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.
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 Városát látni.
21. barátotokot (Did you remember the accusative -ot ?)
22. Házuk
23. Olvassák (Remember that j assimilates for verbs ending in s,sz,z).
24. Érted
25. Eszik