

FOREWORD

The main goal while editing *How to Say it in Hungarian?* was to help even those with only a basic foundation in Hungarian in finding the essential sentences, phrases and expressions used in daily life. The book provides guidance in all relevant speech situations.

The Conversation part contains typical sentences and often-used expressions for everyday subjects in English and Hungarian, broken down into 16 topics. Besides finding accommodation, shopping, eating, leisure and the weather, the book also lists modern phrases and sentences related to the internet and electronic payment. The lines below each other can usually be interpreted as dialogues, but sentences may sometimes be incomplete, as is often the case in everyday speech.

In the sentences included here, the “/” sign between words and parts of speech indicates an option or choice for readers.

The pronoun of address in Hungarian is threefold: *te*, *ön*, *maga*, the use of each being regulated by fairly intricate and by no means clear-cut social conventions. To simplify the matter it may be suggested that *te* is used in addressing children and intimate friends, especially of one’s own sex; *ön* is applied to strangers and formal acquaintances and *maga* to one of the opposite sex with whom one is getting, or wishes to get, better acquainted.

Throughout the book we have given that pronoun form which seemed most appropriate to the imagined situation and the speech context. Where in the vast majority of cases this was not possible, we constructed the sentence with *ön* (pl. *önök*), believing this polite form to be the most necessary one for a foreign visitor. It must be added, however, that since the conjugated Hungarian verb can itself express person, often no pronoun is needed and, in fact, many people simply avoid the awkward rivalry between them by using none at all. Wherever this can be done conveniently, we follow this practice.

In order to facilitate the pronunciation of the words and sentences, *How to Say it in Hungarian?* offers a summary table of the letters and how they are pronounced in Hungarian speech.

This English–Hungarian phrase-book and conversation guide is primarily intended for visitors from English-speaking countries. It also comes in handy for those looking to work in Hungary for a longer period.

How to Say it in Hungarian? draws on heavily the *Angol társalgási zsebkönyv* (English Conversation Pocket Book) by Ádám Makkai and Ágnes Makkai Arany (TINTA Könyvkiadó, 2012).

Hungarian Pronunciation

Letter	Name		IPA sound	Example, explanation (closest equivalent, ¹ received pronunciation) ²
A, a	a	alma	/ɒ/	~ hot, ~ what
Á, á	á	álmos	/a:/	~ baa, ~ father, ~ dance
B, b	bé	baba	/b/	b aby, b y, a bsence, b all
bb	hosszú b	abba	/b:/	
C, c	cé	cica	/ts/	i ts, t sunami, p ots
cc	hosszú cé	vicc	/ts:/	
Cs, cs	csé	család	/tʃ/	ch urch, ch ildren, ch eck
ccs	hosszú csé	loccsan	/tʃ:/	
D, d	dé	dob	/d/	w ide, d eck, d awn
dd	hosszú dé	karddal	/d:/	
Dz, dz	dzé	edző	/dz/	a dze, k ids
Dzs, dzs	dzsé	dzsungel	/dʒ/	j am, b ridge, e dge, f ridge

¹ The sounds with no identical counterpart in received pronunciation are marked with a tilde.

² Note that in Hungarian, word-initial sounds are unaspirated.

E, e	e	ember	/ɛ:/	less, edge, bed, set
É, é	é	él	/e:/	~ hey, ~ fail, ~ hate, ~ say
F, f	ef	fa	/f/	fish, fellow
ff	hosszú ef	blöff	/f:/	
G	gé	galamb	/g/	go, give, gamble
gg	hosszú gé	függ	/g:/	
Gy, gy	gyé	gyerek	/j/	~ during, ~ duke, ~ dew, ~ due
ggy	hosszú gyé	gyönggyel	/j:/	
H, h	há	hó	/h/	hi, human, hollow, behind
hh	hosszú há	ahhoz	/h:/	
I, i	i	szik	/i/	thin, thick, it
Í, í	hosszú i	ír	/i:/	bee, leave, sea
J, j	jé	jó	/j/	you, yes
jj	hosszú jé	újjal	/j:/	
K, k	ká	kalap	/k/	key, kiss, weak
kk	hosszú ká	akkor	/k:/	
L, l	el	ló	/l/	leave, list, lamb
ll	hosszú el	áll	/l:/	
Ly, ly	el ipszilon	lyukas	/j/	you, yes
lly	hosszú el ipszilon	gally	/j:/	
M, m	em	mama	/m/	miracle, mind, assume, might
mm	hosszú m	semmi	/m:/	
N, n	en	néz	/n/	need, bone
nn	hosszú en	onnan	/n:/	
Ny, ny	eny	nyúl	/ɲ/	~ new, ~ canyon
nny	hosszú ny	annyira	/ɲ:/	
O, o	o	orvos	/o/	~ font, ~ octopus, ~ bond
Ó, ó	hosszú o	óra	/o:/	~ all, ~ tall, ~ ball
Ö, ö	ö	öv	/ø/	~ ago, ~ letter
Ő, ő	hosszú ö	őz	/ø:/	~ Boeing, ~ bird, ~ early, ~ burn, ~ curl
P, p	pé	pók	/p/	peas, apricot, hope, hope

pp	hosszú p	éppen	/p:/	
Q, q	kú	Aquincum		coup [the whole word]
R, r	er	róka	/r/	red
rr	hosszú r	orr	/r:/	
S, s	es	sajt	/ʃ/	ship, wash, shave
ss	hosszú es	lassan	/ʃ:/	
Sz, sz	esz	szép	/s/	say, said, estimate
ssz	hosszú esz	összel	/s:/	
T, t	té	tányér	/t/	tell, feast, least
tt	hosszú té	miatta	/t:/	
Ty	tyé	tyúk	/c/	~ tube , ~ stew , ~ stewart , ~ Tuesday
tty	hosszú tyé	pötty	/c:/	
U, u	u	utca	/u/	~ bull , ~ good , ~ put , ~ foot
Ú, ú	hosszú u	út	/u:/	~ do , ~ fool , ~ rule , ~ root
Ü, ü	ü	ül	/y/	French ~ Tu parles An- glais?
Ű, ű	hosszú ü	űrhajó	/y:/	German ~ Führer
V, v	vé	vág	/v/	every, very, vigor
vv	hosszú vé	avval	/v:/	
W, w	dupla vé	watt	/v/	view, vacuum
X, x	iksz	xilofon	/x/	ex
Y, y	ipszilon	Őry (name)	/i/	happy
Z, z	zé	zebra	/z/	zoo, zebra, desert, roses
zz	hosszú zé	azzal	/z:/	
Zs, zs	zsé	zsák	/ʒ/	pleasure, leisure, genre
zsz	hosszú zsé	rozzsal	/ʒ:/	