HU

HUNGARIAN LESSON

# Hungarian Grammar 2 · Chapter 5 · Where To?

# Hungarian Grammar 2

Chapter 5 · Where To? Into, Onto, Toward

## ➡️ Where To — Hova?

*The second row of the grid answers **Hova?** (Where to?). It has three cases: **-ba / -be** (into), **-ra / -re** (onto) and **-hoz / -hez / -höz** (to, towards). The rule is the one you learned in Chapter 4: whatever place took a static case there takes the matching "to" case here. This chapter shows the match and adds the verbs that need these cases.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The "to" case matches the "where" case: **-ban / -ben → -ba / -be** (into), **-on / -en / -ön → -ra / -re** (onto), **-nál / -nél → -hoz / -hez / -höz** (to a person or spot). Once you know a place takes *-ban*, you know it takes *-ba*; once it takes *-on*, it takes *-ra*.

## 1. The forms

| CASE | BACK | FRONT | FRONT, ROUNDED |
|---|---|---|---|
| Illative (into) | -ba | -be | -be |
| Sublative (onto) | -ra | -re | -re |
| Allative (to, towards) | -hoz | -hez | -höz |

All three begin with a consonant, so a final *a* or *e* lengthens before them, just as before *-ban* in Chapter 4: **fa → fába, fára, fához**.

| STEM | INTO | ONTO | TO |
|---|---|---|---|
| ház | házba | házra | házhoz |
| kert | kertbe | kertre | kerthez |
| tükör | tükörbe | tükörre | tükörhöz |

| STEM | INTO | ONTO | TO |
|---|---|---|---|
| fa | fá**ba** | fá**ra** | fá**hoz** |
| autó | autó**ba** | autó**ra** | autó**hoz** |

## 2. The match with Chapter 4

Take the pairs from Chapter 4 and move them one row down the grid. The same sorting rules apply: enclosed space, surface, and person.

| PLACE | WHERE? (CHAPTER 4) | WHERE TO? (THIS CHAPTER) |
|---|---|---|
| house | **házban** | **házba** |
| school | **iskolában** | **iskolába** |
| bag | **táskában** | **táskába** |
| Vienna | **Bécsben** | **Bécsbe** |
| France | **Franciaországban** | **Franciaországba** |
| Győr | **Győrben** | **Győrbe** |
| table | **asztalon** | **asztalra** |
| street | **utcán** | **utcára** |
| bus | **buszon** | **buszra** |
| university | **egyetemen** | **egyetemre** |
| post office | **postán** | **postára** |
| Budapest | **Budapesten** | **Budapestre** |
| Hungary | **Magyarországon** | **Magyarországra** |
| Szeged | **Szegeden** | **Szegedre** |

| PLACE | WHERE? (CHAPTER 4) | WHERE TO? (THIS CHAPTER) |
|---|---|---|
| my friend | **a barátomnál** | **a barátomhoz** |
| the doctor | **az orvosnál** | **az orvoshoz** |
| the entrance | **a bejáratnál** | **a bejárathoz** |

> **The traps: -ba or -ra?**
>
> Some everyday places are the opposite of what English suggests. You go **iskolába** (to school) but **egyetemre** (to university), **postára** (to the post office), **pályaudvarra** (to the station), **koncertre** (to a concert) and **piacra** (to the market). You go **moziba** (to the cinema), **színházba** (to the theatre), **bankba** (to the bank) and **munkába** (to work). Learn each place with the pair from Chapter 4.

# 3. Verbs that use the "to" cases

## Movement: going, coming, travelling

| HUNGARIAN | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| **Az iskolába megyek.** | I'm going to school. |
| **Budapestre utazom.** | I'm travelling to Budapest. |
| **A barátomhoz jövök.** | I'm coming to my friend's. |
| **Szegedre érkezünk.** | We arrive in Szeged. |
| **Felszállok a vonatra.** | I get on the train. |

## Placing: putting something somewhere

A verb that moves an object into place (*tesz* put, *rak* place, *tölt* pour, *vesz* take out of the box) takes the "to" case for the destination. The static verb *van* takes the case from Chapter 4. Compare the pair:

| STATIC (CHAPTER 4) | MOVING (THIS CHAPTER) |
|---|---|
| **A telefon az asztalon van.**<br>The phone is on the table. | **A telefont az asztalra teszem.**<br>I put the phone on the table. |
| **A kábel a szekrényben van.**<br>The cable is in the cupboard. | **A kábelt a szekrénybe rakom.**<br>I put the cable in the cupboard. |
| **Nálad van a kulcs.**<br>You have the key. | **Hozzád viszem a kulcsot.**<br>I'm taking the key to you. |

### Beyond movement: -ra / -re for "for" and "by"

The sublative has uses far from places. After a time word it means *by* or *for* a deadline, and after a noun it often means *for* a purpose.

| HUNGARIAN | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| **Szombatra kész lesz.** | It will be ready by Saturday. |
| **Kávéra hívlak.** | I'm inviting you for a coffee. |
| **Vacsorára maradsz?** | Are you staying for dinner? |

## 4. The pronoun forms

As in Chapter 4, the personal pronouns have their own forms with these cases.

| PERSON | INTO | ONTO | TO |
|---|---|---|---|
| I | **belém** | **rám** | **hozzám** |
| you (sg) | **beléd** | **rád** | **hozzád** |
| he, she | **belé** | **rá** | **hozzá** |
| we | **belénk** | **ránk** | **hozzánk** |
| you (pl) | **belétek** | **rátok** | **hozzátok** |

| PERSON | INTO | ONTO | TO |
|---|---|---|---|
| they | **beléjük** | **rájuk** | **hozzájuk** |

| HUNGARIAN | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| **Hozzám jössz szombaton?** | Are you coming to my place on Saturday? |
| **Mit szólsz hozzá?** | What do you say to that? |
| **Rád gondolok.** | I'm thinking of you. |

The question words are **Hova?** (where to), **Mibe?** (into what), **Mire?** (onto what) and **Kihez?** (to whom). A few adverbs need no case: **ide** (to here), **oda** (to there) and **haza** (home, to one's home). They are the "to" partners of *itt, ott, otthon* from Chapter 4.

> **Watch out: -hoz is not the dative**
>
> From Chapter 3, *-nak / -nek* gives the receiver and *-hoz / -hez / -höz* gives the destination. **Adok a barátomnak** means I hand something to my friend; **Megyek a barátomhoz** means I go to my friend's place.

## In Use — Használatban

*The "to" cases in short exchanges.*

### ① Errands

**A:**

Hova mész?

Where are you going?

**B:**

A postára, aztán az orvoshoz.

To the post office, then to the doctor's.

**A:**

És este?

### ② Where does it go?

**A:**

Hova teszem a kábeleket?

Where do I put the cables?

**B:**

A szekrénybe. A telefont az asztalra.

In the cupboard. The phone on the table.

And in the evening?

**B:**

Este haza megyek.

In the evening I'm going home.

③ Plans

**A:**

Jössz hozzám szombaton?

Are you coming to my place on Saturday?

**B:**

Igen! Utána együtt megyünk a koncertre.

Yes! Afterwards we'll go to the concert together.

## 📋 Quick Reference — Gyorstábla

| CASE | USE FOR | EXAMPLE |
|---|---|---|
| -ba / -be | into enclosed spaces; places that take -ban / -ben | **a szobába · Bécsbe** |
| -ra / -re | onto surfaces, streets, transport, institutions, events; places that take -on / -en / -ön; "by", "for" | **az asztalra · az egyetemre · szombatra** |
| -hoz / -hez / -höz | to a person's place or a spot; places that take -nál / -nél | **a barátomhoz · a bejárathoz** |
| Pronouns | belém · rám · hozzám (and so on) | **Hozzám jössz?** |
| Adverbs | ide · oda · haza | **Haza megyek.** |

## 🖍️ Try It Yourself — Gyakorlás

*Say the answer first, then click to check.*

**1.** "Into the house": *ház* + the "into" case.

▼ Show answer

**házba**.

**2.** "Into the garden": *kert* + the "into" case.

▼ Show answer

**kertbe**.

**3.** "Onto the table": *asztal* + the "onto" case.

▼ Show answer

**asztalra**.

**4.** "Onto the tree": *fa* + the "onto" case.

▼ Show answer

**fára**. The final *a* lengthens before a consonant ending.

**5.** "To Budapest."

▼ Show answer

**Budapestre**. Budapest took *-en* in Chapter 4, so it takes *-re* here.

**6.** "To Hungary."

▼ Show answer

**Magyarországra**.

**7.** "To France."

▼ Show answer

**Franciaországba**.

**8.** "To the doctor's": *az orvos* + the "to" case.

▼ Show answer

**az orvoshoz**.

**9.** Say "to me" and "onto it".

▼ Show answer

**hozzám** and **rá**.

**10.** Fix the sentence: *Megyek az egyetembe* (I'm going to university).

▼ Show answer

**Megyek az egyetemre.** University takes the surface case (*egyetemen* in Chapter 4), so the "to" form is *-re*.

**Coming up in Chapter 6: Where From? Out of, Off, Away.** The last row of the grid: *-ból / -ből*, *-ról / -ről* and *-tól / -től*, with the full 3 × 3 grid pulled together.