HU

HUNGARIAN LESSON

Hungarian Grammar 2 · Chapter 7 · Instrumental and More

🧰 The Other Cases — A többi eset

The place cases and the accusative and dative are done. Seven endings remain, and each has its own job: ***-val / -vel*** *(with, by means of),* ***-vá / -vé*** *(becoming),* ***-ért*** *(for, in exchange for),* ***-ig*** *(until, as far as),* ***-ul / -ül*** *and* ***-ként*** *(as), and* ***-kor*** *(at a time). Only the first two need real care, because their v changes.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

-val / -vel and **-vá / -vé** start with *v* only after a vowel; after a consonant the *v* becomes **a copy of that consonant** (*kéz → kézzel, ház → házzá*). The other five endings never change their consonants and, except for *-ul / -ül*, never change their vowels.

1. The instrumental: -val / -vel

The instrumental means **with** (accompanying someone), **by** or **with** (a tool, a means of transport). It is the case behind the assimilation rule in *Hungarian Grammar 1, chapter 5*.

STEM ENDS IN…	SUFFIX	EXAMPLES
A vowel	**-val / -vel**	autó → autó**val** · fa → fá**val** · kávé → kávé**val** · tanú → tanú**val**
A single consonant	the *v* copies it	kéz → kéz**zel** · ház → ház**zal** · toll → toll**al** · kert → kert**tel** · barát → barát**tal** · Péter → Péter**rel**
A digraph (*sz, zs, cs, gy, ny, ty, ly*)	the digraph doubles in spelling	busz → bus**szal** · kulcs → kulc**csal** · hegy → heg**gyel** · lány → lán**nyal**
v	stays *v*	könyv → könyv**vel**

Spelling note: when the *v* copies a digraph, the doubled digraph is written with only its first letter doubled: *sz + sz* becomes *ssz*, *cs + cs* becomes *ccs*, *gy + gy* becomes *ggy*, *ny + ny* becomes *nny*. So: **busszal**, **kulccsal**, **heggyel**, **lánnyal**.

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH	USE
A barátommal megyek.	I'm going with my friend.	accompaniment
Busszal megyek.	I'm going by bus.	means of transport
Tollal írok.	I write with a pen.	tool
Kézzel csinálom.	I make it by hand.	manner
Találkozom Péterrel.	I'm meeting Peter.	verb that needs it

Verbs that need *-val / -vel* include *találkozik* (meet), *beszél* (talk to), *foglalkozik* (deal with), *egyetért* (agree with) and *megismerkedik* (get to know). Learn each with its case, as with the dative verbs in Chapter 3.

The personal forms are **velem, veled, vele, velünk, veletek, velük**, and the question words are **Kivel?** (with whom) and **Mivel?** (with what, by what means).

2. The translative: -vá / -vé

The translative (the "becoming" case) names the state something **turns into**. It follows exactly the same *v*-assimilation rule as the instrumental.

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
A víz jéggé fagy.	The water freezes into ice.	*jég + gé*
A fiú orvossá válik.	The boy becomes a doctor.	*orvos + sá*
Péter elnökké lett.	Peter became president.	*elnök + ké*
A szobát irodává alakítom.	I'm turning the room into an office.	after a vowel: *-vá*
Mivé lett?	What did it become?	question word

> **Watch out: lesz can take the nominative instead**

> For a simple change of profession or state, *lesz* (will be, became) takes the plain nominative: **Tanár lesz** (He/she will be a teacher). The translative *tanárrá lesz / válik* stresses the process of changing and is used in more formal or descriptive writing. Both are correct; the nominative is the everyday one.

3. The causal-final: -ért

The causal-final has one invariant form, **-ért**, and covers three ideas: **for the sake of**, **in exchange for** and **to fetch**.

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH	USE
Ezt a barátomért teszem.	I'm doing this for my friend.	for the sake of
Ezer forintot fizetek a könyvért.	I pay a thousand forints for the book.	price
Elmegyek a kenyérért.	I'm going to get the bread.	to fetch
Köszönöm a meghívásért!	Thank you for the invitation!	gratitude
Bocsánat a késésért.	Sorry for being late.	apology
Miért?	Why? (for what)	question word

The personal forms are **értem, érted, érte, értünk, értetek, értük**.

4. The terminative: -ig

The terminative is another invariant ending. **-ig** marks the **end point** in space (as far as), in time (until) and in duration (for).

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH	USE
Budapestig megyek.	I'm going as far as Budapest.	space
Péntekig dolgozom.	I'm working until Friday.	time
Hétfőtől péntekig dolgozom.	I work from Monday to Friday.	with *-tól* (Chapter 6)

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH	USE
Egy hétig maradok.	I'm staying for a week.	duration
Meddig maradsz?	How long are you staying? / Until when?	question word

Duration can also take the accusative from Chapter 2 (**Két hetet maradok**). The two forms are close; *-ig* looks at the end point, the accusative at the length. The pronoun-like forms are **eddig** (until now), **addig** (until then) and **idáig** (up to here).

5. The essive: -ul / -ül and -ként

Two endings both mean **as**, with different jobs.

-ul / -ül: languages and fixed expressions

This ending follows two-way harmony (*-ul* back, *-ül* front) and is used above all to say **in a language**. After a vowel the ending is the same: **franciául**.

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH
magyarul · angolul · oroszul	in Hungarian · in English · in Russian
németül · törökül · franciául	in German · in Turkish · in French
Hogy mondják ezt magyarul?	How do you say this in Hungarian?
Beszélsz angolul?	Do you speak English?

-ként: in the role of

The ending **-ként** is invariant and means *as* in the sense of "in the role or capacity of".

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH
Tanárként dolgozom.	I work as a teacher.
Ajándékként kaptam.	I got it as a present.

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH
Példaként mondom.	I say it as an example.

6. The temporal: -kor

The ending **-kor** gives a **point in time**: a clock time, a meal, a festival. It is invariant and attaches directly to the number or the word.

HUNGARIAN	ENGLISH
háromkor · négykor · hétkor	at three · at four · at seven
fél háromkor	at half past two
három órakor	at three o'clock
ebédkor · vacsorakor	at lunchtime · at dinnertime
karácsonykor · húsvétkor	at Christmas · at Easter
Mikor?	When?

> **Watch out: days and seasons use another case**
>
> *-kor* is for clock times and events, not for days or seasons. Those take the surface case from Chapter 4: **hétfőn** (on Monday), **nyáron** (in summer). Chapter 10 collects the time expressions.

🗣️ In Use — Használatban

The remaining cases in short exchanges.

① Getting there

A:

Kivel jössz a koncertre?

Who are you coming to the concert with?

② How long?

A:

Meddig maradsz?

How long are you staying?

B:

A barátommal. Busszal megyünk.

With my friend. We're going by bus.

A:

Mi autóval megyünk. Gyere velünk!

We're going by car. Come with us!

B:

Péntekig. Háromkor indul a vonatom.

Until Friday. My train leaves at three.

A:

Miért mész haza?

Why are you going home?

B:

Tanárként dolgozom hétfőtől.

I start work as a teacher on Monday.

③ Languages and thanks

A:

Beszélsz magyarul?

Do you speak Hungarian?

B:

Egy kicsit. Angolul jobban beszélek. Köszönöm a meghívásért!

A little. I speak English better. Thank you for the invitation!

📋 Quick Reference — Gyorstábla

CASE	SUFFIX	EXAMPLE
Instrumental	-val / -vel (the v copies a final consonant)	**autóval** · **házzal** · **busszal**
Translative	-vá / -vé (same rule)	**jéggé** · **orvossá**
Causal-final	-ért	**a barátomért** · **a kenyérért**
Terminative	-ig	**péntekig** · **Budapestig**

CASE	SUFFIX	EXAMPLE
Essive	-ul / -ül (languages) · -ként (role)	**magyarul · tanárként**
Temporal	-kor	**háromkor · karácsonykor**
Pronouns	velem · értem (and so on)	**Velünk jössz?**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Gyakorlás

Say the answer first, then click to check.

1. "With the house": *ház* + the "with" case.

▼ Show answer

házzal. The *v* copies the *z*.

2. "With the garden": *kert* + the "with" case.

▼ Show answer

kerttel.

3. "By car": *autó* + the "with" case.

▼ Show answer

autóval. After a vowel the *v* stays.

4. "By bus": *busz* + the "with" case.

▼ Show answer

busszal. The digraph *sz* doubles: *ssz*.

5. "With the key": *kulcs* + the "with" case.

▼ Show answer

kulccsal. The digraph *cs* doubles: *ccs*.

6. "With the girl": *lány* + the "with" case.

▼ Show answer

lánnyal.

7. Say "with me" and "for them".

▼ Show answer

velem and **értük**.

8. Translate: "The water freezes into ice."

▼ Show answer

A víz jéggé fagy.

9. Say "until Friday" and "at four".

▼ Show answer

péntekig and **négykor**.

10. Fix the sentence: *Beszélek magyaron* (I speak Hungarian).

▼ Show answer

Beszélek magyarul. Languages take *-ul / -ül*, and are not capitalised.

Coming up in Chapter 8: Possession and Cases Together. The possessive endings on nouns (*házam, házad, háza*), the structure *a barátom háza*, adding cases after possessives, and *van / nincs* with possessors.