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Grammar notes

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These grammar notes accompany the textbook *Lépesenként magyarul 1. (2017)*. This is not an independent grammar reference book as the explanations are closely connected to the charts and sample sentences contained in the textbook. Although the explanations contain the translation of sample sentences and important words or phrases, it is recommended to also use the *Lepesenkent* dictionary application, which can be freely downloaded from the Google Play store or the Apple store. Self study students can check the website (www.lepesenkent.hu) for the key of the exercises. This compilation is freely downloadable in pdf format for personal and educational use but cannot be sold in any form.

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Unit 2.

N1 (page 9)

Personal pronouns

én – *I*

te – *you (informal)* – used with 2nd person singular verb forms

őn – *you (formal)* – used with 3rd person singular verb forms

ő – *he/she* – There is no distinction between male/female forms in Hungarian

vagyok – *(I) am*

vagy – *(you) are*

∅ – in the third person the verb *to be* is not used

Én lengyel vagyok. – *I am Polish.*

Te japán vagy. – *You are Japanese.*

Ő lengyel. – *He/she is Japanese.*

In many sentences (*én*) (*te*) and (*ő*) are in brackets because personal pronouns do not appear in neutral sentences.

N2 (page 11)

a and az – The definite article

If the word starts with a vowel → *az*

If the word starts with a consonant → *a*

Unit 3.

N3 (page 14)

kér + -t ending

The words that appear here have a *-t* ending (*rágó – rágót, csoki – csokit etc.*). The *-t* ending may be preceded by a linking vowel. This is the accusative ending which has to be added to the nouns when used with the verb *kér* (*ask for something*). More details about the accusative ending will be presented in **N19 (page 81)**.

Unit 5.

N4 (page 19)

The -ban/-ben suffix

a)

The Hungarian *-ban /-ben* suffix corresponds to the English preposition *in*

-ban is added to back vowel words and mixed words

-ben is added to front vowel words

b)

Back vowel words: words that contain back vowels (*a, á, o, ó, u, ú*)

Front vowel words: words that contain only front vowels (*e, é, i, í, ö, ő, ü, ű*)

Mixed words contain both back vowels and front vowels and always take the back vowel endings.

c)

In case of compound words (like *ásványvíz – mineral water*) the last component determines which ending to use.

d)

If *-ban* or *-ben* is added to a word that ends in *-a* or *-e*, then *-a* → *-á* / *-e* → *-é*
tea → *teában*, *körte* → *körtében*

N5 (page 22)

The verb *to be* (*van*)

The 3rd person form of the verb *to be* (*van*) is used when you speak about location.

Kati magyar. – *Kati is Hungarian.*

Kati itt van. – *Kati is here.*

Unit 6.

N6 (page 25)

Vowel harmony

This chart focuses on the 1st person singular form of verbs. Verbs can be grouped into three basic categories based on the vowels they contain. The verb endings must phonologically fit the vowels in the verb – this is known as **vowel harmony**. This basic rule also determines noun endings (see **N4**).

If a verb is conjugated in the present tense, the 1st person ending has three variations: *-ok/-ek/-ök*. The vowels in the base form of the verb determine which ending to take:

Front vowel verbs contain only front vowels (*e, é, i, í*) and take the front vowel ending *-ek* when conjugated.

Back vowel verbs contain only back vowels (*a, á, o, ó, u, ú*) or both back vowels and front vowels and take the back vowel ending *-ok* when conjugated.

Rounded vowel verbs contain only rounded vowels (*ö, ő, ü, ú*) and take the verb ending with a rounded vowel *-ök* when conjugated.

Please note that rounded vowels are actually a sub-category of front vowels. They are called rounded because they are pronounced with rounded lips.

N7 (page 27)

Singular forms of verbs

The chart presents the singular forms of verbs. The first person singular form is formed according to the rules of vowel harmony presented in **N6**. Second person forms take an *-sz* ending, while the third person is the root form of the verb and this form is used also in formal second person (*ön*).

N8 (pages 28 and 30)

The *-ul/-ül* ending

a)

The *-ul/-ül* suffix is added to adjectives, which refer to nationalities to form adverbs, which can be used to express what language someone speaks.

The rules of vowel harmony also apply here (see **N4** and **N6**) and is why *-ul* is added to back vowel and mixed words and *-ül* is added to front vowel words.

b)

francia → *franciául*, because the word final *-a* always lengthens if a suffix is added.

Unit 8.

N9 (page 32)

Postpositions

alatt (under), fölött (above), mellett (next to), mögött (behind), előtt (in front of) and között (between) are postpositions and are always placed after a noun.

N10 (page 37)

The -i ending

This ending is often added to names of towns or certain countries to form adjectives, which may indicate someone's nationality or place of origin.

Unit 9.

N10 (pages 38 and 41)

The pluralisation of nouns

a)

The plural is marked by *-k* in Hungarian but this ending can be added only to words that end in a vowel. The *-k* plural marker is always preceded by a linking vowel if added to a word that ends in a consonant. The linking vowel must phonologically fit the vowels in the base word and therefore the plural ending has several variations (*-k, -ek, -ok, -ak, -ök*).

It is not too difficult to get the right variation if you remember the rules of vowel harmony. Front vowel words contain only front vowels (*e, é, i, í, ö, ő, ü, ú*) and take the *-ek* front vowel plural ending.

There are a few words that contain only rounded vowels (*ö, ő, ü, ú*) and they take the *-ök* plural ending. *Könyv – könyvek* (*book – books*) is an exception to this rule as, in this case the *-ö-* can be considered simply as a front vowel.

The majority of the words that contain either only back vowels (*a, á, o, ó, u, ú*) or both back and front vowels take the *-ok* ending.

b)

There is a group of back vowel words (most of them consist of only one syllable and contain an *-á-* vowel), which take the *-ak* plural ending. It is useful to remember that words ending in *-tár*, often refer to a great number of items (*gyógyszertár – pharmacy, ruhatár – cloak room, könyvtár – library, szótár – dictionary*) due to the original meaning of *-tár* (meaning *a store room*), take the *-ak* plural ending.

c)

In case of compound words (like *autószerelő – mechanic, üzletember – businessman, fénymásoló*

– *copy machine, kávéfőző* – *coffee machine, rendőr*
– *policeman, repülőgép* – *airplane* or *számítógép* –
computer), the last component determines the
ending.

d)

A general rule applies also to the plural of the words that end in *-a* (*táska* – *bag*, *lámpa* – *lamp*, *csiga* – *snail* and *macska* – *cat*) or *-e* (like *körte* – *pear*), that is, the word-final *-a* changes to *-á-* and the word final *-e* changes to *-é-* when an ending is added to the word.

N11 (pages 43, 44 and 49)

Personal pronouns and the verb *to be (van)*

a)

mi – *we*

ti – *you (plural, informal)*

önök – *you (plural, formal)*

ők – *they* – *There is no distinction between male/female forms in Hungarian*

vagyunk – *(we) are*

vagytok – *(you, plural) are*

vannak – *you (plural, formal) / they are*

b)

As mentioned in **N5 (page 22)**, the 3rd person form of the verb *to be* (*van*) is used when referring to location. This rule also applies to 3rd person plural (*vannak*):

A pincérek magyarok. – The waiters are Hungarian.

A pincérek itt vannak. – The waiters are here.

Unit 10.

N12 (page 47)

The plural of adjectives

a)

Adjectives can also be pluralized. The endings are basically the same as noun plural endings. However, there is a little difference in the use of the linking vowels. Regular back vowel nouns take the *-ok* plural ending (*asztalok – tables, virágok – flowers*), regular back vowel adjectives take *-ak* (*magasak – tall, gyorsak – fast*). Only a few back vowel adjectives (*nagyok – big, fiatalok – young*) and the adjectives expressing nationalities take *-ok* in the plural.

b)

The adjectives that end in *-i*, *-ú* or *-ű* also take linking vowels (*régiek* – *old*, *szomorúak* – *sad*, *könnyűek* – *easy*).

c)

The adjectives placed before the nouns usually have an attributive function and are not pluralized. The adjectives placed right after the noun are predicates and are pluralized.

Az autók nagyok. – *The cars are big.*

A nagy autók itt vannak. – *The big cars are here.*

N13(page 50)

Demonstrative pronouns (*ez* – *this*, *az* – *that*) and their plural forms

Ez and *az* are demonstrative pronouns and mean *this* and *that*, respectively. They are used with the definite article (*a/az*) and a noun. Phrases like *az az asztal* (*that table*) might be confusing because *az* appears twice: the first *az* is the demonstrative pronoun (*that*) and the second one is the article (*the*). When referring to *these* or *those* tables then both the noun and the demonstrative pronoun should be pluralized (*ezek az asztalok* and *azok az asztalok*).

Unit 11.

N14 (page 55)

Verb conjugation of regular verbs

The chart presents the conjugated forms of the three basic verb categories determined by vowel harmony (explained in *N6, page 25*) where the vowels of the base form of the verb determine the endings. Verbs that contain back vowels (*vár – wait, vásárol – shop, táncol – dance*) or both back vowels and front vowels (*telefonál – phone*) take back vowel endings. The second category includes verbs that contain only front vowels (*él – live, énekel – sing, beszél – speak*) and take only front vowel endings. The third category is less common and contain only rounded front vowels (*ül – sit, köhög – cough*) and take endings with rounded vowels.

Note that there are several distinctions in other languages that do not appear in Hungarian. For example *A gyerekek otthon ebédelnek.* may mean both *The children have lunch at home.* or *The children are having lunch at home.*, and *A kávézóban nem táncolok.* can be translated as *I don't dance in the cafe.* or as *I'm not dancing in the cafe.* depending on the context.

Unit 11 and 12

N15 (pages 56, 62 and 64)

The verbs *iszik* and *eszik*

The verbs *iszik* (*drink*) and *eszik* (*eat*) are not regular verbs but their conjugated forms are presented at this point because of their frequent use and their functional benefit. It is important to note that very often these verbs stand with a noun in accusative case, that is, what you eat or drink has an accusative ending. The accusative ending is basically a *-t* added to the base form of the noun, and sometimes it is preceded by a linking vowel. More details about adding this ending to nouns will be presented later (**N19, Unit 15**), however, the most frequently used examples are included here.

Iszom egy kávét. – I drink a coffee. / I'm drinking a coffee.

Eszem egy szendvicset. – I eat a sandwich. / I'm eating a sandwich.

Unit 13.

N16 (pages 67 and 70)

The *-val/-vel* ending

In most cases, the Hungarian *-val/-vel* suffix corresponds to the English preposition *with* and

only appears after words that end in a vowel. The rules of vowel harmony (**N6, page 25**) mean that words only containing front vowels (*e, é, i, í, ö, ő, ü, ű*) take the *-vel* ending, whilst words with only back vowels (*a, á, o, ó, u, ú*) or a combination of front vowels and back vowels take the *-val* variation. The general rule concerning the word final *-a*→*-á*- and *-e*→*-é*- changes also applies. (**N5**)

Assimilation, as well as vowel harmony, also influences the way this suffix is added to nouns that end in a consonant. Vowel harmony determines if you should pick *-val* or *-vel*. Assimilation includes a very simple change: the *-v-* of the suffix assimilates to the word final consonant. Thus, the *-v-* assimilates to the word final *-r* in case of *tanár* (*teacher*), resulting in *tanárral* (*with the teacher*) and *-v-* assimilates to the word final *-t* in case of *sajt* (*cheese*) resulting in *sajttal* (*with cheese*).

Unit 14.

N17 (pages 72 and 74)

The *-n/-on/-en/-ön* suffix

a)

Choosing the appropriate variation of the *-n/-on/-en/-ön* suffix depends on the rules already seen

with other suffixes. The *-n* ending is added to words that end in a vowel (*hétfő* → *hétfőn* – *on Monday*). If the word ends in a consonant, you must choose from *-en/-on/-ön* following vowel harmony rules (**N6, page 25**). The *-en* variation is added to words that have only front vowels (*szék* → *széken* – *on the chair*), whilst *-on* is used with words that have either only back vowels (*asztal* → *asztalon* – *on the table*) or both back vowels and front vowels (*villamos* → *villamoson* – *on the tram*). A small group of words, which have only rounded vowels (*ö, ő, ü, ű*) can take the *-ön* ending (*bőrönd* → *bőröndön* – *on the suitcase*). The general rule concerning the word final *-a*→*-á*- and *-e*→*-é*- changes also applies.

b)

The most frequent meanings of the *-n/-on/-en/-ön* suffix ,include the following:

- position on the top of something: *asztalon* (*on the table*). In this case its meaning corresponds to the English preposition *on*.
- public transportation: *buszon* (*on the bus*), *villamoson* (*on the tram*)
- days of the week: *hétfőn* (*on Monday*), *kedden* (*on Tuesday*)

- seasons: *nyáron* (in the summer), *télen* (in the winter). Other seasons are used with different suffixes.

- certain other places or events: *órán* (in class), *piacon* (at the market), *állomáson* (at the train station), *rendőrségen* (at the police station), *repülőtéren* (at the airport), *koncerten* (at the concert)

N18 (page 78)

Place names + *-ban/-ben* or *-n/-on/-en/-ön*

Hungarian place names take the *-n/-on/-en/-ön* suffix in most cases: *Magyarországon* (in Hungary), *Szegeden* (in Szeged), *Szolnokon* (in Szolnok), *Szombathelyen* (in Szombathely), *Budapesten* (in Budapest). The names of other countries and some Hungarian towns are used with the *-ban/-ben* suffix: *Amerikában* (in America), *Spanyolországban* (in Spain), *Debrecenben* (in Debrecen), *Egerben* (in Eger).

Unit 15

N19 (page 81)

The accusative case (*-t/-ot/-at/-et/-öt*)

a)

Certain verbs require the use of the accusative suffix with the corresponding noun. In this unit

such verbs are *vásárol* (*shop*), *vesz* (*buy*), *főz* (*cook*), *ebédel* (*eat lunch*), *rendel* (*order*), *keres* (here: *make money*), *lát* (*see*), *kér* (*ask for*), *olvas* (*read*), *vár* (*wait for*), *mos* (*wash*) *eszik* (*eat*) and *iszik* (*drink*) but there are, of course, a lot more. In some cases, it is obligatory to add a grammatical object to the verb (for example, with *vesz*) but in most cases the grammatical object is optional.

b)

The accusative suffix has five variations: *-t/-ot/-at/-et/-öt*.

The *-t* suffix is added to nouns without any linking vowels if the noun ends in a vowel. **There are also a number of nouns which end in a consonant but the *-t* suffix is added without any linking vowels.** Almost all the words that end in *-s*, *-sz*, and *-z* (for example *leves* → *levest* – *soup*, *villamos* → *villamost* – *tram*, *kolbász* → *kolbászt* – *sausage*) belong to this group and also most of the words that end in *-l*, *-r* or *-n* (*asztal* → *asztalt* – *table*, *mosópor* → *mosóport* – *washing powder*, *sör* → *sört* – *beer*).

If the noun takes the accusative suffix with a linking vowel, then the linking vowel is the same as the one used with the plural suffix (**N10, page 41**). Thus the majority of the words that contain

either only back vowels (*a, á, o, ó, u, ú*) or both back and front vowels take the *-ot* ending (*ablak* → *ablakot* – window, *barack* → *barackot* – peach, *vonat* → *vonatot* – train).

The words that contain only front vowels (*e, é, i, í, ö, ő, ü, ű*) take the *-et* accusative ending (*szék* → *széket* – chair, *jegy* → *jegyet* – ticket, *tej* → *tejet* – milk).

There are a few words that contain only rounded vowels (*ö, ő, ü, ű*) and they take the *-öt* ending (*tök* → *tököt* – pumpkin, *bőrönd* → *bőröndöt* – suitcase). The word *könyv* → *könyvet* – book is an exception to this rule, in this case the *-ö-* can be considered simply as a front vowel.

c)

There is a group of back vowel words (most of them consist of only one syllable and contain an *-á-* vowel), which take the *-at* accusative ending (*ház* → *házat* – house, *ágy* → *ágyat* – bed, *haj* → *haját* – hair). It's useful to remember that words ending in *-tár* often refer to a great number of items (*gyógyszertár* – pharmacy, *ruhatár* – cloak room, *könyvtár* – library, *szótár* – dictionary) due to the original meaning of *-tár* (meaning a *store room*) and they take the *-at* accusative ending (*gyógyszertárat, ruhatárat, könyvtárat, szótárat*).

d)

In case of compound words (like *buszjegy* – *bus ticket*, *rendőr* – *policeman* or *számítógép* – *computer*), the last component determines the ending.

e)

There is a general rule which also applies to the accusative form of the words ending with *-a* (like *táska* – *bag*, *lámpa* – *lamp*, *szoba* – *room* and *alma* – *apple*) or *-e* (like *körte* – *pear*), that the final *-a* of the word changes to *-á-* and the word final *-e* changes to *-é-* when an ending is added.

f)

Some words have an irregular (vowel shortening) stem in the plural and in the accusative case (*kéz* → *kezet*, *kenyér* → *kenyeret* – *bread*, *levél* → *levelet* – *letter*, *pohár* → *poharat* – *glass*).

N20 (page 84)

Verbs that end in *-s*, *-sz* or *-z*

Verbs that end in *-s*, *-sz* or *-z* have a different ending in the second person singular (*te*). Instead of the regular *-sz* ending (*tanulsz* – *you study*, *élsz* – *you live*, *ülsz* – *you sit*), *-ol*, *-el* or *-öl* is added to

the verb stems (*mosol* – you wash, *veszel* – you buy, *főzöl* – you cook).

Unit 16

N21 (page 89)

The accusative form of adjectives and numerals

a)

Adjectives may function as nouns and thus can be the grammatical objects of verbs:

(*Egy pirosat kérek.* – A red one, please., *Mindig drágát veszek, nem olcsót.* – I always buy an expensive one, not a cheap one.). When functioning as grammatical objects the accusative ending has to be added to the adjective.

The rules that determine which variation of the accusative suffix (*-t/-ot/-at/-et/-öt*) should be added to the stem are basically the same as in the case of nouns (see **N19, page 81**). However, there are two major differences:

1) While the accusative *-t* is added to the nouns without a linking vowel when they end in *-s*, *-sz* or *-z*, in case of adjectives that end in *-s*, *-sz* or *-z* the accusative *-t* is added to the word with a linking vowel (*magas* → *magasat* – tall, *hangos* → *hangosat* – loud, *rossz* → *rosszat* – bad/broken,

okos → *okosat* – *clever*, *unalamas* → *unalamasat* – *boring*).

2) As explained in **N19**, there are a number of nouns that take the less common *-at* ending but the majority of back vowel nouns take *-ot*. Adjectives are different because the majority of the back vowel adjectives take *-at* and there are just a few with the *-ot* (*nagy* → *nagyot* – *big*) ending.

b)

Numerals may also get accusative suffixes when used as nouns (*Négyet kérek.* – *I would like four, please.*)

It is more more useful to memorise the accusative forms rather than learn the rules as many of them have irregular forms.

Unit 17

N22 (page 93)

The conjugation of the *ír, hív, nyit* verbs

a)

There is a group of verbs that seems to contradict the rules of vowel harmony because they contain only front vowels (*ír* – *write*, *hív* – *invite*, *nyit* – *open*) but take back vowel endings (for example: *írok, hívok, nyitok* in the first person singular). The explanation of this – along many other

irregularities – lies in the phonological changes that have taken place throughout the history of the Hungarian language.

b)

In exercise 1. (**page 93**) the verb *nyit* appears as *kinyit*. Also, in the forthcoming units *hív* appears sometimes as *felhív*. In **Unit 15 (page 84)** the verb *néz* (*watch*) was used as *megnéz*. The prefixes that are added to these verbs (*ki*, *fel* and *meg*) are called verbal prefixes. They have various functions and are used very frequently. More details about verbal prefixes are included in **N26/c**, **N30**, **N45** and **N70**.

N23 (page 94)

The *-nál/-nél* suffix

a)

Choosing the appropriate variation of the *-nál/-nél* suffix depends on the rules already seen with other suffixes. The *-nél* variation is added to words that have only front vowels (*szekrény* → *szekrénynél* – *by the wardrobe*), while *-nál* is used with words that have either only back vowels (*fodrász* → *fodrásznál* – *at the hairdresser's*) or both back vowels and front vowels (*Kati* → *Katinál* – *at*

Kati's). The general rule concerning the word final *-a*→*-á*- and *-e*→*-é*- changes also applies.

b)

The main uses of the *-nál/-nél* suffix are:

-A non precise proximity

Az iskola a múzeumnál van. – The school is near the museum.

-Being at a person's place (house or office, for example)

Katinál vagyunk. – We are at Kati's.

Kati az orvosnál van. – Kati is at the doctor's.

c)

If the person's name doesn't appear, pronouns are need to substitute them. *Nálam* (at my place), *nálad* (at your place), *nála* (at his/herplace) etc. carry the same meaning with pronouns.

N24 (page 95)

The past tense form of the verb *to be*

voltam, voltál, volt, voltunk, voltatok and *voltak* are the past tense forms of the verb *to be*. Their use is very simple as Hungarian has only one past tense and practically everything that has happened

before the moment of speaking will appear in past tense.

Unit 18

N25 (page 97)

Conjugation of *jön* and *megy*

These two verbs (*jön* – *come*, *megy* – *go*) are irregular. These verbs, as will be demonstrated in this unit and also later, are often used with verbal prefixes that express movement (*ki* – *out*, *be* – *into*, *fel* – *up*, *le* – *down*).

N26 (page 97 and 100)

Suffixes of place that express movement: suffixes that answer the question *Hova?*

a)

So far three types of suffixes have been learnt which answer the question *Hol?* (*Where?*) and which express location: (1) *-ban/-ben* – *in, inside something*; 2) *-n/-on/-en/-ön* – *on, on the top of something*; 3) *-nál/-nél* – *near something or at somebody's place*). These are all static relations, in which something or somebody is somewhere.

A new set of suffixes answers the question *Hova?* (*Where to?*) and although they include the same spatial relations, they always express movement. The chart shows that the static suffixes all have a corresponding suffix which expresses movement.

b)

Usually it is very easy to decide when these suffixes should be used especially because there is always a verb in the sentence which expresses movement. Apart from *jön* (come) and *megy* (go) there are a number of other verbs, which also express movement. In this unit such verbs are *érkezik* (arrive), *felszáll* (get on a bus), *leül* (sit down), *tesz* (put), *indul* (leave, depart) and *jár* (go, attend, frequent). Some examples:

A vonat Szegedre érkezik – The train arrives in Szeged.

Kati felszáll a buszra. – Kati gets on the bus.

Leülök a székre. – I sit down on the chair.

Egy poharat teszek az asztalra. I put a glass on the table.

Ma indulunk Londonba. – We are leaving for London today.

Nem járunk iskolába. – We don't go to school.

c)

The verbs *jön* and *megy* are often used with verbal prefixes, which can specify the direction of the movement expressed by the verb itself. One of the

most important functions of verbal prefixes is expressing the direction of a movement.

Another important function of verbal prefixes is that they may modify or completely change the meaning of verbs. A good example is *száll* (*fly*) and *felszáll* (*get on a bus*). In some cases the verb has a static meaning when it is used on its own (*ül* – *sit*, *áll* – *stand*), but when it is used with a verbal prefix it refers to a movement (*leül* – *sit down*, *feláll* – *stand up*).

More details about verbal prefixes are included in **N30**, **N45** and **N70**.

Unit 19

N27 (page 103)

**Suffixes of place that express movement:
suffixes that answer the question *Honnan?***

a)

The picture of the suffixes of place will be complete with these new suffixes. The chart shows that there are three main groups: 1) the suffixes that answer the question *Hova?* (*Where to?*), 2) the ones that answer the question *Hol?* (*Where?*) and 3) those that answer the question *Honnan?* (*From where?*). The suffixes that answer the question *Hol?* always express static situations, while the

suffixes that answer the questions *Hova?* and *Honnan?* always include movement.

b)

Adverbials of place as well as noun endings can be categorized according to this logic (*Hova? Hol? Honnan?*). Hungarian distinguishes between *ide* (to here), *itt* (here) and *innen* (from here) as well as *oda* (to there), *ott* (there) and *onnan* (from there).

Interestingly, there are two expressions that mean *at home*: *itthon* (here, at home) is used when the speaker is at home but *otthon* (back home) is used when the speaker is actually not at home at the moment of speaking. These adverbials also have three forms.

c)

Hozzám (to my place), *nálam* (at my place) and *tőlem* (from my place) function as pronouns and have inflected forms in every person.

N28 (page 107)

**Words used with the -ra/-re; -n/-on/-en/-ön;
-ról/-ről suffixes**

This chart shows a list of words used with the -ra/-re; -n/-on/-en/-ön; -ról/-ről suffixes. They are

presented in one chart because it might not be obvious that these suffixes should be used when one goes to / is at / goes away from these places.

Az állomásra megyünk. – We are going to the station.

Az állomáson várunk. – We are waiting at the station.

Az állomásról megyünk az uszodába. – From the station we are going to the swimming pool.

Unit 20

N29 (page 113)

The *-ik* verbs

The verbs that end in *-ik* form a group and their conjugation has certain special features. The *-ik* ending appears in the third person singular form only, otherwise these verbs should be conjugated without the *-ik* ending. In the first person, there is an *-om/-em/-öm* ending. The second person singular form may have the regular *-sz* ending (like *laksz*) but most of the time the verb stems without the *-ik* ending end in *-s, -sz* or *-z* therefore have an *-ol/-el/-öl* ending. The plural forms all have regular endings which are added to the stems without the *-ik* ending.

These verbs are very common and new verbs (for example *internetezik* – *use the internet* are also conjugated following this pattern). Verbs in this unit that belong to this group include *lakik* – *live, reside*; *dolgozik* – *work*; *reggelizik* – *have breakfast*; *öltözik* – *get dressed*; *eszik* – *eat*; *focizik* – *play football*; *utazik* – *travel*; *tévézik* – *watch TV*; *kávézik* – *have coffee*; *alszik* – *sleep*; *úszik* – *swim*; *napozik* – *sunbathe*; *kezdődik* – *begin, start*; *érkezik* – *arrive*; *vacsorázik* – *have dinner*; *találkozik* – *meet*; *biciklizik* – *ride a bike*; *játszik* – *play*; *késik* – *be late*; *sörözik* – *have beer*.

N30 (pages 118 and 120)

Verbs with verbal prefixes: *(fel)öltözik*, *felvesz valamit*, *(le)fekszik*

In exercise 12.3. some verbs are used with verbal prefixes. The verb *öltözik* (*get dressed*) has the same meaning when it is used with a verbal prefix (*felöltözik*). In this case the verbal prefix indicates the completeness of the action but doesn't change the meaning of the base verb.

Another verb which appears with a verbal prefix is *felvesz*. The base verb is *vesz*, which may have several meanings when it is used on its own. However, when used with the verbal prefix *fel* the result is actually a new verb with a new meaning.

This verb is transitive, that is, it always has an object and means *put on something (clothes)*.

Note that *öltözik* and *felöltözik* cannot take objects at all (**Kati felöltözik egy pólót.* is incorrect). To say that someone puts on certain clothes, use *felvesz valamit*: *Kati felvesz egy pólót.* – *Kati puts on a T-shirt.*

In exercise **17.1.** the verb *lefekszik* (*lie down, go to bed, go to sleep*) is made up of a base verb (*fekszik* – *lie*) and the verbal prefix *le*.

Unit 21

N31 (page 121, 123)

Expressing time

a)

Negyed (quarter), fél (half) and háromnegyed (three quarters) are useful expressions when talking about time. They are always used with the next hour: 10:15 is *negyed tizenegy* and 11:30 is *fél tizenkettő*.

The simple *10 óra 15 perc* form can be used to answer the question *Hány óra?* or *Mennyi az idő?* (*What is the time?*) or you can include the above expressions and say *Negyed tizenegy.* (without adding *óra* or *perc*).

b)

The question *Mikor?* or *Hány órákor?* (*When?*) is used to find out when something takes place. In the answers you can use the *-kor* ending, which corresponds to *at* in English. This ending has only one form.

Mikor jön a busz? – When is the bus coming?
Kettőkor. – At two.

c)

It might be necessary to specify if you are talking about 3 a.m. or p.m. Expressions on page 123 help you in this: *hajnal* (*dawn*), *reggel* (*early morning*), *délelőtt* (*morning*), *dél* (*noon*), *délután* (*afternoon*), *este* (*evening*), *éjjel* (*night*).

Éjjel fél kettőkor mi alszunk. – At 1:30 at night we sleep.

N32 (page 121)

The pronouns *velem, veled* etc.

As discussed in **Unit 13, N16 (page 70)** the *-val/-vel* ending expresses *with* if added to the base word. These pronouns can be used in the case where we would like to say *with me / with you* etc.

Unit 22

N33 (page130)

Verbs that end in two consonants or *-ít*

These verbs end in two consonants or end in *-ít*. The personal endings are added to these stems with the help of a linking vowel in the second person singular (*te*), plural (*ti*) and third person plural (*ők*) forms, which are highlighted in the chart. Verbs that belong to this group are *segít* (*help*), *tanít* (*teach*), *fordít* (*translate*), *ért* (*understand*), *fest* (*paint*), *mond* (*say*), *takarít* (*clean, tidy*), *ordít* (*shout*) and *épít* (*build*).

Some *-ik* verbs also have a stem (without the *-ik* ending) which ends in two consonants and their conjugated forms are mentioned under the chart. These verbs are *játszik* (*play*), *alszik* (*sleep*) and *fekszik* (*lie*).

N34 (page 131)

Time expressions: the *-tól/-től* and the *-ig* endings

These endings are often used to say when something begins and when it ends. The *-tól/-től* ending can be used to answer the question *Hány órától?* or *Mettől?* (*From what time?*) and the *-ig* ending to answer *Hány óráig?* or *Meddig?* (*Until when?*).

Choosing between *-tól* and *-től* should be based on the rules of vowel harmony, while *-ig* has only one form.

N35 (page 133)

Senki and semmi with suffixes

Hungarian uses double or even multiple negation. The negative pronouns *senki* (*nobody*) and *semmi* (*nothing*) are used with the word *nem* or in some cases *nincs*. Suffixes can be added to these negative pronouns the same way as they are added to the nouns.

Unit 23

N36 (page 140)

The infinitive

The infinitive form of the verb is used with other verbs (for example, with *lehet* – *it's possible to*). In most cases the *-ni* infinitive ending is added to the verb stem (*beszél+ni* – *to speak*, *ebédel+ni* – *to have lunch*). If the verb stem ends in two consonants or *-ít*, then *-ani* or *-eni* is used, according to the rules of vowel harmony (*fordít+ani* – *to translate*, *épít+eni* – *to build*).

Infinitive forms for *-ik* verbs (*internetezik* – *use the internet*, *reggelizik* – *have breakfast*) are generated

by the addition of *-ni* to the base form without the *-ik* ending (*internetez-*, *reggeliz-*).

Several verbs have a different stem for their infinitive form (*enni* – to eat, *inni* – to drink, *venni* – to buy, *vinni* – to take, carry, *tenni* – to put, *hinni* – to believe, *lenni* – to be, *menni* – to go, *aludni* – to sleep, *feküdni* – to lie, *haragudni* – to be angry, *dohányozni* – to smoke).

Unit 24

N37 (page 143)

The verbs *szeret*, *akar*, *tud* and the infinitive

a)

The verbs *szeret* (*like*), *tud* (*can*) and *akar* (*want*) are used with the infinitive forms of the verbs. In these sentences *szeret*, *tud* and *akar* are conjugated according to the subject as regular verbs.

Lehet stands with infinitives and it is usually not conjugated at all. It expresses a general possibility (*Itt nem lehet teniszezni.* – *It is not possible to play tennis here.*)

b)

In neutral sentences, *szeret* and *tud* precede the infinitive (*Szeretek aludni.* – *I like sleeping.*, *A gyerekek tudnak biciklizni.* – *The children can ride*

the bike.) while *akar* is usually placed after the infinitive (*Táncolni akarok. – I want to dance.*).

In exercise 6. (page 144, the second last sentence), *Annáék* means Anna and her family or Anna and her friends. The *-ék* ending can be added to names of persons to refer to them with their family/friends/colleagues etc.

Unit 25

N38 (page 151)

Expressing a wish

A wish can be politely expressed by using *szeretnék* (*I would like to*) with an infinitive. This is a conditional verb form therefore the conjugation is presented in each person. However, most of the time, it will only be used in first person singular.

This structure ensures that you sound very polite when asking somebody to let you get off the bus (*Elnézést, szeretnék leszállni! – Excuse me, I would like to get off.*) or when asking for something (*Elnézést, szeretnék kérni egy szalvétát! – Excuse me, may I get a napkin.*) and in many similar situations.

N39 (page 151 and 153)

Asking somebody to do something

a)

The easiest way to ask somebody to do something for you politely is to use *Légy szíves* or *Legyen szíves* with an infinitive. These expressions correspond to the English *Please* and the only difference between them is that *Légy szíves* is informal while *Legyen szíves* is formal.

Légy szíves segíteni! – *Please help me. (informal)*

Legyen szíves adni egy tollat. – *Please give me a pen. (formal)*

b)

Exercise 9 on page 153 practices another way a favour can be asked from someone in the form of a question. The Hungarian *Tud...?* or *Tudsz...?* correspond to the English *Could you...* and are used with an infinitive. *Tud* can be used in formal conversations (*Tud segíteni?* – *Could you help?*) while *Tudsz* is appropriate in informal situations (*Tudsz segíteni?* – *Could you help?*). *Tud* is conjugated as a regular verb.

N40 (page 153)

The *-nak/-nek* ending (dative case)

a)

The dative suffix *-nak/-nek* is added to nouns according to the rules of vowel harmony.

The verbs *ad* (*give*) and *mond* (*say*) are often used with nouns that stand with the dative ending to show who is being given or said something (*Kati ad Marinak egy almát. – Kati gives Mari an apple., Nem mondunk Zolinak semmit. – We don't say anything to Zoli.*). Other verbs that often occur with the dative case include *segít* (*help*) and *telefonál* (*phone*), and in these cases the noun with the dative ending indicates the person who receives help or who is being called on the phone (*Segítek Katinak. – I am helping Kati., Telefonálok Istvánnak – I am calling István.*).

b)

Nekem (*to/for me*), *neked* (*to/for you*), *neki* (*to/for him or her*) etc. are pronouns that can be used similarly to the nouns with dative endings (*Adok Robinak egy könyvet. – I'm giving Robi a book., Adok neki egy könyvet. – I'm giving him a book.*).

Unit 26

N41 (page 155 and 157 and 160)

The possessive

a)

Hungarian uses suffixes to form possessive structures. When saying something about *my dog* (*kutya – kutyám*), *your cat* (*macska – macskád*), *his house* (*ház – háza*) or *our car* (*autó – autónk*), possessive endings are put at the end of the nouns. These endings are chosen according to the rules of vowel harmony. In case of words that end in a consonant, a linking vowel is needed but it is quite easy to find out which linking vowel to use because it is the same as the one used in the plural form of the same word.

However, as can be seen on page 160, the plural form does not help to find out the third person singular and plural possessive form of a noun. In the third person singular, *-a/-e/-ja/-je* are the possible variations whilst the third person plural possibilities are *-uk/-ük/-juk/-jük*. The most challenging question is if the variation with or without the *-j-* should be used. Some rules are clear: if the word ends in a vowel (*kocsi – car*, *alma – apple*, *bicikli – bike*) we always add the ending with the *-j-* to the noun (*kocsija – his/her car*, *almája – his/her apple*, *biciklije – his/her bike*)

and if the word ends in certain consonants, like *s*, *sz*, *z*, *c*, *cs*, *j*, *r*, *gy* or *ny* (*ház* – house, *busz* – bus, *kolbász* – sausage, *haj* – hair, *gyümölcs* – fruit, *tanár* – teacher, *ágy* – bed, *jegy* – ticket, *igazolvány* – ID card) the *-j-* is never used (*háza* – his/her house, *busza* – his/her bus, *kolbásza* – his/her sausage, *haja* – his/her hair, *gyümölcse* – his/her fruit, *tanára* – his/her teacher, *ágya* – his/her bed, *jegye* – his/her ticket, *igazolványa* – his/her ID card).

In other cases it's not really possible to give clear rules, so if in doubt, consult the free **lepesenkent dictionary application** to find out the third person singular form of the nouns.

N42 (page 155 and 159)

The possessive

Hungarian does not have a verb which expresses possession. In English there is *have*, in German *haben*, in Spanish *tener*, in Croatian *imati*, in French *avoir* etc. to express possession but Hungarian uses a possessive structure instead.

Hungarian uses the verb *van* (*to be*) and a noun with a possessive ending to express that a person owns something. This might sound a bit unusual but after a little practice it is not difficult at all. The main thing you should keep in mind is that the key

element is the noun with the possessive suffix (the possession) and not the verb. In possessive structures the verb *van* appears only in two forms: either *van*, when somebody has something (*Van egy macskám. – I have a cat.*) or *nincs*, when somebody doesn't have something (*Nincs időm. – I don't have time.*) The verb *van/nincs* is not conjugated, the person who owns something appears with the possessive ending (*Van egy autóm. – I have a car., Van egy autód. – You have a car., Van egy autója. – He/she owns a car., Van házunk. – We have a house.*).

If the name of a person has to be included (for example, if Feri owns a car.) then *-nak* or *-nek* is added to the name of the person (*Ferinek van autója.*).

The personal pronoun in dative case (*nekem, neked* etc.) is used in possessive structures only if the person of the owner is emphasised (*Nekem nincs autóm, de neked van. – I don't have a car but you have one.*).

Unit 27

N43 (page 165 and 167)

Definite conjugation

a)

Hungarian uses two conjugations. Up to this point, *Általános ragozás* (*General or indefinite conjugation*) has been used in this book. The new conjugation (presented in this unit) is *Határozott tárgy ragozás* (*Definite conjugation*). The latter is a unique phenomenon with no parallels in other languages. However, in Hungarian these two conjugations are used throughout the present and past tense as well as in the imperative and the conditional. The key factor when deciding which conjugation to use is the grammatical object of the sentence. As a basic rule, the definite conjugation is used when the verb has a definite grammatical object.

For learners of Hungarian, the most practical way to decide which conjugation to use is to go through the following questions:

1. Does the verb have a grammatical object (which is usually marked by an accusative *-t* ending)?

- -If it doesn't, use *Általános ragozás* (*General conjugation*)
- +If it does, go to question 2.

2. Is this grammatical object a definite one?

- -If it isn't a definite object, use *Általános ragozás* (*General conjugation*)

- +If it is a definite object, use *Határozott tárgyas ragozás (Definite conjugation)*

b)

The question may arise what exactly is a definite object. The most clear cases are the following:

a) the grammatical object stands with a definite article (*a/az – the*)

Ismerem a tanárt. – I know the teacher.

b) the grammatical object is a proper name

Ismerem Katit. – I know Kati.

Látom Anitát. – I can see Anita.

c) the grammatical object is the demonstrative pronoun *ez (this)* or *az (that)*

Ezt kérem. – (I would like to have this.)

d) the grammatical object stands with the demonstrative pronoun *ez* or *az*

Ezt a lányt ismerem. (I know this girl.)

Azt a könyvet olvasom. (I'm reading that book.)

c)

Általános ragozás (General or indefinite conjugation) is used if

- there is no grammatical object in the sentence at all

Az étteremben ülök. – I'm sitting in the restaurant.

Kati otthon van, és eszik. – Kati is at home and she's eating.

- there is a grammatical object in the sentence but it is not definite (it does not have an article or has an indefinite article)

Újságot olvasok. – I'm reading a newspaper.

Kérek egy szendvicset. – I would like to have a sandwich.

d)

The conjugated verb forms can be found on page 167. The chart includes also some special cases where assimilation takes place. Verbs that end in *-s*, *-sz* or *-z* get a different ending when the personal ending starts with a *-j-*. In these cases, the *-j-* assimilates to the word final consonant. This is presented in the split cells of the chart (*mos+juk* → *mossuk*, *mos+játok* → *mossátok*, *mos+ják* → *mossák*, *vesz+jük* → *vesszük*, *főz+jük* → *főzzük*).

Unit 28

N44 (page 173)

Szeretek or szeretem

The verb *szeret* can be used in definite conjugation as well as in indefinite conjugation; it depends on the grammatical object in the actual sentence. Two typical sentence structures help you decide quickly:

1. When saying that a person likes doing something, *szeret* is used with indefinite conjugation and the infinitive is added, which contains the activity the person likes doing. (*Szeretek úszni. – I like swimming., Szeretsz olvasni? – Do you like reading?, Nem szeretünk tanulni. – We do not like studying.*)

2. The definite forms of *szeret* are used for saying what kind of things a person likes (*Szeretem a csokoládét. – I like chocolate., Szereted a narancsot? – Do you like oranges?, Nem szeretjük a tejet. – We do not like milk.*)

It must be noted that Hungarian uses the definite article when talking about things in general and this explains why definite conjugation is used (although we are not talking about one specific piece of chocolate or orange).

A csokoládé finom. – Chocolate is tasty.

Szeretem a csokoládét. – I like chocolate.

A kutyák szépek. – Dogs are beautiful.

Mindenki szereti a kutyákat. – Everyone likes dogs.

Unit 29

N45 (page 180)

The position of verbal prefixes

Verbal prefixes may change their position. In negations and in sentences containing a question word, verbal prefixes separate from the verb and come immediately after the verb.

N46 (page 182)

Word order in questions

a)

The *A szavak sorrendje a kérdésben* charts on page 182. demonstrate the word order of questions. A general rule is that in questions the most emphasised element always precedes the verb. The emphasised part in questions is either the question word (*Ki? – Who?, Mikor? – When?, Kivel? – With whom?* etc.) or the question word that stands with a noun (*Melyik könyv? – Which book?, Milyen könyv? – What kind of book?* etc.). The rest of the sentence follows the verb without further restrictions. However, if there is also a verbal

prefix, it has to follow the verb immediately, as shown in **N45** (page 180).

b)

The *Általános ragozás / határozott tárgyas ragozás a kérdésben* chart shows that there are questions where the grammatical object is in the focus, that is, you would like to find out what somebody buys or eats or whom one can see in the room. In these sentences, the question word *Kit?* (*Who?*) or *Mit?* (*What?*) has the accusative ending. The conjugation has to agree with this grammatical object (the question word) therefore it is important to know that they count as indefinite objects.

Mit láatsz a szobában? – What can you see in the room?

Kit ismeresz a csoportban? – Who do you know in the group?

The only question word which counts as a definite object when used with the accusative ending is *Melyiket?* (*Which?*) or *Melyik* + a noun with the accusative ending.

Melyiket látod? – Which one can you see?

Melyik diákot ismered? – Which student do you know?

c)

The *Szavak sorrendje a „Miért...?” kérdésekben* part refers to sentences where the question word is *Miért? – Why?*. In these sentences, word order depends on the actual question. *Miért* should be followed by the part of the sentence which is in the focus of the question.

In *Miért megy Annick Magyarországra?* (*Why is Annick going to Hungary?*) the point of the question is to find out the reason why Annick goes to Hungary, while in *Miért Annick megy Magyarországra?* we would like to find out why Annick goes to Hungary and why not another person.

Unit 30

N46 (page 188)

Verb conjugation in past tense

It is very easy to decide when to use past tense in Hungarian – everything that happened before now should be said in the past tense. It is good news that there is only one past tense in Hungarian. However, the distinction between the definite and indefinite conjugation still appears in the past tense

but in the first person singular (*én – I*) the two forms are exactly the same.

The chart on page 188 shows the past tense conjugation of regular verbs. Verbs with irregular past tense forms are shown under the chart. *Eszik* (eat), *iszik* (drink), *tesz* (take), *vesz* (buy), *hisz* (believe), *visz* (carry) form a group in which the roots of the verbs are very similar and a double *-tt-* appears in the past tense forms. *Jön* (come), *megy* (go), *alszik* (sleep) and *fekszik* (lie) all have a different root in the past tense and cannot take definite objects therefore only the indefinite conjugation forms are given.

N47 (page 190, exercise 6 and 7)

Már and még

Már and *még* are typically used in past tense sentences when you ask somebody if he/she has ever done something (*Ettél már gulyást? – Have you ever eaten gulyás?*) or if he/she has already done something (*Vettél már jegyet? – Have you already bought a ticket?*).

Negative answers contain *még nem* (*Még nem vettem jegyet. – I haven't bought a ticket yet.*) or *még soha nem* (*Még soha nem voltam Berlinben. – I have never been to Berlin.*) while in positive

answers *már* is used (*Már ittam kávét. – I have already had a coffee.*)

Unit 31

N48 (page 195)

The past tense of verbs that end in -s, -sz, -z

The verbs that end in -s, -sz or -z form a special group in the past tense as well as some other verbs that are mentioned under the chart. These verbs take a double -tt ending in the third person singular, otherwise they do not differ from the first group. Verbs that belong to this group include *mos* (wash), *néz* (watch), *főz* (cook), *ad* (give), *beszélget* (chat), *fizet* (pay), *hív* (call), *hoz* (bring), *kap* (receive), *kezd* (begin), *köhög* (cough), *lát* (see), *lop* (steal), *mond* (say), *mutat* (show), *siet* (hurry), *szeret* (like), *tud* (know / can), *vezet* (drive), *biciklizik* (ride a bike), *cigarettazik* (smoke), *dolgozik* (work), *érkezik* (arrive), *késik* (be late), *kérdez* (ask a question), *lakik* (reside), *reggelizik* (have breakfast), *vacsorázik* (have dinner).

N49 (page 195)

Azt mondta, hogy... / Azt kérdezte, hogy...

Both *mondta* (he/she said) and *kérdezte* (he/she asked) are used in definite conjugation in these sentences because what he/she actually said or

asked appears in a subordinate clause, which is the object of the verb *mond* or *kérdez* and it counts as a definite object. In the main part of the sentence the word *azt* functions as an object and it indicates that the content of the object will be expressed in a subordinate sentence.

If the grammatical explanation sounds a bit complicated, it is enough to remember that definite conjugation is used in every person in this structure.

Unit 32

N50 (page 205)

The past tense of verbs that end in two consonants or *-ít*

Verbs that end in two consonants or in *-ít* take an *-ott/-ett/-ött* ending in all persons. Such verbs are *hall* (hear), *kell* (be needed), *készít* (prepare), *ért* (understand), *tanít* (teach), *dönt* (decide), *fordít* (translate), *segít* (help), *takarít* (clean), *fest* (paint). Other verbs that belong to this group include *fut* (run), *játszik* (play), *nyit* (open), *süt* (fry, roast, bake) which also take an *-ott/-ett/-ött* ending in all persons.

Unit 33

N51 (page 210)

The comparative and superlative forms of adjectives

The comparative forms of adjectives are formed with a double *-bb* which is added to the root with or without linking vowels. If the word ends in a vowel, no linking vowels are used. If the word ends in a consonant, the linking vowel is either *-a-* or *-e-*, which is determined by the rules of vowel harmony. The adjective *nagy* is an exception, which takes an *-o-* linking vowel (*nagyobb* – *bigger*).

Comparative sentences always contain the word *mint* – *than* (*Ez az iskola nagyobb, mint a másik.* – *This school is bigger than the other.*) Irregular comparative forms are presented in the second chart.

Superlative forms (*a legdrágább* – *the most expensive*, *a legmagasabb* – *the tallest*, *a leghidegebb* – *the coldest*) are formed the same way as comparatives and *leg-* is added to the adjectives as a prefix. Superlative forms are always used with a definite article (*a/az* – *the*).

N52 (page 211)

Comparative sentences

In comparative sentences it is often necessary to indicate the measure of difference between two items. Use the *-val/-vel* suffix to tell how much longer, cheaper or smaller something is than the other item: *Pali öt évvel öregebb, mint Tamás.* – *Pali is 5 years older than Tamás.*

Unit 34

N53 (page 217 and 219)

Demonstrative pronouns with suffixes (*ezen, ebben*)

a)

The examples on pages 217-219 show how the demonstrative pronouns (*ez – this or az – that*) are used with endings. Demonstrative pronouns point at objects and they substitute the nouns in a context where their meaning is clear (the object that *this* or *that* refers to is known). The plural and the *-n/-on/-en/-ön* noun endings (page 217) can be added to these pronouns without changes (for example in *Ezek szépek.* – *These are beautiful.* and *Ezen van egy könyv.* – *There is a book on this*). Endings that begin with a consonant (for example *-ban/-ben*) change the word final *-z* of the demonstrative

pronoun and after this assimilation it contains a double consonant (*ez+ -ben* → *ebben*).

b)

The demonstrative pronoun may stand on its own with an *ending* (*ezek* – *these*, *azok* – *those*, *ezen* – *on this*, *azon* – *on that*, *ebben* – *in this*, *abban* – *in that*) or in a structure that includes **1)** a demonstrative pronoun (*ez* – *this* or *az* – *that*) as well as **2)** a definite article (*a* or *az* – *the*) and **3)** a noun (*nyaklánc* – *necklace*, *polc* – *shelf*, *táska* – *bag*, *pincér* – *waiter*). These structures (*ezek a nyakláncok* – *these necklaces*, *azok a nyakláncok* – *those necklaces*, *ezen a polcon* – *on this shelf*, *azon a polcon* – *on that shelf*, *ebben a táskában* – *in this bag*, *abban a táskában* – *in that bag*) appear very often both in written and spoken language.

The charts on page 219 provide an overview of the possible combinations of suffixes and demonstrative pronouns.

Ezek aranyból vannak. – *These are made of gold.*

Ezek a nyakláncok aranyból vannak. – *These necklaces are made of gold.*

Mi van ebben? – *What is in this?*

Mi van ebben a táskában? – *What is in this bag?*

N54 (page 218)

The *rajtam, rajtad...* pronouns

There are basically three ways to express that somebody is wearing something:

1) These sentences literally mean that the person is in certain types of clothes (*Feri öltönyben van. – Feri is in a suit.*)

2) The literal translation of these sentences would be that there are certain types of clothes on a person (*Ferin öltöny van. – There's a suit on Feri.*)

3) The Hungarian verb *visel* corresponds to the English *wear* (*Feri öltönyt visel. – Feri is wearing a suit.*). The clothes worn appear in the accusative case in the sentence (*öltönyt – suit, nadrágot – trousers, farmert – jeans, pólót – T-shirt* etc.)

In the 2nd option the name of the person may be substituted with a pronoun, instead of *Ferin* (literally: *on Feri*) you may have to say *rajtam* (*on me*), *rajtad* (*on you*), *rajta* (*on him / her*), *rajtunk* (*on us*), *rajtatok* (*on you*), *rajtuk* (*on them*). This is demonstrated in the chart on page 218. So, the literal translation of *Öltöny van rajtam.* is that *There is a suit on me.* and it means that *I am wearing a suit.*

N55 (page 222)

Possessive pronouns

These pronouns have English equivalents: *enyém* (mine), *tied* (yours), *övé* (his or hers) *öné* (yours – formal), *mienk* (ours), *tietek* (yours – plural, informal), *övék* (theirs), *önöké* (yours – plural, formal). If the name of a person is included simply add *-é* in the end (*Pistáé* – Pista's, *Katié* – Kati's).

When you use them in sentences, there is usually no verb included: *Ez a könyv az enyém.* – This book is mine. or *Az autó Katié, de a bicikli Zolié.* – The car is Kati's but the bike is Zoli's.

Note that some of them may occur in two forms: *tied=tiéd*, *mienk=miénk*, *tietek=tiétek* which can be used interchangeably.

Unit 35

N56 (pages 226 and 227)

Asking for permission: the *-hat/-het* ending

a)

When asking if you *may* do something, you must use *-hat/-het* in Hungarian. This ending is added to the base form of regular verbs (*kér* – ask for something, *mond* – say, *(fel)próbál* – try, *néz* – watch, *ül* – sit) and it is followed by the personal ending in all persons, either definite or indefinite conjugation (*néz+het+ek* → *Nézhetek tévét?* – May

I watch TV?, olvas+hat+ok → Olvashatom ezt a könyvet? – May I read this book?).

This ending is added to the stem of the *-ik* verbs without *-ik* (*dolgozik → dolgoz → dolgozhat → Dolgozhatok? – May I work?*).

This structure usually appears in first person singular or plural questions as it is mainly used to ask for permission.

b)

Some verbs have an irregular form when used with *-hat/-het* as demonstrated in the chart on page 226 (*eszik – ehet – may eat, iszik – ihat – may drink, vesz – vehet – may buy, visz – vihet – may take, tesz – tehet – may put, hisz – hihet – may believe, van – lehet – may be, megy – mehet – may go, jön – jöhet – may come, alszik – alhat – may sleep, fekszik – fekhet – may lie, haragszik – haragudhat – may be angry, dohányzik – dohányozhat – may smoke*).

N57 (page 228)

Deriving adjectives from numerals (*egyes, kettes*)

Adjectives from numbers are derived by adding an *-(e/a/o/ö)s* ending. The resulting adjectives (*egyes, kettes, hármás* etc.) are used to refer to various

things marked with the given number. Typical examples are

- classrooms at school (*ötös terem* – *classroom number 5*)
- means of public transport (*hatos busz* – *bus number 6*)
- roads (*66-os út* – *route 66*)
- banknotes and coins (*tízezres* – *a ten thousand forint banknote*, *százás* – *a coin of 100 forints*)
- marks at school (*egyes, kettes, hármas, négyes, ötös*)

N58 (page 229)

Demonstrative pronouns with dative suffix (*ennek, annak*)

Demonstrative pronouns (*ez* and *az*), as explained in **N53**, take the same suffixes as the associated nouns (for example the plural ending is added to both the demonstrative pronoun *ez* and the noun it stands with: *ezek az asztalok* – *these tables*). In possessive structures the possessors that appear in third person (*lány* – *girl*, *ház* – *house*, *férfi* – *man*, *rendőrök* – *policemen* etc.) take a *-nak/-nek* ending while the possessions receive the possessive endings (*A lánynak hosszú haja van.* – *The girl has long hair.*, *A háznak három ablaka van.* – *The house has three windows*, *A férfinak három*

gyereke van. – The man has three children.). If these third person possessors stand with a demonstrative pronoun, than the latter also takes the *-nak/-nek* ending (*Ennek a lánynak hosszú haja van. – This girl has long hair., Annak a háznak három ablaka van. – That house has three windows, Ennek a férfinak három gyereke van. – This man has three children.).*

N59 (page 230)

Demonstrative pronouns with accusative suffix (*ezt, azt*)

The accusative *-(a, o, e, ö)t* ending is added to demonstrative pronouns (*ez* and *az*) when the associated noun also has the accusative ending (*Ezt a könyvet olvasom. – I am reading this book*) or when they function as the object in the sentence (*Ezt olvasom. – I am reading this.*). The *-t* ending can be added to *ez* or *az* without any linking vowels (*ezt* and *azt*).

Note that these objects (*ezt, azt* on their own, or with a noun in accusative case: *ezt a könyvet*) count as definite objects and therefore the verb they belong to will be conjugated accordingly. (*Kérek egy almát. – I would like an apple. vs. Kérem ezt az almát. – I would like this apple.*)

Unit 36

N60 (page 236)

Expressing general obligation

(kell+infinitive), prohibition (tilos+infinitive) and possibility (szabad+infinitive)

The verb *kell* means that *it is necessary to* and is used with the infinitive form of a verb. It expresses a general obligation or need (*Az egyetemen tanulni kell. – At the university you must study.*). If you would like to express a more specific obligation, that is, when a certain person has to do something, you will use a different structure. In these sentences *kell* always takes the same form – it is not conjugated.

Tilos means that *it is forbidden* while *szabad* means that *it is allowed to* do something and they also express a general prohibition or possibility, respectively. (*Tilos dohányozni. – It is forbidden to smoke., Az épület mellett szabad dohányozni. – You are allowed to smoke next to the building.*). Both *tilos* and *szabad* are used only in this form.

N 61 (page 238)

Plural possessive form of nouns

In possessive structures that include more than one possession (*Itt vannak a szüleim. – My parrents are here., Ferinek vannak gyerekei. – Feri has*

children.), the plural is marked in a special way, which is different from the regular *-(a, o, e, ö)k* plural marker. In these cases the plural is marked by an *-i-*, which is followed by the possessive ending. Such expressions are used normally with a limited vocabulary therefore it is more useful to learn some specific phrases instead of learning the complex set of rules. The most frequently used phrases appear in the following examples:

Kati testvérei Szegeden tanulnak – Kati’s siblings study in Szeged.

Az én testvéreim nem itt laknak. – My siblings don’t live here.

Vettem egy tortát a testvéreimnek. – I’ve bought a cake for my siblings.

Kati szomszédai hangosak. – Kati’s neighbours are loud.

A barátainkkal megyünk Londonba. – We are going to London with our friends.

Tegnap a barátaimnál ebédeltem. – Yesterday I had lunch at my friends’.

N62 (page 239)

Ordinal numbers

első – first, második – second, harmadik – third, negyedik – fourth, ötödik – fifth, hatodik – sixth,

hetedik – seventh, nyolcadik – eighth, kilencedik – ninth, tizedik – tenth, tizenegyedik – eleventh, tizenkettedik – twelfth, tizenharmadik – thirteenth, tizenharmadik – thirteenth, századik – one hundredth, százharminckettedik – one hundred thirty second, ezredik – one thousandth, ötezredik – five thousandth

Unit 37

N63 (page 243)

Demonstrative pronouns with the *-val/-vel* suffix (*ezzel, azzal*)

N53, N58 and **N59** have explained that demonstrative pronouns (*ez* and *az*) take the same suffixes as their associated nouns. If the noun has the *-val/-vel* ending, the demonstrative pronoun (*ez – this* or *az – that*) also takes the *-val/-vel* ending. In this case the *-v-* assimilates to the word final *-z* and therefore *ezzel* (*with this*) and *azzal* (*with that*) is formed.

N64 (page 244)

Going somewhere to do something (*megy+infinitive*)

The infinitive form of a verb can be used with the verb *megy* (*go*) to express the purpose, so you can

say that you *go somewhere to do something*, just like in English.

Megyünk úszni . – We are going to swim.

Megyek az étterembe vacsorázni. – I'm going to the restaurant to have dinner.

Unit 38

N65 (page252)

The accusative case of personal pronouns (*engem, téged* etc.)

a)

Personal pronouns can function as grammatical objects (*Kati ismer engem. – Kati knows me., A tanár téged néz. – The teacher is watching you., Nem szeretem őt. – I don't like him/her., Anya felhívott minket. – Mum called us., A tanár lát titeket. – The teacher can see you., Ismerem őket. – I know them.*)

b)

A special case is when the subject of the sentence is first person singular (*én – I*) while the grammatical object is second person (*te* or *ti – you* singular or *you* plural). In these sentences a special verb ending is used: *-lak/-lek*, according to the

rules of vowel harmony. (*Ismerlek. – I know you., Látlak. – I can see you., Felhívlak. – I'll call you.*)

c)

It is important that definite conjugation is used only when *őt* (*him/her*) or *őket* (*them*) is the grammatical object. If *engem* (*me*), *téged* (*you*), *minket* (*us*) or *titeket* (*you plural*) is the grammatical object than indefinite conjugation should be used.

Kati ismer engem. – Kati knows me.

Kati ismer téged. – Kati knows you.

Kati ismeri őt. – Kati knows him/her.

N66 (page 254)

Expressing frequency: the -szor/-szer/-ször ending

To say *how many times* (*Hányszor?*) something happens, the *-szor/-szer/-ször* ending is used with numbers (*egyszer – once, háromszor – three times, ötször – five times*) or other quantifiers (*sokszor – many times*).

Unit 39

N67 (page 260)

Irregular noun stems

Some nouns have irregular stem variations in plural, possessive or in the accusative case . The following main groups can be distinguished:

1) shortening: These words (*kéz – hand, kenyér – bread, nyár – summer, tél – winter, tér – square, víz – water*) have a different stem in their plural form (*kenyerek – breads, nyarak – summers*), in the accusative case (*telet, teret, vizet*) and in the possessive forms.

2) vowel dropping: The second vowel is dropped from these words (*szobor – statue, bokor – bush, eper – strawberry, gyomor – stomach, torok – throat, tükör – mirror*) in the plural (*bokrok, eprek, gyomrok, torkok, tükrök*), in the accusative case (*bokrot, epret, gyomrot, torkot, tükröt*) as well as in the possessive and when used with the *-n/-on/-en/-ön* suffix.

3) v-inserting and shortening: These words (*ló – horse, kő – stone, fű – grass*) have an additional *-v-* and their long vowel shortens when they are used in the plural (*lovak, kövek, füvek*), in the accusative case (*lovat, követ, füvet*) as well as in the possessive and when used with the *-n/-on/-en/-ön* suffix.

The plural, accusative and 3rd person possessive forms are included in the **lepesenkent dictionary application**.

Unit 40

N68 (page 266)

The future form of the verb *to be (lesz)*

The future forms of the verb *to be (van)* are *leszek, leszel, lesz, leszünk, lesztek, lesznek*.

N69 (page 267)

Future forms

The future forms of Hungarian verbs consist of the infinitive form of the verb and the conjugated form of *fog*. The verb *fog* can be conjugated in all persons (definite and indefinite conjugation, according to the given object) as a regular verb but carries no meaning, apart from expressing future (*Ma dolgozni fogok. – I will work today. Ezt a könyvet fogom olvasni. – I will read this book.*)

Holnap dolgozni fogok. – I will work tomorrow.

Holnap dolgozni fogsz. – You will work tomorrow.

Holnap dolgozni fog. – He/She will work tomorrow.

Holnap dolgozni fogunk. – We will work tomorrow.

Holnap dolgozni fogtok. – You will work tomorrow. (plural)

Holnap dolgozni fognak. – They will work tomorrow.

Although this form has a clear future reference, it is very common that the simple present form of a verb is used to express a future action or event. In these sentences time adverbials or the context can refer to the future meaning (*Csak januárban utazom Spanyolországba. – I am travelling to Spain only in January.*)

N70 (page 268)

The position of verbal prefixes

N45 explained that the position of the verbal prefix changes in negations and in questions that include a question word. In these cases the verbal prefix separates from the verb and is placed right after it (*Bemegyek a házba – I enter the house., Nem megyek be a házba. – I do not enter the house., Ki megy be a házba? – Who enters the house?*).

In sentences where *tud (van)*, *akar (want)*, *fog (will)*, *kell (must)* and *lehet (it is possible to)* are used with a verb that includes a verbal prefix, the subsequent position of the prefix also changes. If the sentence has a neutral meaning (where nothing

is emphasised), the verbs *tud*, *akar*, *fog*, *kell* and *lehet* are inserted between the verbal prefixes and the main verb (*Be lehet menni a házba.* – *It is possible to enter the house.*).