Magyar

The Hungarian Alphabet

Printed	Cursive
A a	𝒜 𝒶
Á á	𝒜́ 𝒶́
B b	ℬ 𝒷
C c	𝒞 𝒸
Cs cs	𝒞𝓈 𝒸𝓈
D d	𝒟 𝒹
E e	ℰ 𝑒
É é	ℰ́ 𝑒́
F f	ℱ 𝒻
G g	𝒢 𝑔
Gy gy	𝒢𝓎 𝑔𝓎
H h	ℋ 𝒽
I i	ℐ 𝒾
Í í	ℐ́ 𝒾́
J j	𝒥 𝒿
K k	𝒦 𝓀
L l	ℒ 𝓁
Ly ly	ℒ𝓎 𝓁𝓎
M m	ℳ 𝓂
N n	𝒩 𝓃
O o	𝒪 𝑜
Ó ó	𝒪́ 𝑜́
Ö ö	𝒪̈ 𝑜̈
Ő ő	𝒪̋ 𝑜̋
P, p	𝒫 𝓅

Printed	Cursive	Printed	Cursive
R r	ℛ 𝓇	Ú ú	𝒰́ 𝓊́
S s	𝒮 𝓈	Ü ü	𝒰̈ 𝓊̈
Sz sz	𝒮𝓏 𝓈𝓏	Ű ű	𝒰̋ 𝓊̋
T t	𝒯 𝓉	V v	𝒱 𝓋
Ty ty	𝒯𝓎 𝓉𝓎	Z z	𝒵 𝓏
U u	𝒰 𝓊	Zs zs	𝒵𝓈 𝓏𝓈

The Hungarian language uses the Roman alphabet, but with a number of modifications. Specifically, it features the consonant combinations ***cs***, ***gy***, ***ly***, ***ny***, ***sz***, ***ty***, and ***zs*** (***cz*** is seen only in names and has become otherwise obsolete) and the short/long vowel pairs ***a/á***, ***e/é***, ***i/í***, ***o/ó***, ***ö/ő***, ***u/ú***, and ***ü/ű***. It also lacks the letters ***q***, ***w***, and ***x***, except in foreign words. The consonant and vowel combinations may look intimidating, but in fact most of the sounds represented by these letters have approximate equivalents in English. Alphabetical order in Hungarian dictionaries and lists of names can present a few difficulties; each short/long pair is treated as the same vowel for listing purposes, but ***ö/ő*** follows ***o/ó*** and ***ü/ű*** follows ***u/ú***, so that *több* follows *továbadd* and *tüdő* follows *túró*. A good rule of thumb is to check above and below the place in a list where a word would appear by English alphabetical order.

Hungarian comes from an entirely different family from the Indo-European languages (Italian, German, Russian, and so on), but its vowel sounds are like those of most European languages. The ***á*** sounds like the *a* in "c*a*r," the ***é*** like the *a* in "g*a*te," the ***í*** like the *i* in "mach*i*ne," the ***ó*** like that in "t*o*re," and the ***ú*** like the *oo* in "m*oo*n." The short sounds ***a***, ***e***, ***i***, ***o***, ***u*** are just that, shorter versions of the long vowels; the ***a*** and ***o*** are most unlike their English counterparts, more like the sounds in "h*u*t" and "h*o*rn" respectively. The ***ö/ő*** pair is a short/long version of the sound in German "G*oe*the," almost like saying "f*ir*" but not quite pronouncing the *-r*. The ***ü/ű*** pair is a short/long version of German *ü* or French *u*, much like saying "ee" with rounded lips. As in German, the ***ö/ő*** and ***ü/ű*** have sometimes been spelled ***oe*** and ***ue***, a fact that may be significant in searching old records for specific words or names.

The pronunciation of most Hungarian consonants is comparable to that of their English counterparts, but a few require attention. The ***c*** is pronounced like *ts* as in "ge*ts*," the ***g*** is always hard as in "*g*o," and a ***j*** sounds like English *y* as in "*y*es." The consonant pairs are initially tricky; ***cs*** is pronounced like English *ch* in "*ch*eek," ***ly*** is pronounced like *y* in "*y*es," ***sz*** is pronounced like *s* in English "*s*ing" (but Hungarian ***s*** is pronounced like English *sh* in "*sh*ort": "Budapest" is pronounced "Budapesht"), and ***zs*** is pronounced like the *s* in "plea*s*ure." The ***gy***, ***ny***, and ***ty*** pairs are palatalized sounds, like a combination of *d* + *y*, *n* + *y*, and *t* + *y* respectively; something similar is heard in "would *y*ou," "can *y*ou," and "let *y*ou" in British or very precise American pronunciation.

Hungarian words are always stressed on the first syllable, and the stress has no effect on the quality or length of vowels.

Source: Shea, Jonathan D., and William F. Hoffman. *Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide.* Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, Inc., 1994.