

# KIEJTÉS ■ PRONUNCIATION

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### PHONETIC CHART OF HUNGARIAN SPEECH SOUNDS

In the left column the letters of the Hungarian alphabet are given followed by the phonetic symbols representing the Hungarian vowels and consonants. This is followed by examples, first English or foreign words with approximate sound correspondences, and finally Hungarian examples in which the respective sounds occur. Note that the stress of Hungarian words falls always on the first syllable.

#### VOWELS

<b>a</b> [ɑ]	as in <i>card</i> , but darker and shorter	<b>kar</b> arm, <b>ablak</b> window
<b>á</b> [a:]	as in <i>baa</i> , but more open; German <i>Haar</i>	<b>tál</b> dish, <b>hálás</b> thankful
<b>e</b> [ɛ]	as in <i>get</i> , <i>pen</i>	<b>ember</b> man
<b>é</b> [e:]	as in French <i>thé</i> , German <i>See</i>	<b>kép</b> picture
<b>i</b> [i]	as in <i>lip</i> , only somewhat tenser	<b>kit</b> whom
<b>í</b> [i:]	as in <i>tea</i>	<b>híd</b> bridge
<b>o</b> [o]	as in <i>not</i> in Scottish pronunciation, French <i>pomme</i> , <i>mot</i>	<b>toll</b> pen
<b>ó</b> [o:]	as in <i>all</i> , <i>short</i> , French <i>beau</i> , German <i>Boot</i>	<b>tó</b> lake
<b>ö</b> [ø]	as in French <i>le</i> , German <i>Löffel</i>	<b>öröm</b> joy
<b>ő</b> [ø:]	as in French <i>deux</i> , German <i>schön</i> , <i>Öl</i>	<b>nő</b> woman
<b>u</b> [u]	as in <i>put</i> , but more rounded	<b>ugrik</b> jump
<b>ú</b> [u:]	as in <i>too</i> , <i>boot</i>	<b>húz</b> pull
<b>ü</b> [y]	as in French <i>tu</i> , German <i>dünn</i>	<b>ül</b> sit
<b>ű</b> [y:]	as in French <i>sûr</i> , <i>rue</i> , German <i>früh</i>	<b>tű</b> needle

NB. There are no diphthongs in Hungarian, except *au* [au] in some words of foreign origin, as in *autó*, *augusztus* etc.

#### CONSONANTS

*Represented by single letters of the Hungarian alphabet*

Consonants for which the phonetic symbol is the same as the letter itself, and which therefore cause no pronunciation difficulties, are the following: **b**, **d**, **f**, **k**, **l**, **m**, **n**, **p**, **t**, **v**, and **z**.

As for the rest:

<b>c</b> [ts]	as in <i>tsetse, hats</i>	<b>ceruza</b>	pencil
<b>g</b> [g]	as in <i>get, give</i>	<b>gazdag</b>	rich
<b>h</b> [h]	as in <i>hip, he</i> Finally, however, and within a word preceding a consonant, it is mute.	<b>ház</b>	house
<b>j</b> [j]	as in <i>yet, you</i>	<b>méh</b> [me:]	bee
<b>r</b> [r]	always rolled as in Scottish <i>rule, Burns</i>	<b>jó</b>	good
<b>s</b> [ʃ]	as in <i>ship, shoe</i>	<b>óra</b>	watch, class
		<b>só</b>	salt, <b>és</b> and

### Double letters

Double letters, such as **bb, cc, dd** etc. represent consonants which are always pronounced *long* as in *unnatural*.

### Digraphs

*Digraphs* are the combination of two – or in one case three – letters which represent a single speech sound, as *gh* in English *tough*.

<b>cs</b> [tʃ]	as in <i>church</i>	<b>csúcs</b>	summit
<b>dz</b> [dz]	short as in <i>roads, bids</i> long, between two vowels	<b>fogóznak</b>	they cling on
<b>dzs</b> [dʒ]	short as in <i>page</i> , long, in a few foreign words	<b>edző</b> [ˈeddzø:]	coach
<b>gy</b> [dʒ]	as in <i>due, during</i> , French <i>adieu</i>	<b>lándzsa</b> [ˈla:ndʒa]	lance
<b>ly</b> [lj]	as in <i>yet, you</i>	<b>bridzs</b> [briddʒ]	bridge
<b>ny</b> [nj]	as in <i>new</i> , French <i>cognac, vigne</i>	<b>magyar</b>	Hungarian
<b>sz</b> [s]	as in <i>see, slow</i>	<b>gólya</b>	stork
<b>ty</b> [tj]	as in <i>student</i> , French <i>Étienne</i>	<b>nyak</b>	neck
<b>zs</b> [ʒ]	as in <i>measure, usual</i> , French <i>jour</i>	<b>szép</b>	nice
		<b>tyúk</b>	hen
		<b>zseb</b>	pocket