

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Upper Intermediate S1 #1 You'd Better Ace Your First Hungarian Job Interview!

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INTRODUCTION

Eric: Hi everyone, and welcome to HungarianPod101.com. This is Upper Intermediate, Season 1 Lesson 1 - You'd Better Ace Your First Hungarian Job Interview! Eric here.

Lena: Hello. I'm Lena.

Eric: In this lesson, you'll learn about politeness in Hungarian. The conversation takes place at an office.

Lena: It's between Tom and Peter.

Eric: The speakers are an employer and employee, so that means they'll be using formal Hungarian. Okay, let's listen to the conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Péter: Üdvözlöm, Kovács Péter vagyok, a cég igazgatója. Kérem, foglaljon helyet.

Tom: Örvendek, Marley Tom vagyok.

Péter: Az önéletrajza felkeltette érdeklődésünket, folyékonyan beszél magyarul?

Tom: Igen, már öt éve Magyarországon élek és tanulok.

Péter: Miért döntött úgy, hogy jelentkezik az állásra?

Tom: Úgy éreztem, az önök cégénél új tudásra tehetnék szert.

Péter: Kifejtené, milyen megbízásai voltak az előző munkahelyén?

Tom: Természetesen. Üzletkötőként a külföldi ügyfelekkel való kapcsolattartás volt a feladatom.

Péter: Értem. Köszönjük a jelentkezését, Tom, hamarosan értesítjük.

Tom: Nagyon szépen köszönöm a lehetőséget, a mielőbbi viszontlátásra!

Eric: Listen to the conversation one more time with the English translation.

Peter: Welcome, I'm Peter Kovacs, the director of the company. Please take a seat.

Tom: Pleased to meet you, I'm Tom Marley.

Peter: Your résumé has aroused our interest. Are you fluent in Hungarian?

Tom: Yes, I've been living and studying in Hungary for five years.

Peter: Why did you decide to apply for the job?

Tom: I felt that in your company, I could gain new knowledge.

Peter: Would you elaborate on what kinds of tasks you had at your previous job?

Tom: Of course. As a sales representative, my main responsibility was keeping in touch with foreign clients.

Peter: I see. Thank you for your application, we will get in touch with you soon.

Tom: Thank you very much for the opportunity, see you soon!

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Eric: Lena, how would you describe the situation with employment in Hungary now?

Lena: Well, I must admit that it's very different from the United States' system.

Eric: Oh really? How so?

Lena: Well, you know, these days more and more companies are involved in illegal employment called "black work" or feketemunka in Hungarian.

Eric: So...is that like when companies don't register their employees legally, or register only a small part of their employees' revenue to avoid heavy taxes?

Lena: Exactly like that. Anyone looking for a job should be aware that a seasonal job, or a part-time job, will not be entirely registered. Gardeners, baby-sitters, or waiters are usually paid this way to avoid taxes and will not pay health insurance or retirement taxes.

Eric: I see.

Lena: In order to avoid this, don't accept a position where you are paid entirely, or even partly in cash, even if they offer to pay you more.

Eric: That's good to know. Okay, now onto the vocab.

VOCAB LIST

Eric: Let's take a look at the vocabulary from this lesson. The first word is..

Lena: üdvözlöm [natural native speed]

Eric: welcome

Lena: üdvözlöm [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: üdvözlöm [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Lena: helyet foglal [natural native speed]

Eric: to take a seat

Lena: helyet foglal [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: helyet foglal [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Lena: felkelt [natural native speed]

Eric: to arouse, to wake up

Lena: felkelt [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: felkelt [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Lena: folyékonyan [natural native speed]

Eric: fluently

Lena: folyékonyan [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: folyékonyan [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Lena: jelentkezik [natural native speed]

Eric: to sign up, to register for, to apply to

Lena: jelentkezik [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: jelentkezik [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Lena: szert tesz valamire [natural native speed]

Eric: to acquire

Lena: szert tesz valamire [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: szert tesz valamire [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have

Lena: kifejt [natural native speed]

Eric: to elaborate

Lena: kifejt [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: kifejt [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have

Lena: üzletkötő [natural native speed]

Eric: sales representative

Lena: üzletkötő [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: üzletkötő [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Lena: hamarosan értesít [natural native speed]

Eric: to get back to somebody soon, to inform

Lena: hamarosan értesít [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: hamarosan értesít [natural native speed]

Eric: And last..

Lena: lehetőség [natural native speed]

Eric: opportunity

Lena: lehetőség [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Lena: lehetőség [natural native speed]

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Eric: Let's take a closer look at some of the words and phrases from this lesson. The first phrase is..

Lena: felkelti valakinek az érdeklődését

Eric: which means “to arouse somebody’s interest”

Lena: The verb “felkelt”, meaning “to arouse”, comes first. The noun follows the verb and has a possessive transitive ending: -at, -et, -át, -ét.

Eric: What kinds of expressions can we use this verb in?

Lena: You can use the verb felkelt to say...felkelti valakinek a figyelmét

Eric: “to arouse somebody's attention”

Lena: ...or felkelti valakinek a kíváncsiságát

Eric: “to arouse somebody's curiosity.”

Lena: You can substitute the verb felkelt” with its synonym “felébreszt” to talk about senses or emotions. For example, you can say... felébreszti a szenvedélyét

Eric: “to awake somebody’s passion”

Lena: or... “felébreszti a vágyát”

Eric “to awake somebody’s desire”. Great! Can you give us a sample sentence using the verb “to arouse”?

Lena: Sure. For example, you can say.. Ez a cikk felkeltette a figyelmemet.

Eric: ..which means “This article has aroused my attention.” Okay, what's the next phrase?

Lena: jelentkezik az állásra

Eric: which means “to apply for a job”

Lena: The verb “jelentkezik” means “to sign up, to apply, to register for” and is followed by a noun with an ending in -ra, -re.

Eric: You can also use this verb to say “to apply for a university”...

Lena: jelentkezik az egyetemre

Eric “to apply for a competition”

Lena: jelentkezik a versenyre

Eric “to apply for an exam”

Lena: jelentkezik a vizsgára. The noun can also have an ending in -nál, -nél

Eric: This will specify that you’re applying to a certain place or company.

Lena: For example...jelentkezik a cégnél az álláshirdetésre

Eric: “to apply for a job at the company”. Lena, can you give us another sample sentence using this word?

Lena: Sure. How about...Jelentkeztem a novemberi nyelvvizsgára.

Eric: "I registered for the language exam in November." Okay, what's the last phrase?

Lena: szert tesz új tudásra

Eric: which means "to gain new knowledge"

Lena: The expression tesz szert is pretty formal and usually comes after a noun with an ending in -ra, -re. It means "to obtain, to acquire or to gain something".

Eric: For example, you can say... "to gain a new experience"

Lena: tapasztalatra tesz szert

Eric: "to acquire profit"

Lena: nyereségre tesz szert

Eric: "to gain friends"

Lena: barátokra tesz szert. Listeners, please note, that the dictionary form of this expression is szert tesz valamire. The word order can change to tesz szert when you add a noun that you would like to stress in the sentence.

Eric: Can you give us an example of it?

Lena: For example, "Tapasztalatra tettem szert." would mean "I gained a new experience", and not something else.

Eric: And if you want to stress the action of acquiring something or gaining knowledge, not the knowledge itself?

Lena: You would say, "Szert tettem tapasztalatra."

Eric: Ok! And one final sample sentence, please!

Lena: Az évek során sikerült gyakorlati tapasztalatra szert tennem.

Eric: It means “Throughout the years I managed to gain practical experience.”

Lena: With emphasis on the experience obtained.

Eric: Okay, now onto the lesson focus.

LESSON FOCUS

Eric: In this lesson, you’ll learn about politeness in Hungarian. As you know, one of the difficulties of the Hungarian language is the complexity of its polite language.

Lena: Right. Depending on the other person’s age, profession and the context of the conversation, the level of politeness can change significantly.

Eric: The focus of this lesson is to learn how to address people in a formal context, and to be able to ask for favors or questions using the conditional form. Here are two tips to master politeness in Hungarian quickly.

Lena: First, you can forget the definite articles in a possessive structure!

Eric: In a very polite conversation, the definite article is often left out when you use a possessive. For example...

Lena: Az önéletrajza felkeltette érdeklődésünket.

Eric: “Your resume has aroused our interest.”

Lena: In a less formal context, or during a polite oral conversation, you would naturally say “Az önéletrajza felkeltette az érdeklődésünket.”, not Az önéletrajza felkeltette érdeklődésünket.

Eric: So, by taking out the definite article before the noun in the possessive form, your speech becomes even more polite.

Lena: Right. Listeners, in written language, this rule is a must!

Eric: Lena, what's the second tip?

Lena: Tip number two: get rid of the conjunction "hogy", which means "that" and is usually found after a comma.

Eric: For example?

Lena: Úgy éreztem, az önök cégénél új tudásra tehetnék szert.

Eric: This means "I felt that in your company I could gain new knowledge."

Lena: In casual conversation, it would still be polite to say Úgy éreztem, hogy az önök cégénél új tudásra tehetnék szert.

Eric: Now onto the conditional. Hungarians often use the conditional form to make polite requests or ask polite questions, just like in English.

Lena: When you are the subject of the sentence, you can also use the potential form to be more polite.

Eric: Lena, can you give us some examples?

Lena: For example, let's take the sentence....Megkérhetem, hogy ismétlje meg?

Eric: which means "Can I ask you to repeat that, please?"

Lena: The more polite form will be Megkérhetném, hogy ismétlje meg?

Eric: "Could I ask you to repeat that, please?" When you're making requests, you can use the following expressions.

Lena: Lenne szíves megmondani...

Eric: This means "Would you be so kind as to tell..."

Lena: Le lennék kötelezve, ha megmondaná...

Eric: "I would be obliged to you if you told.."

Lena: Tudna esetleg ajánlani...

Eric: "Could you possibly recommend...". Listeners, you can find more phrases, as well as information on how to address men and women in a polite conversation, in the lesson notes!

OUTRO

Eric: Okay, that's all for this lesson. Thank you for listening, everyone, and we'll see you next time!

Lena: Viszontlátásra