

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

# Lower Beginner S1 #1

## How Were Your Hungarian Holidays?

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# INTRODUCTION

Simone: Hi everyone, and welcome to HungarianPod101.com, Lower Beginner Season 1, Lesson 1, "How Were Your Hungarian Holidays?" I'm Simone.

Csaba: Sziasztok, I'm Csaba. Wow, we're on the Lower Beginner series now!

Simone: Yes, I hope you listeners had no doubts that we would be back. In this very first lesson, we're going to learn how to use the past tense form of "to be."

Csaba: The dialogue takes place on the street.

Simone: It's between Anne and Balázs, our main characters, whom you might remember from our Absolute Beginner series.

Csaba: And of course, they are good friends, therefore they use the informal language.

Simone: Let's listen to the conversation.

## POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Simone: So, Anne is back from which holiday again?

Csaba: From the summer holiday. As you remember, she's working as an English teacher in Hungary, and she left for the US at the end of the school year.

Simone: Right. Schools take a break in Hungary for about two and a half months.

Csaba: Which we were all very grateful for once. But other than that, you get quite a lot of days off for national holidays too.

Simone: As well as Christmas and Easter too. I remember that from my time in Hungary. Holidays are plentiful.

Csaba: There is always something to celebrate and take a day off for, especially in the first half of the year. You get New Year's Day, Easter, the 15th of March, the 1st of May, Pentecost.

Simone: And the extra day you usually get when any of these happen to be on a Tuesday or a Thursday.

Csaba: Right. Well, who doesn't love four-day weekends?

Simone: That's right. Let's take a look at the vocabulary for this lesson.

The first word we shall see is...

Téged.

You, accusative.

Téged. Téged.

Next is...

Milyen.

What kind? What?

Milyen. Milyen.

Next is...

Volt.

Was.

Volt. Volt.

Next is...

Út.

Journey, road.

Út. Út.

Next is...

Repülőút.

Flight.

Repülőút. Repülőút.

Next is...

Fárasztó.

Tiring.

Fárasztó. Fárasztó.

Next is...

Szünet.

Break, holiday.

Szünet. Szünet.

Next is...

Otthon.

At home.

Otthon. Otthon.

Next is...

Itthon.

At home.

Itthon. Itthon.

And last...

Örülök neki.

I'm glad to hear that. I'm glad that.

Örülök neki. Örülök neki.

## KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Simone: Let's have a closer look at the usage for some of the words and phrases from this lesson.

Csaba: The first phrase is Szeretlek téged. Meaning...

Simone: I love you.

Csaba: You is the object of love, therefore we use téged, the accusative form.

Simone: Alright, moving on. There was a question word we haven't covered yet.

Csaba: Milyen. Milyen. This question word means "what kind of" or "what type". In some constructions, you may translate it simply as "what".

Simone: Tell us how you'd say this: "What color would you like?"

Csaba: Listeners, please repeat after me. Milyen színt kérsz? This is formal, something you might hear when shopping at a store.

Simone: In the dialogue we heard two versions of the same word.

Csaba: Right. "At home" is either itthon or otthon.

Simone: What's the difference?

Csaba: Itthon is used when you are close to the actual location, the house or the apartment.

Simone: Let's say your friend's roommate opens the door for you and you want to ask, "Is Péter home?"

Csaba: Itthon van Péter?

Simone: And the short answer is?

Csaba: Itthon. Both of us use the word itthon since we are close to the location. But if the same question comes up in a phone conversation where you're far away, you ask...

Simone: "Is Péter home?"

Csaba: Otthon van Péter?

Simone: What would be the short answer?

Csaba: The same as before, since the person on the other end of the line is still at the location. He would say: Itthon.

Simone: Got it. Let's move on to the grammar for this lesson.

## GRAMMAR POINT

Simone: In this lesson, we're going to learn about the use of the past tense form of "to be."

Csaba: Yes. Well, the third person form is "volt."

Simone: What examples do we hear in the dialogue?

Csaba: The first one is "Milyen volt az út?"

Simone: "How was the journey?"

Csaba: Milyen volt az út? We've just covered "milyen" in the vocab part and "az út" means "the journey."

Simone: As you can see, the order of words is exactly the same as in English.

Csaba: Right, in this case. I'll give you another example, this time conjugated in the first person singular.

Csaba: Tanár voltam.

Simone: "I was a teacher." There are different forms for every person, right?

Csaba: Right. Let's go through them very quickly.

Simone: "I was, you were, he was."

Csaba: Voltam, voltál, volt.

Simone: "We were, you were, they were."

Csaba: Voltunk, voltatok, voltak.

Simone: As usual, dictionaries normally list the third person singular. We also put that into the vocabulary list section of the lesson notes.

Csaba: Yes, you should remember that. Another thing: since the conjugation tells us the person, the personal pronouns are not normally used.

Simone: So, how would you say "We were soldiers?"

Csaba: Katonák voltunk. See? No pronoun. "Katonák" is "soldiers."

Simone: Okay, anything else you want to say about this one?

Csaba: Well, now that you mention it, I remember an exception from this previous rule. In one of our earlier series, we said that in third person singular, the word "be" is not used, instead there is a pronoun there.

Simone: Please give us an example.

Csaba: Here it is. "Külföldi vagyok." This means "I'm a foreigner."

Csaba: Yes, but you say "Ő külföldi." Which means "He is a foreigner." In third person, we use the pronoun and drop the verb. Well, in the past tense, as we explained in this lesson, you need the verb as well.

Simone: And for more information, check the lesson notes.

## OUTRO

Simone: Okay, that's it for this lesson. Thanks for listening, and we'll see you next time. Bye everyone.

Csaba: Sziasztok