

## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

# Lower Beginner S1 #1

## How Were Your Hungarian Holidays?

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# 1

## INTRODUCTION

Simone:Hi everyone and welcome to HungarianPod101.com. This is 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 of our lower beginner series, we're going to learn how to use the past tense form of "to be."

Csaba:The dialogue takes place on the street.

Simone: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:Here we go.

## POST CONVERSATION BANTER

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

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

Simone:Right. Schools stop in Hungary for about 2 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. Holiday 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, March 15, May 1, Pentecost...

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

Csaba:Right. Well, who doesn't love 4 day weekends?

Simone:On with the vocab then.

## KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Simone:Where do we start from?

Csaba:Rég láttalak. This one means "long time no see" and here it is of course used in the informal.

Simone:We have already covered the formal version of this expression. Can you repeat that please?

Csaba:Rég láttam. 2X. That is so last season Simone. This time we're informal.

Simone:Please repeat:

Csaba:Rég láttalak.

Simone:How did she answer?

Csaba:Én is téged. 2X This means something like "me too you." Téged is "you" in the accusative.

Simone:Remind the listeners quickly what there is to know about the accusative.

Csaba:Basically, if the noun or pronoun is the object of a verb, you use the accusative form.

Simone:Can you give us another accusative?

Csaba:Szeretlek téged.

Simone:"I love you." Repeat please.

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

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

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

Simone:Please say this one now: “What color would you like?”

Csaba:Listeners, please repeat: Milyen színt kér? 2X This is formal, preparing you to a store situation.

Simone:Ok, one more example of this. Please repeat:

Csaba:Milyen nap van ma?

Simone:“What day is it today?”

Csaba:Milyen nap van ma?

Simone:All right. What else?

Csaba:We’ve heard two versions of the same word. “At home” is either itthon or otthon.

Simone:What is the difference?

Csaba:Itthon is used when you are close to the actual location, the house or the apartment. Let’s say your friend’s roommate opens the door for you, and you want to ask “is Peter home?”

Simone:Please repeat!

Csaba:Itthon van Péter? 2X

Simone:And the short answer is?

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

Simone:“Is Peter home?”

Csaba:Otthon van Péter? 2X

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 see the grammar for today.

## 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 did 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.

Simone: Let's repeat.

Csaba: Tanár voltam. 2X

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. 2X

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

Csaba: Voltunk, voltatok, voltak. 2X

Simone:As usual, dictionaries normally list the third person singular. We also put that into the vocab 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:How would you say “We were soldiers?”

Csaba:Katonák voltunk. 2X See? No pronoun. Katonák is “soldiers.”

Simone:OK, 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 first lessons, we said that in third person singular, the word “be” is not used, instead there is a pronoun there actually.

Simone:Please enlighten us with an example.

Csaba:Sure. Please repeat: Külföldi vagyok. 2X

Simone:This means “I’m a foreigner.”

Csaba:Yes. But you say ő külföldi. 2X

Simone:Which means: “He is a foreigner.”

Csaba:In third person we used the pronoun and dropped the verb. Well, in past tense, you need the verb as well.

Simone:For example?

Csaba:Diák voltam. 2X

Simone:“I was a student.”

Csaba:All right. Do you want a couple of examples still?

Simone:Sure. Let’s learn to make excuses. How do you say: “I was sick.”

Csaba:Beteg voltam. 2X A goof excuse when you didn’t do something. Another thing that you might be interested is that since Hungarian has no perfect tenses, present perfect is also used in past.

Simone: So, "have you ever been to the US" is?

Csaba: Please repeat everyone: Voltál már Amerikában? 2X

Simone: What is that már there?

Csaba: Már means already. What you would think of as present perfect is very often a past tense sentence plus már. This is not a rule though.

Simone: All right, I think this is a strong enough opening lesson for Season 1.

Csaba: I agree. Please check back often and listen to the entire Season 1 here, we have a lot of great lessons for you!

## OUTRO

Simone: That's right, and don't forget to check out the lesson notes, which have even more detail. Until next time, bye!

Csaba: Sziasztok.