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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 1: How to Say Thank You! in Hungarian

Köszönöm.

LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination may be, manners are a must! And in this respect, Hungary is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be teaching you a simple phrase that is bound to come in handy throughout your trip to Hungary. I can't stress this enough: a little a bit of language can go a long way!

In Hungarian, "Thank you." is Köszönöm. Let's break it down by syllable kö-szö-nöm. Now let's see it one more time Köszönöm.

You can emphasize köszönöm by adding szépen, which means literally "nicely, well." You could say Köszönöm szépen, which would be equivalent to "Thanks a lot." a more polite expression than just köszönöm. Again: Köszönöm szépen. Let's break it down by syllable Kö-szö-nöm szépen. Now let's see it once again: Köszönöm szépen.

In Hungarian, there are other ways to express one's gratitude, but they are all variations using köszönöm, which is a verb, and the adverb szépen, which can make the construction more formal to mean "thank you very much."

There will be occasions where you will really want to show your appreciation and politeness. During occasions such as these, you can use the adverbs nagyon and szépen.

"Thank you very much" in Hungarian is Nagyon szépen köszönöm.

Let's break it down by syllable Na-gyon szé-pen kö-szö-nöm. Now let's see it one more time Nagyon szépen köszönöm. The first word nagyon, "very," is used to make the phrase very formal. This is followed by szépen köszönöm, which literally means something like "thanking you in a nice way."

Now let's hear it one more time Nagyon szépen köszönöm.

PHRASES

Hungarian	English
Köszönöm szépen.	Thanks a lot.
Nagyon szépen köszönöm.	Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

Hungarian	English
köszönöm	Thank you
szépen	well, nicely
nagyon	very

QUICK TIP

By far, köszönöm is the most common way to say "Thank you." Use the most formal version nagyon szépen köszönöm sparingly, only in very formal situations, like when extending your visa or handling some other kind of official problem in a government office. Remember: when in doubt, keeping it simple is always your safest bet. You don't have to worry about formal or informal situations; köszönöm can be used with just about anyone, anywhere, and anytime. You say köszönöm when the waiter brings your food or drinks; when the clerk in the hotel takes your luggage to your room (of course, throwing in a tip won't hurt either!); and when somebody welcomes you, or congratulates you. No matter his/her profession or age; köszönöm or köszönöm szépen will always be an appropriate response.

QUICK TIP 2

If you are around friends, you might hear shorter versions of köszönöm, like köszi, or even kösz. Both of these mean "thanks" or "cheers"; they are very informal. If you know the people well enough, feel free to throw one of these in—your knowledge of informal Hungarian will surely be appreciated.