

## Overview

### Population

Estimated population of Hungary is 9,877,365.

### Climate

Four seasons. Average summer temperature is around 20°C. Average winter temperature is around 0°C.

### Education System (for children from Hungary)

Age 3-6 Kindergarten

Age 6-14 Primary School

Age 14-18 Secondary School

- Grammar School – for generalized studies, to prepare students for University studies
- Secondary Vocational School
- Vocational School – to help low achieving students in Primary School to catch up and join the usual Vocational School curriculum (2 years)

From 18 years Higher Education

- College – 4 years
- University – 4-6 years

At the end of Grammar and Secondary Vocational Schools, students take their 'Matura' (exit exam) in Hungarian literature and grammar, Mathematics, History, one foreign language and one subject of the student's choice, (this can be anything that they have studied previously for at least 2 years).

The academic year runs from September to mid June, with half-year examinations in January and at the end of the academic year in late May.

**SEN:** Students with mild impairments are integrated to mainstream education while those with profound disabilities attend special schools.

## Education System – main differences and implications for schools

### School starting age

Though kindergarten may include programmes in subjects such as foreign languages and music, children spend most of their time playing. In their last year children are beginning to get prepared for Primary School.

### School day

- The school day is from 8 am to 1-2 pm in Primary Schools and to 3-4 pm in Secondary Schools. Lessons last for 45 mins with 10-15 mins breaks between them. Schools also offer after school (homework) clubs and other extra curricular activities such as sports, music etc. until 4 pm.
- The number of students in one class varies between 10 and 30, with no teaching assistants. Most schools use blackboards and whiteboards; interactive whiteboards and computers in classrooms are rare.
- Children are encouraged to work independently, rather than do collaborative work.

### Curriculum

- For Primary School children subjects taught are literature, grammar, maths, environmental studies, music, art, and PE. History is taught from age 11; biology, geography and physics from age 12, chemistry from age 13.
- In Primary Schools foreign languages are taught from age 9-11 (usually English, German and French), although some schools and kindergartens offer foreign language education from an earlier age.

## Literacy

- Primary school children learn to write with the aid of 3 line guides.
- Independent writing starts much later, usually from age 9-10. In the first year of independent writing, children are expected to write 8-10 simple sentences.

## Maths

- Multiplication is taught from age 7 and division from age 8.
- Some mathematical signs differ in Hungary. The multiplication sign is a 'dot' instead of the 'x'; the division sign is two dots above each other '÷'. Decimals are written using commas rather than a full stop.
- Hungarian children can get confused when reading the clock in English, as 'half past five' reads 'half (to) six' in Hungarian.

## Cultural sensitivities

- In Hungary, children do not wear school uniform.

## Parental involvement and attendance in Hungary

- In their first 4 years of primary education, children receive an essay type evaluation. Grading starts from the 5<sup>th</sup> year with grade scales ranging from 1-5 (1= insufficient, 5= excellent).
- Hungarian children have to repeat a school year if they do not achieve the expected minimum grade (grade 2); however, this not based on the school's decision alone but subject to parent consultations too.
- Children are tested almost on a weekly basis, with regular feedback to the parents, who are used to feedback through frequent whole class and individual parents' evenings.
- Children take all their school text and exercise books home every day for homework so parents can see what their children have been learning. In the UK, Hungarian parents often feel 'left out' or poorly informed about their child's progress and what they are learning at school - a home-school diary is very effective to put parents' minds at rest.

## Language differences that may cause problems with Literacy

### Spellings

Unlike in the English language, in Hungarian the names of the days and months are not written with capital letters.

### Punctuation

Quotation marks are written differently: „Are you OK?” she asked.

### Auxiliaries/negatives/questions/tenses

The auxiliary “do” has no equivalent in the Hungarian language. Students therefore find it difficult to incorporate it into their sentences. The same applies to modal verbs.

### Word order

The Hungarian word order is less rigid than in English. Hungarian speakers often follow the same syntactical pattern in English that they would use in Hungarian. Similarly, a sentence can begin with the object in Hungarian. Adverbs may separate a verb from its subject (“You speak very well English”).

### Gender/Articles

Third personal pronouns have no equivalent in the Hungarian language, with the word “ő” being used for both “he” and “she”, while “az” is the equivalent for “it”.

## Useful classroom words

### Greetings

Welcome	Üdvözlünk
Hello	Szia
Thank you	Köszönöm szépen
Please	Kérem szépen
Goodbye (formal)	Viszont látásra
Bye (casual)	Szia
Morning	Reggel
Afternoon	Délután
Are you OK?	Jól vagy?

### School Routine

School playground	Iskola udvar
School office	Iroda
Hall	nagy terem, hall
School	iskola
Assembly	gyűlés
Toilets	WC
School field	iskola udvar
Classroom	osztályterem
Registration	nyilvántartás
Computer suite	számítógép terem
Tutor group (class)	csoporthoz tartozók
Break time	szünet
Outside	kint
Inside	bent
Fire drill	tűzjelző
Packed lunch	csomagolt tízórai
School dinner	iskolai ebéd (ált. meleg)
School nurse	iskola nővér
First aid room	orvosi szoba
Staff room	tanári szoba
Lunchtime	ebédszünet
School uniform	iskolai egyenruha
Library	könyvtár
Reading book	olvasó könyv
Library book	könyvtári könyv
Copy	másolat, másolni
Label	címke
Colour	szín
Pen	toll
Pencil	ceruza
Yes	igen
No	nem

## Days of the week

Monday	hétfő
Tuesday	kedd
Wednesday	szerda
Thursday	csütörtök
Friday	péntek
Weekend	hétvége

## Numbers

Zero	nulla		
One	egy		
Two	kettő	20	húsz
Three	három	30	harminc
Four	négy	40	negyven
Five	öt	50	ötven
Six	hat	60	hatvan
Seven	hét	70	hetven
Eight	nyolc	80	nyolcvan
Nine	kilenc	90	kilencven
Ten	tíz	100	száz

How many? Mennyi?

## Instructions/Questions

Work with a partner  
*Valakivel együtt dolgozni*  
Use your dictionary *Használj szótárat.*  
Do you understand? *Érted?*  
Talk about this at home  
*Ezt beszéljétek meg otthon*  
Translate these words at home  
*Ezeket a szavakat fordítsd le otthon*  
You can write in Hungarian  
*Írhatsz magyarul*  
Write in sentences *Írj mondatokat*  
Fill in the blanks *Írd be a hiányzó szavakat*  
Annotate *Jegyzet*  
Highlight *Kiemelés*  
Draft *Piszkozat*  
Please be quiet *Légszíves maradj csendben*  
Come here please *Légszíves gyere ide*  
Sit on the carpet *Ülj a szőnyegre*  
Where does it hurt? *Hol fáj?*  
Well done! *Ügyes vagy!*