

HU VOWEL HARMONY

Hungarian is an agglutinative language which simply means that lexical and grammatical components are, so to say, glued together to form a meaningful word.

The V harmony rule says that the vowels of the word components will be musically attuned by the application vowels in them that do not create discordances; they are harmonized.

1., Consequently, **FRONT/HIGH vowel** words, whether STEM WORDS or MORPHEMES or simply COMPOUND WORDS shall seek affinity/harmony/match with the **FRONT/HIGH VOWEL** based MORPHS or AFFIXES.

2., Similarly, **LOW/BACK vowel** words, whether STEM WORDS, MORPHEMES or COMPOUND WORDS shall seek affinity/harmony/match with the **LOW/BACK VOWEL** based MORPHS and AFFIXES.

Reason why, for instance, will you see in Hungarian two or even three different vowel base option **morphs or suffixes** eg.morph: -gat,-get or -kod,-ked,-kőd affixes:-ban/-ben, -tól/től, -n/-on/-en/-ön/-án etc.

The i/í is the only vowel that doesn't follow the vowel harmony rules in Hungarian.

Similarly **VERB prefixes and suffixes** do not seem to follow the the vowel matching rule: eg. át-ír-o-m, el-olvas-o-m, rá-ér-e-k, el-mond-o-m

VOWEL HARMONY (VH)

Stem words and morphemes tend to be ALREADY HARMONIZED as either ALL front or back VOWELS.

IN HUNGARIAN AGGLUTINATION/expansion VH. MUST BE OBSERVED.

A WARM REMINDER:

ALWAYS OBSERVE THE VOWEL HARMONY RULES WHEN applying morphs, prefixes, suffixes and infixes whenever the STEM WORD's form is altered by the addition

of morphs, affixes/endings or by concatenation/pooling of TWO or more words together.

What is VOWEL HARMONY?

VOWEL HARMONIZATION IS an important auditory LOGIC principle OF THE HUNGARIAN BOTH SPOKEN AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE: highfront goes with highfront, whereas lowback goes with lowback.

The fact is though that vowels occupy a secondary semantic function/role only in agglutinative languages.

The real meaning of words does actually leap out at you from the CONSONANTS.

You will commit LESS ERRORS in Hungarian, if you glue a HIGH(front) vowel choice MORPH or AFFIX to a high(front) vowel stem word and similarly a LOW(back) vowel choice MORPH or AFFIX to a low(back) vowel stem word, than wasting your time by trying to be absolutely correct with your choice. Please remember that spontaneity is a critical component when it comes to language proficiency.

a., in FRONT VOWELS (e, é, i, í, ö, ő) harmonized STEMs or multi-syllable WORDs, front vowels will attract front vowels through the agglutination process (word expansion) : e, é, i, í, ö, ő

Eg. **Elkeresztényesedettek**ből (NOTE: each syllable in the previous word...that is the STEM and PRE- and SUFFIXES expanders.... has a FRONT VOWEL in it) **álló országban**(NOTE: BOTH previous words have a BACK VOWEL in each syllable) **élünk.** (again each, syllable has a FRONT vowel in it)./// **We live in a country of Christianized people.**

b., in BACK VOWELS (a, á, o, ó, u, ú) harmonized STEMs or WORDs, back vowels attract back vowels: a, á, o, ó, u, ú ...

Eg. Az országos sportolók száma Magyarországon nagyon magasán áll.///The number of people doing sports nationally in Hungary stands at a very high level.

c., in multiple syllable words with MIXED front and back vowels.... EXCEPTION!!!! i/í is accepted with low/back vowels as well.

Eg. Gyakorlatilag kimondhatatlan számú fiatalnak van bátorításra szüksége.///Practically an inexplicable number of young people need encouragement.

SOME Verb conjugation examples:

a., ONE SYLLABLE STEM WORD VOWEL demands harmonization:

Eg. Esz-ek, alsz-ok, ül-ök;

b., MIXED FRONT AND BACK VOWEL MULTI-SYLLABLE WORDS demand SPECIAL ATTENTION. **Usually** harmonization is based on the vowel in the last SYLLABLE of the BASE WORD:

Eg. (back vowel in last syllable) Csinál-ok, csinál-juk, csinál-ják, csinál-hat-om, /itat-om, itat-juk, itat-od/ tiltakoz-ok, tiltakoz-unok, tiltakoz-hat-nak, tiltakoz-hat-ná-nak

Eg. (front vowel **i/í** in last syllable is EXCEPTION and tolerates low/back vowel equally.) savanyít-/// savanyít-unok, savanyít-anak, savanyít-om, savanyít-ják