

1., VOWEL HARMONY (VH)

NOTE: the **i/i** vowel is an exception to the vowel harmony rule. It can pair up with any vowel of the alphabet.

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

IN HUNGARIAN AGGLUTINATION/expansion VH. MUST BE OBSERVED.

A REMINDER:

ALWAYS OBSERVE THE VOWEL HARMONY RULES WHEN applying prefixes, suffixes and infixes whenever the STEM WORD's form is altered by the addition of a suffix/ending or by concatenation/pooling of TWO or more words ₂

What is VOWEL HARMONY?

VOWEL HARMONIZATION IS an important *auditory LOGIC principle* OF THE HUNGARIAN BOTH SPOKEN AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE: *high goes with high, whereas low goes with low. The fact is that vowels occupy a secondary function 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 AFFIX to a high(front) vowel stem word and similarly a LOW(back) vowel choice 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

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Eg. **Elkeresztényesedetttekből** (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 magasan 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....

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-unk, tiltakoz-hat-nak, tiltakoz-hat-ná-nak

Eg. (front vowel in last syllable) savanyít-ít/// savanyít-unk, savanyít-anak, savanyít-om, savanyít-ják