

The 5070 different forms of each Hungarian verb

In the Hungarian language the subject, the object, and the tense of a verb is expressed by suffixes. The meaning of a verb can also be modified by suffixes and prefixes.

tenses

present simple (PR) or past simple (PA)

The future tense is not expressed by a suffix but by an auxiliary. This auxiliary has suffixes as well depending on the subject. Unfortunately the perfect and continuous tenses died out in the end of the 19th century and are readable only in old texts and poems.

subject

I, you, (he, she, it), we, you, they

object

with *or* without an object

modes

C real conditional

I imperative

R repeated action

P possibility

D someone is doing it for us

(The past (unreal) conditional is expressed by an auxiliary)

The sample word is *venni* = to buy

subject	tense	object	mode	Hungarian	English
I	PR	no	-	veszek	I buy
you	PR	no	-	veszel	you buy
he, she, it	PR	no	-	vesz	he buys
we	PR	no	-	veszünk	we buy
you	PR	no	-	vesztek	you buy
they	PR	no	-	vesznek	they buy
I	PR	yes	-	veszem	I buy it
you	PR	yes	-	veszed	you buy it
he, she, it	PR	yes	-	veszi	he buys it
we	PR	yes	-	vesszük	we buy it
you	PR	yes	-	veszitek	you buy it

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they	PR	yes	-	veszik	they buy it
I	PA	no	-	vettem	I bought
you	PA	no	-	vettél	you bought
he, she, it	PA	no	-	vett	he bought
we	PA	no	-	vettünk	we bought
you	PA	no	-	vettétek	you bought
they	PA	no	-	vették	they bought
I	PA	yes	-	vettem	I bought it
you	PA	yes	-	vetted	you bought it
he, she, it	PA	yes	-	vette	he bought it
we	PA	yes	-	vettük	we bought it
you	PA	yes	-	vettétek	you bought it
they	PA	yes	-	vették	they bought it

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For brevity the further combinations are presented with subject you (singular) only:

	tense	object	mode	Hungarian	English
1	PR	n	-	veszel	you buy
2	PR	y	-	veszed	you buy it
3	PA	n	-	vettél	you bought
4	PA	y	-	vetted	you bought it
5	PR	n	R	veszegetsz	you repeatedly buy
6	PR	y	R	veszegeted	you repeatedly buy it
7	PA	n	R	veszegettél	you repeatedly bought
					you

8	PA	y	R	veszegetted	repeatedly bought it	
9	-	n	C	vennél	you would buy	23
10	-	y	C	vennéd	you would buy it	24
11	-	n	CR	veszegetnél	you would buy repeatedly	
12	-	y	CR	veszegetnéd	you would buy it repeatedly	
13	-	n	I	vegyél	let you buy	26
14	-	y	I	vegyed	let you buy it	27
15	-	n	IR	veszegessél	let you buy repeatedly	
16	-	y	IR	veszegessed	let you buy it repeatedly	
17	-	n	P	vehetsz	you may buy	
18	-	y	P	veheted	you may buy it	
19	-	n	PR	veszegethetsz	you may buy repeatedly	
20	-	y	PR	veszegetheted	you may buy it repeatedly	
21	-	n	D	vetetsz	you have sg bought	
22	-	y	D	veteted	you have it bought	
23	-	n	DR	vetetegetsz	you have sg bought repeatedly	
24	-	y	DR	vetetegeted	you have it bought repeatedly	
25	-	n	CP	vehetnél	you would be able to buy	
26	-	y	CP	vehetnéd	you would be able to	

					buy it
27	-	n	CPR	veszegethetnél	you would be able to buy repeatedly
28	-	y	CPR	veszegethetnéd	you would be able to buy it repeatedly
29	-	n	CD	vetetnél	you would have sg bought
30	-	y	CD	vetetnéd	you would have it bought
31	-	n	CDR	vetetgetnél	you would have sg bought repeatedly
32	-	y	CDR	vetetgetnéd	you would have it bought repeatedly
33	-	n	IP	vehessél	let you be able to buy
34	-	y	IP	vehessed	let you be able to buy it
35	-	n	IPR	vehetgessél	let you be able to buy repeatedly
36	-	y	IPR	vehetgessed	let you be able to buy it repeatedly
37	-	n	ID	vetessél	let you have sg bought
38	-	y	ID	vetessed	let you have it bought
39	-	n	IDR	vetetgessél	let you have sg bought repeatedly
					let you have it

26

27

40	-	y	IDR	vetetgessed	bought repeatedly
41	-	n	PD	vetethetsz	you may have sg bought
42	-	y	PD	vetetheted	you may have it bought
43	-	n	PDR	vetegethetsz	you may have sg bought repeatedly
44	-	y	PDR	vetetgetheded	you may have it bought repeatedly
45	-	n	CPD	vehettetnél	you would be able to have sg bought
46	-	y	CPD	vehettetnéd	you would be able to have it bought
47	-	n	CPDR	vehettetgetnél	you would be able to have sg bought repeatedly
48	-	y	CPDR	vehettetgetnéd	you would be able to have it bought repeatedly
49	-	n	IPD	vetethessél	let you be able to have sg bought
50	-	y	IPD	vetethessed	let you be able to have it bought
51	-	n	IPDR	vetetgethessél	let you be able to have sg bought repeatedly
					let you be able to

52	-	y	IPDR	vetetgethessed	have it bought repeatedly
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There are 52 possible suffixes to each of the 6 possible subjects. This makes $52 \times 6 = 312$ combinations.

Also, there are special suffixes if the subject is 'I' and the object is 'you'.

	tense	mode	Hungarian	English
1	PR	-	veszlek	I buy you
2	PA	-	vettelek	I bought you
3	PR	R	veszegetlek	I buy you repeatedly
4	PA	R	veszegettelek	I bought you repeatedly
5	-	C	vennélek	I would buy you
6	-	CR	veszegetnélek	I would buy you repeatedly
7	-	I	vegyelek	let me buy you
8	-	IR	veszegesselek	let me buy you repeatedly
9	-	P	vehetlek	I may buy you
10	-	PR	vehetgetlek	I may buy you repeatedly
11	-	D	vetelek	I have you bought
12	-	DR	vetetgetlek	I have you bought repeatedly
13	-	CP	vehetnélek	I would be able to buy you
14	-	CPR	veszegethetnélek	I would be able to buy you repeatedly

15	-	CD	vetetnélek	I would have you bought
16	-	CDR	vetetgetnélek	I would have you bought repeatedly
17	-	IP	vehesselek	let me be able to buy you
18	-	IPR	vehetgesselek	let me be able to buy you repeatedly
19	-	ID	vetesselek	let me have you bought
20	-	IDR	vetetgesselek	let me have you bought repeatedly
21	-	PD	vetethetlek	I may have you bought
22	-	PDR	vetetgethetlek	I may have you bought repeatedly
23	-	CPD	vetethetnélek	I would be able to have you bought
24	-	CPDR	vetethetgetnélek	I would be able to have you bought repeatedly
25	-	IPD	vetethesselek	let me be able to have you bought
26	-	IPDR	vetetgethesselek	let me be able to have you bought repeatedly

Considering the above suffixes as well the possible number of different suffixes is 338

(312+26).

The prepositions are expressed by prefixes. The most frequent prefixes are meg- (completed action), be- (in), ki- (out), le- (down), fel- (up), el- (away), át- (through), rá- (upon), ide- (here), oda- (there), szét- (apart), össze- (together), vissza- (back), végig- (to the end).

These prefixes modify the meaning of the verb and sometimes completely alter it (*cf.* the phrasal verbs in English (look after, come across)).

Taking into account all the possible prefixes and suffixes gives the 5070 (338 x 15) possible forms of each Hungarian verb.

Notes:

- I have made these tables for my own pleasure only. It is likely that professional linguists could find other possibilities.
- It would be a challenge to make a meaningful sentence with some of the above words.

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