

Hungarian Diction

Vowels

written	sung	equivalent
a	[ɒ]	as in “what”
e	[ɛ]	“eh”
i	[ɪ]	“ih”
o	[ɔ]	as in “all”
u	[ʊ]	as in “put”

written	sung	equivalent
á	[a]	“ah”
é	[e]	as in “take”
ë	[ɘ]	slightly closed [ɛ]
í	[i]	“ee”
ó	[o]	“oh”
ö	[œ]	as in British “early”
ő	[ø]	as in French “deux”
ú	[u]	“oo”
ü	[y]	slightly open ũ
ű	[y]	as in German “über”

Consonants

- Many consonants are as in English, or Latin: b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z
- Some require mild consideration: c [s] — g [g] — q [k] — w [v] — x [ks] — y [j]
- Double consonants are pronounced long.

written	sung	equivalent
cs	[tʃ]	as in “church” (also applies to “tcs”, “dcs”, “gycs”)
dzs	[dʒ]	as in “John”
gy	[dʒ]	as in “John” (also applies to “tgy”, “dgy”)
j	[j]	as in “yes”
ly	[j]	as in “yes”; the “l” is silent
ny		as in “onion”
r	[r]	tapped/rolled; double-r trilled
s	[ʃ]	as in “shy”
sz, ssz, zs	[s]	

Words

- Word stress is always the initial syllable.

[Prepared by Gary D. Cannon, based on Harald Jers and Ágnes Farkas, “Hungarian”, in *The Use of the International Phonetic Alphabet in the Choral Rehearsal*, ed. Duane Richard Karna, Scarecrow Press, 2010]