

The background of the slide is the Lithuanian flag, which consists of three horizontal stripes of yellow, green, and red. The flag is depicted with a wavy, flowing texture, giving it a sense of movement. The text is centered over the green stripe.

The best mental gymnastics before the spring semester: Lithuanian

Regina Sabonytė, Viktorija Kavaliauskaitė-Vilkinienė

Survival Lithuanian

LKB0304 **SURVIVAL LITHUANIAN** (in English)! **ONLY ONE WEEK.**

2 ECTS! (Exchange students have to include this course in their Learning Agreement if they want to go to this class). Registration till 11 of August 2025.

Two groups: 9:00–11:00 AM (Lithuanian time) **ONLINE** (Lec. Viktorija Kavaliauskaitė-Vilkinienė).

9:00–11:00 AM (Lithuanian time) **IN THE CLASSROOM** (Lec. Vijolė Višomirskytė).
VMU, Putvinskio st. 23, room 106.

Lessons will be only on August 25, 26, 27, 28. Final exam will be on August 29.

If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact greta.garnyte@vdu.lt

Lecturers:

Viktorija Kavaliauskaitė-Vilkinienė



Vijolė Višomirskytė



Short course description

The aim of the course is to introduce students to a very basic knowledge of Lithuanian that would help them to “survive” in Lithuania. In this intensive course students will learn to introduce themselves, to provide basic biographical information, to ask for the prices while shopping, to ask for directions, basic information at the university, to order food, as well as other useful everyday phrases in Lithuanian. This intensive course is structured around the sociocultural knowledge of the Lithuanian Language.

Course content



INTRODUCING
OURSELVES (NAME, LAST
NAME, ADDRESS,
TELEPHONE, ETHNICITY,
COUNTRY, CITY OF
ORIGIN)



TELLING THE TIME,
ARRANGING THE
MEETING



GETTING AROUND THE
CITY



ORDERING FOOD IN A
CAFE AND RESTAURANT



ASKING FOR PRICES
(HANDLING BASIC
CONVERSATION IN
GROCERY STORE)

Some *Survival* phrases



Labas!

Aš esu...

Labas rytas! Laba diena! Labas vakaras!

Aš nekalbu lietuviškai.

Atsiprašau.

Skanaus!

Ačiū!

Viso gero!

Iki!

Now a little bit more about Lithuanian language and Lithuanian history...



What do learners say about Lithuanian language?

Lithuanian language is the most difficult language in whole wide world. If you don't believe me try to learn it yourself.:))

Lithuanian <...> is an extremely difficult language with many inflections, difficult grammar and pretty strange vocabulary.

The hardest language to master is the one you are currently trying to learn.

(Anonymous)

What's unique about Lithuania(n)? It survived!

In 1989, the National Geographic Institute of France, led by Jean-George Affholder, made its official finding: the center of Europe was the village of Purnuškės, just north of Vilnius, Lithuania.



What's unique about Lithuania(n)?

It survived!



- The Lithuanian state emerged in the middle of the 13th c.
- From the 13th to the 16th c. it stretched over large areas inhabited not only by Balts but also by Slavs.

What's unique about Lithuania(n)?

It survived!

- From the mid-16th to the end of the 18th c. it was in a union with Poland.
- From the end of the 18th c. to the early 20th c. it was occupied by the Russian Empire.

The Book Smuggler



What's unique about Lithuania(n)? It survived!

Lithuania's independence was declared on February 16, 1918.





What's unique about Lithuania(n)? It survived!

- From 1944 to 1990 it was occupied by the Soviet Union.
- Since 1990, Lithuania has again been a democratic independent republic, like Latvia and Estonia.

The Lithuanian language

- Lithuanian and Latvian languages are ***the only living Baltic languages.***
- Lithuanian belongs to the Indo-European group and is nearest to **Sanskrit** (the ancient language in Hinduism).
- Some people say that Lithuanian and Latvian are very similar.
- A Lithuanian (without previous learning, except those who live close to the border) and a Latvian can recognise a few words in each other's speech, but this is not enough to hold a conversation.

The Lithuanian language

RELATED TO SANSKRIT

Lithuanian	Sanskrit	English
sūnus	sūnus	son
avis	avis	sheep
vilkas	vrkas	wolf
antras	antaras	second

RELATED TO LATIN

Lithuanian	Latin	English
du	duo	two
septyni	septem	seven
mėnesis	mensis	month
dantys	dentes	teeth

SIMILAR TO LATVIAN

Lithuanian	Latvian	English
naktis	nakts	night
varna	vārna	crow
alus	alus	beer
medus	medus	honey

Lithuanian ethnographic regions and dialects

Often users of different Lithuanian dialects (such as Samogitians and Aukstaitians) cannot understand each other unless they communicate in standard Lithuanian, which they have to learn.



Alphabet

- Latin based under the influence of Polish, German and Czech.
- 32 letters.
- Consonants with diacritics
c→č, s→š, z→ž.
- Vowels: a, e, è, u, ū, y, i.
- A monument dedicated to unique letter **ė** →

You can find this monument in Kaunas, in Studentų skveras (S. Daukanto str. 28). On the monument, you can see Lithuanian words that include the letter **ė**. What words can you find? What do they mean?

Have fun exploring the meanings!



Reading and spelling

- Pronunciation is almost entirely **consistent with the spelling**: i. e., words are pronounced exactly as they are spelt.
- One letter usually corresponds to one sound.
- In this respect, Lithuanian is more modern than French or English, where the same letters do not always represent the same sound.
- It is also easier to find a Lithuanian word in a dictionary when you hear it pronounced than it is to find an English one.
- **Free word stress.**



Morphology

- Lithuanian is an **inflectional** language; majority of word forms are made with affixes (prefixes, endings).

- Prefixes → new word:

ėti (to go) – **ate***ėti* (to come), **iš***ėti* (to leave), **pa***re***ti** (to come back), **į***ėti* (to enter), **per***ėti* (to pass through)...



- Endings → new word form: *Lietuva*-*Lietuvos*-*Lietuvai*-*Lietuva*...
- The endings are the principal means of marking the relations between words in a sentence.

Morphology

Nouns, adjectives, pronouns and numerals have **7 cases**.

For example, the noun **Lietuva** (Lithuania) is declined like that:

Vardininkas. Kas? (<i>Nominative. What/Who?</i>).	Lietuv a
Kilmininkas. Ko? (<i>Genitive. Of what / what?</i>).	Lietuv os
Naudininkas. Kam? (<i>Dative. To / for whom?</i>).	Lietuv ai
Galininkas. Ką? (<i>Accusative. What?</i>).	Lietuv ą
Įnagininkas. Kuo? (<i>Instrumental. With what?</i>).	Lietuv a
Vietininkas. Kur? (<i>Locative. Where?</i>).	Lietuv oje
Šauksminkas (address form).	Lietuv a

Let's compare:

Čia yra Lietuv**a**. (*This is Lithuania*)

Aš esu iš Lietuv**os**. (*I am from Lithuania*)

Aš gyvenu Lietuv**oje**. (*I live in Lithuania*)

Aš myliu Lietuv**ą**. (*I love Lithuania*)

What case to choose often depends on
the verb or preposition!



Frequency of case forms

The frequency of distribution of case forms (%) in Spoken Lithuanian (adult directed speech).

Case	Nom.	Gen.	Acc.	Dat.	Ins.	Loc.
%	32%	8%	18%	9%	5%	3%

Other important grammatical categories

Gender

- Speaking about people and certain animals, grammatical gender specification usually is meaningful and logical (there is a semantic motivation):
 - **Male people/animals** have **masculine grammatical gender**, e.g. *student^{as}* (student_ms.).
Jis yra student^{as} (He is a student).
 - **Female people/animals** have **feminine grammatical gender**, e.g. *student^ė* (student_fm.).
Ji yra student^ė (She is a student).
- Inanimate objects and specific animals have semantically irrelevant grammatical gender: E.g. *vakar^{as}* (evening_ms.), *dien^a* (day_fm.).

Number

- Singular – to refer to one object or person, e.g. *student^{as}* (student_ms.sg.).
- Plural – to refer to more than one object or person, e.g. *student^{ai}* (students_ms.pl.).

There are **no articles** in the Lithuanian language.

Verb

- **4 tenses:** present, past simple, past iterative, future.
- **3 types** of verbs *in the present*:

A type

gyventi – gyvena, gyveno ‘live’

O type

valgyti – valgo, valgė ‘eat’

I type

mylėti – myli, mylėjo ‘love’



Verb

2 types of verbs in the past:

Ė type

valgyti – valgo, valgė ‘eat’

O type

gyventi – gyvena, gyveno ‘live’



Word order

- Of secondary importance as a means of expressing grammatical relationships in Lithuanian.
- S – subject, V – verb/predicate, O – object.

SVO *Mama skaito knygą*

‘mother reads a book’

SOV *Mama knygą skaito*

VSO *Skaito mama knygą*

OSV *Knygą mama skaito*

OVS *Knygą skaito mama*



When in Lithuania: try to learn and speak Lithuanian! First *Survival Lithuanian* and then *Lithuanian A1* ?



AČIŪ!!!
THANK YOU!!!

