



The Delights of Learning Turkish

A self-study course book
for learners of Turkish

Beginner to intermediate

Yaşar Esendal Kuzucu

T h e D e l i g h t s o f L e a r n i n g T u r k i s h

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To my Dear Wife Shirley

Acknowledgements

I would like to say thank you to Douglas Parkhill for proofreading and editing my book.

I would also like to say thank you to my wife Shirley for her support and help.

And I would like to say thank you to Rob Parkinson for his support.

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About the author

Yaşar Esendal Kuzucu has extensive experience of teaching and lecturing in both English and Turkish. He taught English at high school and Ankara University before setting up courses for learners of Turkish in Turkey.

He has translated novels from English to Turkish including *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach (*Martı*, published 1994), *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (*Fareler ve insanlar*, published 1995) and *The Zürau Aphorisms* by Kafka from its English edition (*Aforizmalar*, published 1997). He has also written a series of storybooks for children in English and grammar books for students of English in Turkey (published 1996).

He is currently an interpreter and linguist living in England where he has continued his own Turkish classes.

Introduction

If you want to communicate really effectively in a Turkish environment, you need more than a phrase book. What you will need to begin to develop is a grasp of the very different grammar and sentence construction of this rich and fascinating language. This is what this book will give you and whether you are planning to settle and live in Turkey itself or are visiting regularly for business or pleasure, studying what is presented here can deepen your experience immeasurably. It takes you from the beginner level to the intermediate level in Turkish. You will be able to construct your own sentences instead of depending on off-the-shelf phrases. More than that, it will introduce you to a culture and tradition.

First time around you may not be able to understand the dialogues and the grammar explanations thoroughly. Don't worry about that. Try to catch just as much meaning as you can. You will be able to refer to the same points again and again. Of course, if you want to learn effectively, it's best to study on a regular basis – practice, after all, makes perfect.

Use other sources in parallel with the book. Take as many opportunities as possible to read Turkish, whether in books or newspapers or magazines or whatever else is available. Use a dictionary – look up words that puzzle you or catch your interest. Watch Turkish television and listen to Turkish radio if you get the chance. There are, too, many online resources and you can also find Turkish versions of some websites which can help you to compare and understand the context in the language. You might enrol in a Turkish language course as well, but most of all practise your Turkish knowledge by speaking Turkish, ideally to people whose first language it is.

Familiarize yourself with the sound of Turkish, even if you only understand a fraction of it in the beginning. And if you make mistakes, that's no problem. Turkish people are generally very forgiving and encouraging to foreign speakers of their tongue and it is still not uncommon for the Turk in the street to express sheer delight that you are actually trying!

You will naturally correct your phrases in practice as you use them. Learn and practise – which is the essential secret. Listen and read and listen and practise and learn and listen.

About the book

The Delights of Learning Turkish is a self-study course book that takes the learner from the beginner level to the intermediate level in Turkish. It is designed for English speakers targeting adult and young adult learners, especially for those planning to settle and live in Turkey or visiting Turkey for business or pleasure.

It is a comprehensive, explanatory approach to Turkish language teaching how to construct and use the language both in formal and colloquial forms with dialogues, examples, grammar points, vocabulary and exercises. It shows the grammatical structures in detail, which enables the learners to make their own sentences.

Covering so many language points, this book is also a grammar reference that targets a wide range of audience including advanced learners.

The book is in 17 units. Each unit starts with a dialogue. A vocabulary section follows each dialogue explaining the new vocabulary used. Then comes the explanation of the grammar introduced in the dialogue itself, as well as general grammar rules with many examples. Additionally, there are more dialogues in every unit.

There are exercises after each unit to practise the knowledge that has been introduced. At the end of the book, you will find the keys to the exercises. There are also Turkish - English and English - Turkish glossary sections as well as Turkish proverbs and idioms added to the book with explanations. And finally, the index pages at the end mostly refer to the grammar points.

In the book, you can also find general information about the Turkish alphabet and Turkish language as well as notes on Turkish culture in daily life.

Although it seems to be a difficult language to learn and despite its grammatical structure being very different from the European languages, Turkish grammar is quite easy and simple once you get used to it. Other than only a few exceptions, its grammar has its own way with a strong logic and a very good systematic structure.

When you apply the rules, it is quite easy to construct your own sentences. Once you get the gist of it, you will be surprised how it is easy to learn the language. The rest will depend on practising and practising.

Don't forget: Practising is the essential secret in learning the language.

Good luck!

The Turkish alphabet and Turkish language

The Turkish alphabet consists of 29 letters - 8 vowels and 21 consonants. Many of the letters have the same or similar sounds to those they would have in English. Though, there are some surprises: The Turkish alphabet does not have the letters **q**, **x**, **w**, but it does have the unfamiliar letters **ç**, **ğ**, **ö**, **ş**, **ü**. Also, in English, there is only one '**i**', which is used as capital without a dot on it (**I**) and small '**i**' with a dot on it. In Turkish, letter '**i**' and letter '**ı**' are distinct letters and you can use both of them as capital or in lowercase: **I**, **ı**, **İ**, **i**. If you miss the dot on the letter, the meaning and the pronunciation of the word completely changes!

Then there is the letter '**ğ**', which is called **yumuşak 'g' (soft 'g')** that softens the sound of '**g**' and lengthens the sound of the preceding vowel. It does not have a pronunciation itself and words do not begin with '**ğ**'. It always comes after a vowel and makes that vowel sound long, such as Muğla (*a city in Turkey*), yağmur (*rain*), soğan (*onion*), düğme (*button*).

Consonants in the Turkish alphabet cannot be pronounced on their own. You need a vowel to read them. Vowel '**e**' is used for this purpose. See the full pronunciation chart further on.

If all that sounds confusing, there is an easy bit: You read exactly what you write. In other words, you pronounce the Turkish words in the same way you spell them. The pronunciation and the written text are the same. In English, characters may not be pronounced in the same way as they are written or they may not be pronounced at all - think of words like '*ship*', '*cheese*', '*night*' or '*through*'.

There is only one sound for each letter no matter with which character you use it or where you place it in a word. In English, some consonants are not pronounced, whereas in Turkish, every single letter is always pronounced.

Stress is very slight. You may not even notice where a word is stressed. Other than with some exceptions, the stress is generally on the last syllable of a word.

In Turkish, the words have no gender forms and there is no gender in personal pronouns. For the third singular person **he**, **she** and **it**, there is only one pronoun, which is '**o**'.

Turkish vocabulary has no resemblance to the European languages. However, there are words adopted from these languages, such as organ (*organ*), adaptör (*adaptor*), adaptasyon (*adaptation*), disiplin (*discipline*), akustik (*acoustic*), amblem (*emblem*),

kart (*card*), etc.

Compared to English, Turkish uses a different word order. Therefore, the sentence construction is also different. For example:

'Ali is watching TV' is expressed as **'Ali TV watching'**.

The basic order in a simple Turkish sentence is:

subject + object + verb (*Ali + TV + watching*)

Whereas in English, the basic order is:

subject + verb + object (*Ali + watching + TV*)

(See 'Word order' in [Unit 9](#).)

So many suffixes are used in Turkish. The base structure of the grammar, which gives the meaning of prepositions, personal pronouns, possessive adjectives, all tenses, etc., is built and formed by adding suffixes onto each other after a word. Whereas in English, several words are used to express the same thing.

'You must go' in Turkish is only one word: **'Gitmelisin'**. Suffixes are added after the verb **git** (*go*) as: **git** (*go*) + **meli** (*must*) + **sin** (*you*).

Another example is: **'We may not buy'** (**Almayabiliriz**). Suffixes are added after the verb **al** (*buy*) as: **al** (*buy*) + **ma** (*negative suffix*) + **y** (*buffer letter*) + **abil** (*may/be able to*) + **ir** (*present tense suffix*) + **iz** (*we*).

The rules for adding suffixes are very straightforward other than several exceptions.

The pronunciation chart

Aa	a	like the <u>a</u> in <i>a</i> fter
Bb	be	like the <u>b</u> in <i>b</i> et
Cc	ce	like the <u>j</u> in <i>j</i> am
Çç	çe	like the <u>ch</u> in <i>ch</i> air
Dd	de	like the <u>d</u> in <i>d</i> ebit
Ee	e	like the <u>e</u> in <i>l</i> ess
Ff	fe	like the <u>f</u> in <i>f</i> erry
Gg	ge	like the <u>g</u> in <i>g</i> ame
Ğğ	-	soft g (no pronunciation itself)
Hh	he	like the <u>h</u> in <i>h</i> air
İi	ı	like the <u>e</u> in <i>nov</i> el
İi	i	like the <u>i</u> in <i>mach</i> ine
Jj	je	like the <u>s</u> in <i>meas</i> ure
Kk	ke	like the <u>k</u> in <i>K</i> elly
Ll	le	like the <u>l</u> in <i>l</i> amp
Mm	me	like the <u>m</u> in <i>m</i> an
Nn	ne	like the <u>n</u> in <i>neigh</i> bour
Oo	o	like the <u>o</u> in <i>o</i> pen
Öö	ö	like the <u>ea</u> in <i>ear</i> ly
Pp	pe	like the <u>p</u> in <i>p</i> encil
Rr	re	like the <u>r</u> in <i>r</i> ailway
Ss	se	like the <u>s</u> in <i>s</i> end
Şş	şe	like the <u>sh</u> in <i>sh</i> ed
Tt	te	like the <u>t</u> in <i>t</i> ennis
Uu	u	like the <u>u</u> in <i>p</i> ull
Üü	ü	like the <u>u</u> in <i>n</i> ude
Vv	ve	like the <u>v</u> in <i>v</i> est
Yy	ye	like the <u>y</u> in <i>y</i> es
Zz	ze	like the <u>z</u> in <i>Z</i> en

Some letters sometimes take circumflex accent ^ (hat) on them. This accent sometimes makes the pronunciation of a letter softer or longer than its actual sound. Here are some examples:

mahkûm *convict*
kâbus *nightmare*
dükkân *shop, store*
kâğıt *paper*
rüzgâr *wind*
hikâye *story*

Although officially it is used, people have generally begun to stop using it. There are still a few words which have letters with this accent. There are also words that you have to use this accent to distinguish them from other words, because these words have two meanings depending on the accent. If the accent is not used, the pronunciation and the meaning completely change. For example:

resmî *formal, official*
hâlâ *still*
kâr *profit*
âdet *custom, tradition*
âmâ *blind*

resmi *accusative form of 'picture'.*
hala *aunt (father's sister)*
kar *snow*
adet *unit, piece*
ama *but*

Some vocabulary

elma	<i>apple</i>
masa	<i>table</i>
kitap	<i>book</i>
otobüs	<i>bus</i>
telefon	<i>telephone</i>
maç	<i>match (sports)</i>
uçak	<i>plane</i>
yumurta	<i>egg</i>
balık	<i>fish</i>
bebek	<i>baby</i>
para	<i>money</i>
güneş	<i>sun</i>
deniz	<i>sea</i>
köpek	<i>dog</i>
şoför	<i>driver</i>
ağaç	<i>tree</i>
hafta	<i>week</i>
taksi	<i>taxi</i>
zeytin	<i>olive</i>
ışık	<i>light</i>
kapı	<i>door</i>
çiçek	<i>flower</i>
buğday	<i>wheat</i>
dağ	<i>mountain</i>
üzüm	<i>grape</i>
şeftali	<i>peach</i>
mısır	<i>corn</i>
ütü	<i>iron</i>
üniversite	<i>university</i>
İzmir	<i>a city in Turkey</i>
hediye	<i>present, gift</i>
ev hanımı	<i>housewife</i>
ders	<i>lesson</i>

gün	<i>day</i>
kahve	<i>coffee</i>
sabah	<i>morning</i>
öğle	<i>noon</i>
akşam	<i>evening</i>
gece	<i>night</i>
reçel	<i>jam</i>
tereyağı	<i>butter</i>
peynir	<i>cheese</i>
su	<i>water</i>
bıçak	<i>knife</i>
mektup	<i>letter</i>
çay	<i>tea</i>
araba	<i>car</i>
şeker	<i>sugar</i>
kedi	<i>cat</i>
pencere	<i>window</i>
resim	<i>picture</i>
meyve	<i>fruit</i>

Unit 1

Merhaba! Nasılsınız?

Hello! How are you?

Ahmet Merhaba! Nasılsınız?

Hello! How are you?

Ayşe İyiyim. Teşekkür ederim. Siz nasılsınız?

I'm fine. Thank you. How are you?

Ahmet Ben de iyiyim. Teşekkür ederim.

I'm also fine. Thank you.

İyi günler. Adınız ne?

Good day. What is your name?

Dilek İyi günler.

Good day.

Ali İyi günler.

Good day.

Dilek Adınız ne?

What is your name?

Ali Adım Ali. Sizin adınız ne?

My name is Ali. What is your name?

Dilek Benim adım Dilek.

My name is Dilek.

Ali Memnun oldum.

I'm pleased (to meet you).

Dilek Ben de memnun oldum.

I'm also pleased (to meet you).

merhaba - *hello*

nasıl - *how*

iyi - *good, well*

iyiyim - *I'm fine*

siz - *you*

ben - *I*

de - *too, also*

ad - *name*

ne - *what*

adınız - *your name*

adım - *my name*

sizin - *your*

benim - *my*

memnun oldum - *I'm pleased*

Nerelisiniz?

Where are you from?

Celil Merhaba! Nerelisiniz?

Hello! Where are you from?

Jane Londralıyım. İngiliz'im. Siz nerelisiniz?

I am from London. I am English. Where are you from?

Celil Ben Türk'üm. İstanbulluyum.

I'm Turkish. I am from İstanbul.

Jane Çok memnun oldum.

I'm very pleased (to meet you).

Celil Ben de.

Me too.

Milliyetiniz ne?

What is your nationality?

Altan Milliyetiniz ne? İngiliz misiniz?

What's your nationality? Are you English?

Judy Evet, İngiliz'im. Sizin milliyetiniz ne? Fransız mı?

Yes, I'm English. What is your nationality? Is it French?

Altan Hayır, Fransız değil. Türk'üm. Ankaralıyım. Adrien Fransız.

No, not French. I'm Turkish. I'm from Ankara. Adrien is French.

Judy Öyle mi? Memnun oldum.

Adrien *Really? Pleased to meet you.*
Ben de memnun oldum.
I'm also pleased to meet you.

değil - not
öyle mi? - is that so? / really?
Türk - Turkish (person)
milliyet - nationality
milliyetiniz - your nationality
İngiliz'im - I'm English
Fransız - French (person)
İngiliz - English (person)
Londra - London
Londralı - Londoner
çok - very, a lot, much, many

Nerede oturuyorsunuz?
Where do you live?

Memur Günaydın. İyi günler. Hoş geldiniz.
Good morning. Good day. Welcome.

Mary Günaydın. Hoş bulduk.
Good morning. Thanks for your welcome.

Memur Adınız ve soyadınız lütfen.
Your name and surname please.

Mary Adım Mary. Soyadım Smith.
My name is Mary. My surname is Smith.

Memur Nerede oturuyorsunuz?
Where do you live?

Mary Fethiye'de oturuyorum, Ölüdeniz'de.
I live in Fethiye, in Ölüdeniz.

Memur Öyle mi? Ben de Fethiye'de oturuyorum.
Really? I also live in Fethiye.

Ne iş yapıyorsunuz?

What is your job?

Akın Nerelisiniz?

Where are you from?

Paul Birminghamlıyım. İngiltere'de oturuyorum. Siz nerelisiniz?

I am from Birmingham. I live in England. Where are you from?

Akın Ben İzmirliyim, ama İstanbul'da oturuyorum.

I am from İzmir, but I live in İstanbul.

Paul Türkiye çok güzel bir yer. Harika.

Turkey is a very beautiful place. Wonderful.

Akın Evet, çok güzel.

Yes, very beautiful.

Paul Ne iş yapıyorsunuz?

What do you do?

Akın Öğretmenim. İngilizce öğretiyorum. Siz ne iş yapıyorsunuz?

I am a teacher. I teach English. What's your job?

Paul Ben öğrenciyim. Türkçe öğreniyorum.

I'm a student. I'm learning Turkish.

nerede - where

memur - officer, clerk

soyadı - surname

soyadınız - your surname

İngiltere - England

ama - but

öğrenci - student

Türkçe - Turkish (language)

Türkiye - Turkey

güzel - beautiful, nice

bir - a/an, one

harika - wonderful

iş - job, work

öğretmen - teacher

İngilizce - English (language)

öğretmenim - I'm a teacher

öğretiyorum - I'm teaching

öğrenciyim - I'm a student

öğreniyorum - *I'm learning*
yapıyorsunuz - *you are doing*
oturuyorsunuz - *you live (reside)*
oturuyorum - *I live, I reside*
yer - *place, seat, floor, ground*

Greetings, farewells and some daily expressions

merhaba	<i>hello</i>
selam	<i>hi</i>
hoş geldiniz	<i>welcome</i>
hoş bulduk	<i>thanks for your welcome</i>
iyi günler	<i>have a nice day, good day</i>
tünaydın	<i>good afternoon</i>
iyi akşamlar	<i>good evening</i>
iyi geceler	<i>good night</i>
görüşürüz	<i>see you</i>
sonra görüşürüz	<i>see you later</i>
güle güle	<i>goodbye</i>
allahısmarladık	<i>goodbye</i>
hoşça kal	<i>goodbye</i>
anlamadım	<i>I don't understand</i>
kendine iyi bak	<i>take care (of yourself)</i>
nasılsınız?	<i>how are you? (formal)</i>
nasılsın?	<i>how are you? (informal)</i>
kusura bakma	<i>sorry (informal)</i>
kusura bakmayın	<i>sorry (formal)</i>
evet	<i>yes</i>
hayır	<i>no</i>
pardon	<i>excuse me</i>
özür dilerim	<i>sorry, I apologize</i>
affedersiniz	<i>excuse me</i>
lütfen	<i>please</i>
teşekkür ederim	<i>thank you</i>
teşekkürler	<i>thanks (informal)</i>

sağ ol	<i>thanks, ta (more informal)</i>
bir şey değil	<i>not at all, you're welcome</i>
rica ederim	<i>not at all (very formal)</i>
tamam	<i>OK / okay, all right</i>
geçmiş olsun	<i>get well soon</i>
iyi şanslar	<i>good luck</i>
aferin	<i>well done</i>
tebrikler	<i>congratulations</i>
ne haber?	<i>what's up?</i>
selam söyle	<i>say hello</i>

You say '**güle güle**' to the person who is leaving where you mean '**go with a smile**'. The person who is leaving says '**allahaismarladık**'. '**hoşça kal**' can be said by both sides.

Personal pronouns

Pronouns are words that replace nouns, noun phrases or other pronouns. In other words, they substitute for them. *Personal pronouns* stand in the place of names of people or things.

ben - I (first singular person)

sen - you (second singular person)

o - he/she/it (third singular person)

biz - we (first plural person)

siz - you (second plural person)

onlar - they (third plural person)

In Turkish, there are two words that you use when you want to say '**you**'. You use the second singular person '**sen**' (**you**) when you are informal with somebody, when talking to a close friend or a child.

You use the second plural person '**siz**' (**you**) when you are addressing a person that you are formal with or when you are talking to more than one person.

Nasılsın? / Nasılsınız? (How are you?)

(sen) nasıl + sin?

(you) how are you?

(siz) nasıl + sınız?

(you) how are you?

When you say **nasılsın**, actually, it is **sen nasılsın**. The personal pronoun **sen** in the beginning (which is the subject here) is not commonly used. The ending **-sin**, which is added to **nasıl**, is the personal pronoun **sen** in suffix/ending form and it tells us what the subject of this sentence is. In other words, it stands for the personal pronoun '**sen**', which is the subject of this sentence.

Similarly, in the other sentence, **siz** in the beginning is dropped. **-sınız** is the suffixed personal pronoun, which stands for **siz (you)**.

- **Merhaba! İyi günler. Nasılsınız?**

Hello! Good day. How are you?

- **İyiyim, teşekkür ederim. Siz nasılsınız?**
I'm fine, thank you. How are you?
- **Ben de iyiyim. Teşekkür ederim.**
I'm also fine. Thank you.

The conversation above in an informal way can be:

- **Selam! İyi günler. Nasılsın?**
Hi! Good day. How are you?
- **İyiyim, sağ ol. Sen nasılsın?**
I'm fine, thanks. How are you?
- **Ben de iyiyim. Teşekkürler.**
I'm also fine. Thanks.

Here are some expressions in formal and informal way:

sen (informal)	siz (formal)
Nasılsın?	Nasılsınız?
Adın ne?	Adınız ne?
Soyadın ne?	Soyadınız ne?
Nerelisin?	Nerelisiniz?
Milliyetin ne?	Milliyetiniz ne?
Nerede oturuyorsun?	Nerede oturuyorsunuz?
Ne iş yapıyorsun?	Ne iş yapıyorsunuz?
Hoş geldin.	Hoş geldiniz.
Hoşça kal.	Hoşça kalın.

The verb '*to be*' (*am, is and are*)

In English, **am**, **is** and **are** are called the forms of the verb **to be**. They are not main verbs. They are used as auxiliary/helping verbs in a sentence. Some examples are: '*I am tired*', '*The car is red*' and '*You are beautiful*'. In Turkish, there are no words for **am**, **is** and **are**. They exist as suffixes, which are added onto words. Originally, they are the personal pronouns (personal endings) used in suffix forms as mentioned previously.

Below, you can find the personal pronouns in suffix forms, which are also the forms of **to be (am, is and are)** in the *present* form. Which one to use is subject to 'vowel harmony' rules explained in this unit and extensively in [Unit 3](#).

ben ----- / **-im, -ım, -üm, -um**
sen ----- / **-sin, -sın, -sün, -sun**
o ----- / (no suffix) or **-dir, -dır, -dür, -dur**

biz ----- / **-iz, -ız, -üz, -uz**
siz ----- / **-siniz, -sınız, -sünüz, -sunuz**
onlar --- / (no suffix) or **-ler / -lar**
 or **-dir, -dır, -dür, -dur**
 or **-dirler, -dırlar, -dürler, -durlar**

Here are some examples with these endings:

Ben güzel**im**.
***I am** beautiful.*

Sen güzels**in**.
***You are** beautiful.*

O güzel(dir).
***He/She/It is** beautiful.*

Biz güzel**iz**.
***We are** beautiful.*

Siz güzels**iniz**.
***You are** beautiful.*

Onlar güzel(dir)/(ler)/(dirler).
***They are** beautiful.*

Türk'**üm**.
***I am** Turkish.*

When you say '**Türk'üm**' (***I am Turkish***), it is actually '**Ben Türk'üm**'. **ben (I)** in the beginning is commonly dropped. **-üm** at the end of the sentence is the suffixed personal pronoun that corresponds to **ben (I)**, which is the subject of the sentence. Also, it is the **verb to be** (here it is **am**).

The endings for the third singular and the third plural person are often omitted and not used in daily language. They are generally used to make an emphasis or used in public notices or warnings (See [Unit 4](#)). You use **-dir** endings also to express general facts, such as 'Kedi bir hayv**andır**' (*Cat is an animal*).

hayvan - *animal*

General rules for using these suffixes are shown below:

When the last vowel of a word is:

i or **e** the suffix will be with **i**

ı or **a** the suffix will be with **ı**

ü or **ö** the suffix will be with **ü**

u or **o** the suffix will be with **u**

Here are some examples with the personal pronouns in suffix forms. In the examples below, you can also see how the rules for using these suffixes are applied. The personal pronouns and the endings are put in brackets meaning that they are optional to use.

(ben) öğretmen**im**.

(sen) öğretme**sin**.

(o) öğretmen(d**ir**).

(biz) öğretmen**iz**.

(Siz) öğretme**siniz**.

(onlar) öğretmen(d**ir**)/(ler)/(d**ir**ler).

(ben) yalnız**ım**.

(sen) yalnız**ın**.

(o) yalnız(d**ır**).

(biz) yalnız**ız**.

(Siz) yalnız**sınız**.

(onlar) yalnız(d**ır**)/(lar)/(d**ır**lar).

(ben) şoför**üm**.

(sen) şoför**sün**.

(o) şoför(d**ür**).

(biz) şoför**üz**.

(Siz) şoför**sünüz**.

(onlar) şoför(d**ür**)/(ler)/(d**ür**ler).

(ben) doktor**um**.

(sen) dokto**rsun**.

(o) doktor(d**ur**).

(biz) doktor**uz**.

(Siz) dokto**rsunuz**.

(onlar) doktor(d**ur**)/(lar)/(d**ur**lar).

When you start learning Turkish, in the beginning you may have difficulty with

using the correct suffix. During a conversation, you may use a suffix with a wrong vowel, which may not give the right sound, but still this does not change the meaning of what you are saying.

In Turkish, two vowels are not used next to each other. When adding suffixes, letter **y** (mostly) is used as a buffer between two vowels (All the buffer letters will be discussed in [Unit 9](#)).

iyi + **y** + im
öğrenci + **y** + iz
ev hanımı + **y** + ım
hasta + **y** + ız

(ben) iyiyim. *I am fine.*
(biz) öğrenciyiz. *We are students.*
(ben) ev hanımıyım. *I am a housewife.*
(biz) hastayız. *We are sick.*

In order to make the negative form of the verb *to be* (*am, is, are*), you use **değil**, which means **not**. The suffixed personal pronouns are added to **değil**.

Ben öğretmen **değilim**.
*I **am not** a teacher.*

Sen ev hanımı **değilsin**.
*You **are not** a housewife.*

Ahmet profesör **değil**.
*Ahmet **is not** a professor.*

Biz öğrenci **değiliz**.
*We **are not** students.*

Siz Alman **değilsiniz**.
*You **are not** German.*

Onlar İngiliz **değil**(ler).
*They **are not** British.*

Question form of the verb *to be* (*am, is, are*) is made by using the question tag **mi**, **mı**, **mü** or **mu**. You decide which one to use according to the vowel harmony rules.

The question tag is written separately with the *verb to be* form/personal suffix added onto it.

Ben yakışıklı **miyim?**

Am I handsome?

Sen doktor **musun?**

Are you a doctor?

Mehmet yorgun **mu?**

Is Mehmet tired?

Biz öğrenci **miyiz?**

Are we students?

Siz profesör **müsünüz?**

Are you professors/a professor?

Onlar ev hanımı **mi?**

Are they housewives?

The endings for the third singular and the third plural person are explained more in the following units.

yalnız - lonely, alone

doktor - doctor

hasta - sick, ill, patient

yakışıklı - handsome

yorgun - tired

profesör - professor

Alman - German

Su soğuk mu?

Is the water cold?

Hayır, soğuk değil. Sıcak.

No, it is not cold. It is hot.

Siz İngiliz misiniz?

Are you British?

Hayır, biz İngiliz değiliz. Biz Türk'üz.

No, we are not British. We are Turkish.

Ben güzel miyim?

Am I beautiful?

Evet, çok güzelsin.

Yes, you are very beautiful.

Yorgun musun?

Are you tired?

Hayır, yorgun değilim.

No, I am not tired.

In order to make the negative question form of the verb 'to be', apply the rules to make the negative and the question forms.

Ben yakışıklı değil miyim?

Am I not handsome?

Sen berber değil misin?

Are you not a barber?

Nermin güzel değil mi?

Is Nermin not beautiful?

Biz öğrenci değil miyiz?

Are we not students?

Siz profesör değil misiniz?

Are you not professors/a professor?

Onlar ev hanımı değil(ler) mi?

Are they not housewives?

bir (a/an)

bir, which means **one**, also means **a/an**. It is not commonly used in a sentence.

Ayşe (bir) ev hanımıdır.

Ayşe is a housewife.

Nermin **(bir)** öğrencidir.
Nermin is a student.

Altan **(bir)** doktordur.
Altan is a doctor.

Ahmet **(bir)** profesördür.
Ahmet is a professor.

Bu **(bir)** elma.
This is an apple.

O ilginç **(bir)** kitap.
It is an interesting book.

berber - barber, barbershop
soğuk - cold
ilginç - interesting
sıcak - hot

Sayılar (Numbers)

0 sıfır
1 bir
2 iki
3 üç
4 dört
5 beş
6 altı
7 yedi
8 sekiz
9 dokuz
10 on
11 on bir
12 on iki
13 on üç
14 on dört
15 on beş
16 on altı

17 on yedi
18 on sekiz
19 on dokuz
20 yirmi
21 yirmi bir
22 yirmi iki
23 yirmi üç
24 yirmi dört
25 yirmi beş
26 yirmi altı
27 yirmi yedi
28 yirmi sekiz
29 yirmi dokuz
30 otuz
40 kırk
50 elli
60 altmış
70 yetmiş
80 seksen
90 doksan
100 yüz
400 dört yüz
300 üç yüz
200 iki yüz
55 elli beş
55 elli yedi
63 altmış üç
74 yetmiş dört
85 seksen beş
96 doksan altı
221 iki yüz yirmi bir
202 iki yüz iki
500 beş yüz
555 beş yüz elli beş
1.000 bin
1.001 bin bir
10.000 on bin
700.000 yedi yüz bin
1.000.000 bir milyon
1.000.000.000 bir milyar
1.237 bin iki yüz otuz yedi

2.061 iki bin altmış bir
12.984 on iki bin dokuz yüz seksen dört
404.027 dört yüz dört bin yirmi yedi
1.000.000.000.000 bir trilyon
8.641.234.369 sekiz milyar altı yüz kırk bir milyon iki yüz otuz dört bin üç yüz altmış dokuz

Saying the numbers in Turkish is easy. Parts of the numbers are pronounced without saying 'and'. Also, you use a full stop (.) instead of comma (,) every three digits.

sayı - *number*

rakam - *figure, number*

yarım / buçuk (*half*)

çeyrek (*quarter*)

yarım is used as an adjective. **buçuk** is used for the fractional part of a number.

yarım elma *half apple*

yarım saat *half an hour*

yarım kilo *half a kilo*

çeyrek final *quarter final*

iki buçuk saat *two and a half hours*

dört buçuk kilo *four and a half kilos*

bir buçuk porsiyon *one and a half portions (servings)*

porsiyon - *portion*

You separate the whole number from the decimal part with a '*comma*' instead of a '*point*'.

2,5 iki buçuk *two and a half*

4,5 dört buçuk *four and a half*

Çoğullar (*Plurals*)

A noun is a word used to name a person, thing, object, animal, place or idea. A noun can also be in plural. In Turkish, to make a noun plural, just add **-ler** or **-lar** as a

suffix after the noun. Apply the vowel harmony rules: When the last vowel of the noun is thin (**e, i, ö** or **ü**), add **-ler** after the noun. When the last vowel of the noun is thick (**a, ı, o** or **u**), add **-lar**. See 'Vowel harmony' in [Unit 3](#).

kalem	<i>pencil</i>	kalemler	<i>pencils</i>
çiçek	<i>flower</i>	çiçekler	<i>flowers</i>
bebek	<i>baby</i>	bebekler	<i>babies</i>
köpek	<i>dog</i>	köpekler	<i>dogs</i>
ev	<i>house/home</i>	evler	<i>houses/homes</i>
otel	<i>hotel</i>	oteller	<i>hotels</i>
fare	<i>mouse</i>	fareler	<i>mice</i>
sinek	<i>fly</i>	sinekler	<i>flies</i>
kitap	<i>book</i>	kitaplar	<i>books</i>
insan	<i>human</i>	insanlar	<i>people</i>
armut	<i>pear</i>	armutlar	<i>pears</i>
kuş	<i>bird</i>	kuşlar	<i>birds</i>
çocuk	<i>child</i>	çocuklar	<i>children</i>
at	<i>horse</i>	atlar	<i>horses</i>
kaz	<i>goose</i>	kazlar	<i>geese</i>
duvar	<i>wall</i>	duvarlar	<i>walls</i>

Türk *Turkish person*
İngiliz *English person*
Alman *German person*
Fransız *French person*

Türkler *Turkish people*
İngilizler *English people*
Almanlar *German people*
Fransızlar *French people*

In Turkish, uncountable nouns can also be used in plural, such as:

para	<i>money</i>	paralar
su	<i>water</i>	sular
bilgi	<i>information</i>	bilgiler

şeker *sugar*
kar *snow*
tuz *salt*

şekerler
karlar
tuzlar

When you use a number before a noun, you use the singular form of the noun.

yedi elma
seven apples (not 'yedi elmalar')

beş kalem
five pencils (not 'beş kalemler')

üç gün
three days (not 'üç günler')

iki hafta
two weeks (not 'iki haftalar')

Plural form of a noun is used when the number of the item is not mentioned.

Elmalar tatlı.
The apples are sweet.

Çiçekler güzel.
Flowers are beautiful.

When it comes to greetings and some daily expressions, you use the plural forms in Turkish, such as:

iyi akşamlar *good evening*
iyi geceler *good night*
iyi günler *good day*
iyi şanslar *good luck*

In Turkish, nouns such as *glasses*, *trousers* and *scissors* are singular. They are not used as '*a pair of*'. When they are more than one pair, they can be used in plural.

pantolon *trousers*
iki pantolon *two pairs of trousers*
pantolonlar *more than one pair of trousers*

gözlük *glasses, spectacles*

üç gözlük *three pairs of glasses*
gözlükler *more than one pair of glasses*

makas *scissors*
iki makas *two pairs of scissors*
makaslar *more than one pair of scissors*

saat - *hour, clock, watch, time*
çoğul - *plural*
tatlı - *sweet*
şans - *luck*

There are some words, which have been adopted from foreign languages, especially from Arabic. These words don't comply with the *vowel harmony rules* when the spelling is concerned.

For example: Although the last vowels of the words below are thick vowels (**a**, **ı**, **o** or **u**), they harmonize with the suffix **-ler** instead of **-lar**, because they are pronounced with a soft or long sound. Therefore, you use the suffix **-ler** to make them plural. Here are some examples:

saat *watch, clock, hour*
saatler *watches, clocks, hours*

protokol *protocol*
protokoller *protocols*

alkol *alcohol*
alkoller *alcohols*

hakikat *reality, truth, fact*
hakikatler *realities, truths, facts*

harf *letter (character)*
harfler *letters*

No two vowels next to each other

In Turkish, two vowels do not come together as you have learned in this unit. Also,

there are no two vowels next to each other within a word. However, there are words that use two vowels next to each other. They are the adopted words, which mostly come from Arabic, such as:

dair *related to, concerning*

muayenehane *doctor's surgery*

daire *circle, apartment*

maalesef *unfortunately*

maaş *salary, wage*

müsaade *permission*

fiil *verb*

aile *family*

tabii *of course, natural*

saat *watch, clock, hour*

Exercises

A. Answer the questions.

1. Adın ne?
2. Nerelisin?
3. Nerede oturuyorsun?
4. Ne iş yapıyorsun?

B. Fill in the blanks with the suitable statements below.

teşekkür ederim / oturuyorum / ne iş yapıyorsunuz / oturuyorsunuz / nerelisiniz / iyiyim

Ali "Merhaba! Nasılsınız?"

Kelly "(a)....., teşekkür ederim. Siz nasılsınız?"

Ali "Ben de iyiyim. (b)"

Kelly "(c)?"

Ali "İstanbuldayım. Siz nerelisiniz?"

Kelly "Ben Londra'yım."

Ali "Nerede oturuyorsunuz?"

Kelly "İngiltere'de (d)
Siz nerede (e)?"

Ali "Ben Ankara'da oturuyorum."

Kelly "Ne iş yapıyorsunuz?"

Ali "Öğrenciyim. Üniversiteye gidiyorum.
Siz (f)?"

Kelly "Mühendisim."

mühendis - *engineer*

gidiyorum - *I am going*

C. Fill in the blanks with suitable sentences.

Robert "Nerelisiniz?"

Alain "Fransız'ım. (a)?"

Robert "Ben İngiliz'im."

Alain "(b)?"

Robert "Öğretmenim. Siz ne iş yapıyorsunuz?"

Alain "Ben öğrenciyim."

D. Fill in the blanks to complete the conversation.

Taner "(a)?"

Mary "Londralıyım. Sen nerelisin?"

Taner "Ben İstanbulluyum.

(b)?"

Mary "Londra'da oturuyorum.

Sen (c)?"

Taner "İstanbul'da oturuyorum."

E. Translate the conversation into Turkish.

Mary (a) "Hello! Good morning. How are you?"

Cemil (b) "I am very well. Thank you.

(c) How are you?"

Mary (d) "I am also well. Thank you."

Cemil (e) "What is your name?"

Mary (f) "My name is Mary."

Cemil (g) "What is your surname?"

Mary (h) "My surname is Brown."

Cemil (i) "Where are you from?"

Mary (j) "I am from London."

Cemil (k) "Where do you live?"

Mary (l) "I live in London. What is your name?"

Cemil (m) "My name is Cemil. My surname is Tan.

(n) I am Turkish."

Mary (o) "What is your job?"

Cemil (p) "I am a doctor. What is your job?"

Mary (q) "I am a secretary."

Cemil (r) "I am pleased to meet you Mary."

Mary (s) "I am pleased to meet you too."

Cemil (t) "Goodbye Mary."

Mary (u) "Goodbye."

F. Write the statements in Turkish.

- (a) welcome
- (b) thanks for your welcome
- (c) not at all
- (d) OK
- (e) yes
- (f) no
- (g) sorry
- (h) see you
- (i) nice to meet you
- (j) take care
- (k) goodbye
- (l) hello
- (m) hi
- (n) thank you
- (o) thanks
- (p) please
- (q) good evening

G. What are the personal pronouns at the beginning of the sentences below?

For example: Ben öğrenciyim.

- a öğrencisin.
- b sekreteriz.
- c aptal değiliz.
- d şoför değil.
- e doktor mu?
- f yalnızım.
- g Türk'üm.
- h Türk'üz.
- i Fransız mısınız?
- j Fransız değiliz.
- k akıllı mısın?
- l iyisiniz.

aptal - *fool, silly, stupid*

sekreter - *secretary*

akıllı - *wise, intelligent*

H. Make plurals.

ekmek defter

saat gözlük

kiraz domates

erkek kutu

kitap ayak

bavul para

anahtar pil

kaz okul

insan patates

çanta diş

pantolon şehir

bayan gül

kadın el

ada haber

ekmek - *bread*

kiraz - *cherry*

erkek - *man*

bayan - *lady*

kadın - *woman*

çanta - *bag*

ada - *island*

domates - *tomato*

defter - *notebook*

patates - *potato*

kutu - *box*

ayak - *foot*

anahtar - *key*

pil - *battery*

okul - *school*

diş - *tooth*

şehir - *city*

göl - *rose*
el - *hand*
bavul - *suitcase*
haber - *news*

I. Make the statements negative.

1. Su sıcak.
2. Çirkin.
3. Masa.
4. Kötü.

J. Put the suitable question tags *mi, mı, mü* or *mu* in the blanks to make questions.

1. Çirkin? *Is it ugly?*
2. Su sıcak? *Is the water hot?*
3. Kötü? *Is it bad?*
4. Mutlu? *Is she happy?*
5. Masa? *Is it a table?*
6. Üzüm? *Is it a grape?*
7. Sandalye? *Is it a chair?*
8. Kutu? *Is it a box?*
9. İyi? *Is it good?*
10. Dokuz? *Is it nine?*

çirkin - *ugly*
mutlu - *happy*
kötü - *bad*
sandalye - *chair*

K. Turn the statements into negative questions.

1. Su sıcak.
2. O çirkin.
3. O masa.
4. O kötü.

L. Answer the questions with *yes* and *no* in full sentences.

1. Nermin öğrenci mi?
Evet,

Hayır,

2. Ayşe ev hanımı mı?

Evet,

Hayır,

3. Ahmet profesör mü?

Evet,

Hayır,

4. Altan doktor mu?

Evet,

Hayır,

M. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate personal endings.

For example: Ben öğretmenim, sen öğretmensin, O öğretmen, etc.

1 a Ben marangoz....

b Sen marangoz....

c O marangoz.

d Biz marangoz....

e Siz marangoz....

f Onlar marangoz(....)

2 a Ben iyi....

b Sen iyi....

c O iyi.

d Biz iyi....

e Siz iyi....

f Onlar iyi(....)

3 a Ben heyecanlı....

b Sen heyecanlı....

c O heyecanlı.

d Biz heyecanlı....

e Siz heyecanlı....

f Onlar heyecanlı(....)

4 a Ben mutlu....

b Sen sekreter....

- c O kötü.
- d Biz arkadaş....
- e Siz misafir....
- f Onlar komşu(....)

N. Write the sentences in Turkish.

1. I am not a student.
2. You are not well.
3. She is not happy.
4. We are not friends.
5. You are not ready.
6. They are not fools.

O. Put the appropriate question tag.

1. Biz arkadaş? *Are we friends?*
2. Biz arkadaş? *Are we not friends?*
3. O kötü? *Is she bad?*
4. O mutlu? *Is she happy?*
5. Siz misafir? *Are you a quest?*
6. Onlar komşu? *Are they not neighbours?*
7. Sen aptal? *Are you a fool?*
8. Sen sekreter? *Are you a secretary?*
9. Sen sekreter? *Are you not a secretary?*
10. O akıllı? *Is he intelligent?*

marangoz - *carpenter*

heyecanlı - *excited, exciting*

arkadaş - *friend*

misafir - *quest*

komşu - *neighbour*

P. Write the numbers in Turkish.

- a 88
- b 99
- c 275
- d 6.218.459
- e 547.318
- f 726.501
- g 999.999

Q. Practise your vocabulary. Fill in with the corresponding language.

<i>Turkish</i>	<i>English</i>
anahtar
.....	<i>bag</i>
.....	<i>bread</i>
.....	<i>dog</i>
bavul
şehir
.....	<i>table</i>
.....	<i>money</i>
kapı
.....	<i>bus</i>
.....	<i>car</i>
.....	<i>day</i>
pencere
uçak
.....	<i>sea</i>
.....	<i>hour, clock, watch, time</i>

You can find the answers in the [*Key to the exercises*](#) section at the back of the book.

Unit 2

Hoş geldiniz

Welcome

Ahmet comes from Antalya with Güler to visit his father and mother. They bring a present for them from Antalya. They become so happy. They hug and kiss each other. Güler meets Ahmet's family for the first time.

Ahmet "Merhaba baba."

Enver "Hoş geldin oğlum. Nasılsın?"

Ahmet "Hoş bulduk. İyiyim baba. Sen nasılsın?"

Enver "Sağ ol. Ben de iyiyim. Nereden geliyorsunuz?"

Ahmet "Antalya'dan geliyoruz. Merhaba anne. Sen nasılsın?"

Dilek "Merhaba oğlum. Hoş geldin."

Ahmet "Tanıştırayım. Bak bu Güler."

Dilek "Merhaba Güler. Hoş geldiniz."

Güler "Hoş bulduk. Buyurun bu size."

Dilek "Bu ne?"

Güler "Bu bir hediye. Antalya'dan."

Dilek "Ooo, çok teşekkürler."

Güler "Bir şey değil."

oğlum - *my son, sonny*

anne - *mother*

tanıştırayım - *let me introduce*

geliyorsunuz - *you are coming*

baba - *father*

bak - *look*

kim? - *who?*

-dan - *from*

bu - *this*

size - *to you, for you*

nereden? - *where from?*

buyurun - *here you are*

Cheek-kissing

In Turkey, two women or two men kissing each other on both cheeks is appropriate and a social way to show friendliness among close friends and acquaintances as well as family members. It is a way of greeting. It has nothing to do with sexual interest. In Turkey, you can even see two men or two women walking arm in arm or holding hands in the street. This is only because they are close friends.

Bu ne? (*What is this?*)

Bu araba. *This is a car.*

Bu çanta. *This is a bag.*

Bu bavul. *This is a suitcase.*

Bu anahtar. *This is a key.*

Bu kim? (*Who is this?*)

Bu şoför. *This is a driver.*

Bu öğretmen. *This is a teacher.*

Bu Ayşe. *This is Ayşe.*

Bu öğrenci. *This is a student.*

Verbs - The infinitive form of a verb (The dictionary form)

Verb is an element in a sentence, which describes an action, event, occurrence or happening. In Turkish, when a verb is used on its own as in a dictionary, it has the suffix **-mek / -mak** in the end added to the stem of the verb. This ending puts the verb into the dictionary form. This is called the infinitive form of a verb.

For example, **gel** means **come**. It is the stem of the verb **gelmek (to come)**. You add **-mek** to the stem as **gel + mek (gelmek)**. In a dictionary, it is as **gelmek (to come)**. **-mek / -mak** corresponds to 'to' in English, in this case. When the last vowel of the verb stem is thin (**e, i, ö** or **ü**), **-mek** is added. When the last vowel of the verb stem is thick (**a, ı, o** or **u**), **-mak** is added. When no suffix is added onto a verb, it is the stem of a verb. It is also the imperative form.

gelmek *to come*

gitmek *to go*

gülmek *to laugh*

yemek *to eat*