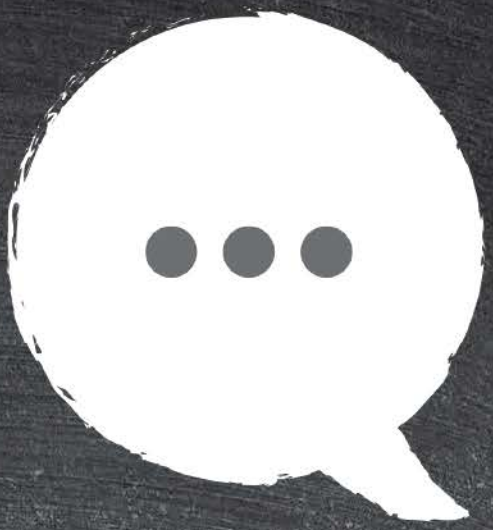
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LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1 Say "Hello" in Turkish Anytime, Anywhere!

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: Merhaba
2. HAKAN: Merhaba.
3. MERVE: Nasılsın?
4. HAKAN: İyiyim, teşekkürler. Ya sen?
5. MERVE: Ben de iyiyim. Sağ ol.

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: Hello.
2. HAKAN: Hello.
3. MERVE: How are you?
4. HAKAN: Fine thanks. And you?
5. MERVE: I am doing fine as well. Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
merhaba	hello
sağ olmak	literal meaning: “May you be safe and sound” This expression is also used to say “thank you” in Turkish

teşekkür	a word showing appreciation, thanking.
nasıl	how, in what way
İyi	good

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Merhaba, nasılsın? Uzun zamandır görüşemedik. "Hello, how are you? We haven't seen each other in a long time."	**İnsanlar "Merhaba" der** The people say, "Hello."
Sağ ol, çok yardımcı oldun! (informal) "Thank you. You were a great help.'	**Hediye için çok teşekkürler!** "Thanks a lot for the present!"
Nasılsınız? "How are you?" (Formal)	**Otele nasıl geri dönerim?** "How do I get back to the hotel?"
Bu güzel! "This is good!"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Merhaba meaning "hello" is the most common expression used in both formal and informal greetings. You can use it when you are introduced to someone for the very first time or when you bump into a friend or colleague somewhere. Another way of saying "hi" is *selam* but this should only be used on informal occasions. You can combine *Merhaba* by using other words that indicate different times of the day when you want to put more emphasis on the time. For example: *Merhaba*! *Günaydın* meaning "Hello! Good Morning" or *Merhaba! Tünaydın* meaning "Hello! Good Afternoon." or *Merhaba! İyi Akşamlar*! meaning "Hello! Good Evening!"

Teşekkür is a loanword from Arabic and is one of the most frequently used ones in the

Turkish language. The word itself can be adapted to both formal and informal occasions. On informal occasions, you can simply add words to emphasize the meaning like: *Çok teşekkür ederim* meaning "Thank you very much." In a formal context, *Teşekkürler*! would be used.

Sağ ol has various meanings but the initial one is to thank someone. The literal translation for this expression is "May you be safe and sound." In Turkish, usually suffixes define the formality of the dialogue due to the fact that they are related to the object of the sentence. For example: *Sağ ol* is neutral without any suffix therefore it is connected to *sen* meaning "you"; second person singular. However when you say *Sağ olun* or *Sağ olunuz* you add the suffix -*niz*, *nuz* to indicate the second person plural. This adds courtesy and politeness to your sentence.

You might also hear this expression at funerals. Let's illustrate this with an example: *Çok üzgünüm. Başınız sağ olsun.* meaning "I am so sorry. May you be safe and sound." The other person will reply: *Teşekkür ederim. Siz sağ olun* meaning "Thank you. May you be safe." Alternatively, in order to emphasize the fact that he/she is returning back the courtesy *Dostlar sağ olsun* may be said, meaning "May friends be safe and sound."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Understanding the Function of Personal Suffixes When Greeting People in Turkish

Nasılsın?

"How are you?"

The original form of this sentence is *Sen nasılsın?* meaning "How are you?" in an informal context and *Siz nasılsınız?* in a formal context. However, Turkish tends to shorten the sentences for a more natural expression and this is only possible because of the extensive use of the suffixes in Turkish grammar. Let's explain this more by breaking the sentence down: *Sen* is "you" for second person singular, *nasıl* is an interrogative word meaning "how." *Nasıl-s-ın*. *S* here is a buffer letter and *-ın* is the suffix for second person singular. So if you delete *sen* meaning "you" in the informal sentence and *siz* meaning "you" second person plural in the formal sentence, it will still carry on the same meaning while keeping a logical grammatical order.

Personal Ending Suffixes and Buffer Letters

To reply to the mentioned question *Nasılsın*?, say *İyiyim, teşekkürler* meaning "I am fine, thanks." Here, *iyi* means "good" as in "a good mood. *-im* is a suffix that indicates a personal ending. *y* is a buffer letter.

"The buffer letters" have the function of connecting letters, as they usually connect two vowels. In Turkish, two vowels cannot be next to each other for it is a language that is read as it's written. When a word that ends with a vowel takes a suffix that starts with a vowel, we put the buffer letter in between them. In Turkish we call buffer letters *kaynaştırma harfi*, the meaning of which is "combining letter."

There are four buffer letters in Turkish: *-y,-ş,-s, -n*.

These letters are taught to young adults with a phrase *Yaşasın*! which means "Hurray! or Yay!" in English. If you remove all the vowels from this word you are left with all the existing buffer letters in Turkish. More information will be provided in more advanced lessons.

For example:

1. *Ne yapıyorsun?*
   "What are (you) doing?"

2. *Hastayım*
   "(I) am sick."

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Nasılsın*?
   "How are you?"

2. *İyiyim*.
   "(I) am fine."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Nasılsın?*
   "How are (you)?"

2. *İyiyim.*
   "(I) am fine."

Sample Sentences

---

1. *Sağ ol, çok yardımcı oldun.*
   "Thank (you). (You) helped a lot."

2. *Bugün nasılsın?*
   "How are you today?"

Language Tip

Our key point for this lesson is on grammar explaining the Personal Suffixes, Singular.

First person singular-*(y)im*: "I am"

If the root word ends in a vowel, the variants are*: -(y)ım, - (y)im, -(y)um, -(y)üm.*

Second person singular (informal)-*sin*: "you are." Its variants are *-sin, -sın, -sun, -sün*

No suffix for "he/she/it is"

Third person "he/she/it"

Personal suffix for the third person is *-dır.* However, in daily speech, this ending is not used.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Meeting Etiquette in Turkey

Turkish people are very vocal with their gestures, a trait that derives from their Mediterranean heritage. In Turkish culture, smiling and shaking hands are vital ways of creating a good, strong bond. To make a good first impression, try holding your hand out to give a firm handshake, smile and say *Merhaba!* at the same time. Don't be shy with your smiles during

the greeting and conversation. If you are talking to elders or other people that you respect, bow your head a little when leaving. This should be just a slight tilt, but nothing extravagant. Turkey is very diverse and eclectic in terms of people's cultural backgrounds. You may greet some Turkish men who give a slight tap on their chest with the palm of their hands when they greet. Sociologically, this can be interpreted as traditionalism and conservatism. You will also discover that Turkish people are very political, so much so that you will see them voicing their political beliefs on a daily basis. You might see that some men tap each others' heads. This shows that they are firm believers of the Turkish-Islamic right wing.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #2 Introducing Yourself in Turkish

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: Merhaba. Benim adım Hakan .
2. MERVE: Merhaba. Ben de Merve.
3. HAKAN: Tanıştığıma çok memnun oldum.
4. MERVE: Ben de memnun oldum.
5. HAKAN: Bora sizden çok bahsetti.
6. MERVE: Evet, sizden de. Sonunda tanışabildik.

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: Hello. My name is Hakan.
2. MERVE: Hi. I'm Merve.
3. HAKAN: It's a pleasure to meet (you).
4. MERVE: It's a pleasure to meet (you) too.
5. HAKAN: Bora has told (me) a lot about you.
6. MERVE: Yes, I've heard a lot about you as well. We're finally meeting!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English

tanışmak	to meet
memnun olmak	to be pleased (to)
siz	you (second person plural/second person singular polite)
son	end, final, last
bahsetmek	to mention, to tell about something
ben	I, me
ad	name

SAMPLE SENTENCES

(Sizinle) tanışmamız çok iyi oldu. "Meeting you was very nice."	**İşimden memnunum.** "I am pleased with my job."
Bu sizin telefonunuz mu? "Is this your phone? (polite)"	**Ofisten çıkmadan önce, son bir telefon görüşmesi yapacağım.** "I will make one final phone call before leaving the office. "
Hastalığından bana hiç bahsetmedi. "She/he hasn't mentioned about her illness."	**Ben öğrenciyim.** "I am a student."
Rezervasyon kimin adına? "Whose name is the reservation under?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Ben is the first person singular pronoun that corresponds to "I" or "me" in English. In Turkish,

we usually skip personal pronouns in everyday language because their meanings are already embedded in the sentence by the suffixes added at the end of the verbs. For example: *Ben öğrenciyim* meaning "I am a student" can be easily said as *Öğrenciyim* without losing its meaning and keeping its grammatical correctness. Even in the above example: *ben-im ad-ım* where the personal pronoun is conjugated with a possessive suffix, you can remove *benim* because the meaning has already been stabilized with the suffix *ad-ım.*

Ad translates to "name." Another acronym for this noun is *isim*. *İsim* is of Arabic origin and *ad* is of Turkish origin. So in official documents *ad* is usually used. You will come across *ad-soyad* meaning "name-surname" in applications, registrations, doctor's appointments, postal deliveries, and governmental procedures that require filling forms. *Soy* means "lineage" or "ancestry" and *ad* means "name" so altogether they make *soyad* which translates to "surname."

Ad, like every word in Turkish, can be used in many occasions for example: *O dosyanın adı ne?* that translates to "What is the name(title) of that folder?"

Memnun olmak is a verbal expression to show that you're pleased to do something. *Memnun* is of Arabic origin. It means "glad," "content," "pleased." *Olmak* is a very common verb meaning "to become," "to be." This verb is usually combined with other words and results in diverse meanings. You can also use *memnun olmak* in various other situations. Let's illustrate this with the following examples: *Evimden memnunum* meaning "I am happy with my home." or *maaşımdan çok memnunum* meaning "I am very happy with my wage."

Why does Turkish have lots of loanwords?

During the reign of the Ottoman Empire, which lasted over 600 years, the official literary and administrative language also called "palace language" was Turkish with lots of Persian and Arabic loanwords. This language is now called Ottoman Turkish. At those times there was a huge gap between the language of the palace and the common people. The public's illiteracy rates were high as well. The lands of the Ottoman Empire were vast, which made it a melting pot of diverse cultures. The language was one of the assets that has been largely influenced by this for loanwords were exported and imported to Balkan languages, Greek, Arabic, Persian and even France. After the fall of the empire in World War I, the Republic of Turkey was founded and underwent a major language reform, under Atatürk's reforms, in which the Latin Alphabet was adapted. Around these times, the Turkish Language Association was founded and started its project of replacing loanwords with new ones derived from the ancient

Turkic roots. However there are still a lot of loanwords that still remain in Turkish today.

Please see the link below for the Turkish Language Association:

http://www.tdk.gov.tr/index.php?option=com_contentandview=frontpageandItemid=1

This site is in Turkish, however under the *sözlükler* section which stands for "dictionaries," you can find a variety of different dictionaries specializing in sub-genres like: daily Turkish, Turkish with audio, name and surnames, terminology, Turkish dialects, western loanwords in Turkish, science and art terminology, synonyms, antonyms and dictionaries. Please refer to this site for the most current and factual transformations—it also includes updates on the Turkish language.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Self-introduction in a Formal or an Informal Setting
Tanıştığıma çok memnun oldum.
"It's a pleasure to meet (you)."

Merhaba is used when you introduce yourself. It is followed by saying your name *Benim adım...* You would like to highlight the fact that you're happy to get to know the other person and this is achieved by saying: *Tanıştığıma memnun oldum*. It is more natural to reply "It's a pleasure to meet you" with the short phrase "Me too." *Ben de* is used when people meet for the first time and is a short way of expressing the blissfulness of getting to know someone new.

Personal Pronoun Suffixes attached to the Indirect Object

In a sentence where the personal pronouns are missing, the necessary suffix added at the end of the indirect object shows the subject of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Benim ad-ım Hakan. (formal and informal)*
   "My name is Hakan." or

2. *Adım Hakan (informal)*
   "Name (is) Hakan" or

3. *Ben Hakan (informal)*
   "I/me Hakan"

Due to the fact that the complementary noun *ad-ım*' has a possessive suffix indicating that the whole sentence is in the first person singular, personal pronouns can be dismissed in daily language.

1. *(Ben), (bizim)tanıştığımıza çok memnun oldum.*
   "(I) am very pleased that (we) have met."

Although grammatically correct in theory, the usage of this is considered incorrect in practice. So, the pronouns are removed and the sentence is simplified to: *Tanıştığımıza çok memnun oldum*. Here, the suffix *-imiz, -ımız* indicates "us," the second person plural.

For example:

1. *Benim adım Hakan*
   "My name is Hakan"

2. *Tanıştığıma çok memnun oldum.*
   "It's a pleasure to meet (you)."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Benim adım Hakan*
   "My name is Hakan"

2. *Adım Hakan*
   "Name is Hakan"

3. *Ben Hakan*
   "I/me Hakan"

4. *(Ben), (bizim)tanıştığımıza çok memnun oldum.*
"(I) am very pleased that (we) have met."

Sample Sentences

---

1. (*Sizinle) tanışmamız çok iyi oldu.*
"Meeting (you) was very nice."

Language Tip

First person plural *-(y)iz:* "we are"

Explanation: If the root word ends in a vowel it has four variants:

y-ız, y-iz, y-uz, y-üz.

For example:

İyiyiz: "We are well"

Kötüyüz: "We are unwell/bad."

Hastayız: "We are ill"

If the root word ends in a consonant it has four variants:

-ız, -iz, -uz, -üz.

For example:

Güçlüyüz: "We are strong."

Türküz: "We are Turkish."

Second person plural *-siniz*: "you are" (plural and formal)

It has four variants:

siniz, -sınız, -sünüz, -sunuz

For example:

Evlisiniz: "You are married."

Üzgünsünüz: "You are sad."

Third person plural -*LER*: "they are"

It has two variants:

-ler, -lar

For example:

Aşıklar: "They are in love."

Zenginler: "They are rich."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Personality Traits

Turkish people are said to be warm-blooded. They are also known for being friendly and approachable too. Don't hesitate to make the first move when getting to know someone, especially at friends' parties, after work events with colleagues and when introduced to a friend circle for the very first time.

Turkish people like to hang out in large friend groups—usually the bonds and connections are very up close and personal but don't be overwhelmed and discouraged by this, for they are quite flexible when it comes to friendship and getting to know non-Turkish people. Of course like everywhere around the world, mannerisms and body language are quite important. Turkish women are not very shy but since coyness is a valued trait, they might look like they're impossible to approach. Confidence, intelligence, a neat, fashionable outfit and a big, warm smile are the key factors to making a good first impression.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #3
Show Your Appreciation in Turkish

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: Merhaba, lütfen içeri buyurun!
2. MERVE: Teşekkürler! Bu, benden ufak bir hediye, lütfen kabul edin.
3. HAKAN: Ah, çok teşekkür ederim!
4. MERVE: Rica ederim.

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: Welcome. Please come in!
2. MERVE: Thanks. This is a small gift from me, please have it!
3. HAKAN: Oh, thank you very much!
4. MERVE: You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
lütfen	please
buyurmak	order, command, ordain, help oneself to (contextual meaning)
kabul etmek	to admit, to accept, to approve, to acknowledge, to affiliate, to receive (contextual meaning)
hediye	present, gift

rica etmek	to request, to beg, to appeal, to ask for, please (contextual meaning) as in ‘I beg your pardon’
teşekkür etmek	to thank
Teşekkürler.	Thanks.

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bir çay daha lütfen! "One more tea please!"	**Bu raftaki, lütfen.** "This one on the shelf, please."
Sofraya buyurun! "(Please) come to the (dining room) table! (to eat)"	**Bu iyiliğinizi kabul edemem.** "I can not accept your favor."
Çocuklar hediye açmaya bayılır. "Kids love to open presents."	**Rica etsem kapıyı açar mısınız?** "Please, could you open the door?"
Yardımınız için teşekkür ederim "Thank you for your help."	**Kahve için teşekkürler.** "Thank you for the coffee."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Lütfen means "please," "if you please" or "kindly." You will be exposed to *lütfen* a lot in Turkey. For example: *Biletler lütfen* meaning "Tickets please" or when you're about to leave the restaurant where you have just eaten a savory Turkish dish: *Hesap lütfen* meaning "Check please" or the bus driver in an overly packed bus can direct you by saying *İlerleyin lütfen* meaning "Move on please." As almost every constituent in a Turkish sentence, you can change the place of *lütfen* according to your emphasis point. Let's see this in an example: Imagine that you're in a Turkish jitney (*dolmuş*) You were seated at one of the back seats and need to pass your money on desperately! You tap on the shoulder of whoever is sitting in

front of you and ask politely: *Uzatır mısınız lütfen*? - "Could you reach out for me please?" Here, *lütfen* comes at the end of the sentence. You can formulate the same sentence as: *Lütfen uzatır mısınız?* which is "Please could you reach out for me?"

You can also take a more direct approach with an even rarer expression that carries an inward meaning. It is possible to hear this accompanied with an unsatisfied smirk on the speakers face. For example, your Turkish friend has been complaining about how little his wage is for over a year and finally he receives a very tiny, almost ridiculous amount of surcharge on his wage. So he complains about his boss, looking unsatisfied, and says *Lütfen yaptı* meaning "He did it unwillingly" or "He did it just for the show, just barely"—without real intention.

Buyurun is another expression that you'll be hearing a lot in Turkey. This word can be adapted to many contexts: Like "here you are," "here you go," "here," "help yourself" etc. And these three different sentences are expressed with only one word in Turkish, which is *buyurun*. You will hear this especially when you visit someone's house for the first time. Since Turkish people take great pleasure in serving their guests you'll be hearing *Buyurun lokum* a lot, meaning "Here, Turkish delight"; *Buyurun ikinci tabak* meaning "Here, the second plate (of food)"; *Buyurun çay* meaning "Here, tea"; or *Buyurun terlik* upon entering a Turkish house meaning "Here, slippers." The intrinsic meaning of this expression carries "Here you are, as you would wish/command." As a gesture, people bend twenty to thirty degrees down upon serving something using *buyrun*.

Let's just point out one common spelling mistake. You will see this word as *buyrun* in many written texts. Beware for it is a spelling mistake! Some people confuse it by thinking that this is an example of extensive usage of vowel haplology in Turkish. Haplology occurs when a syllable is dismissed when two consecutive identical or similar syllables occur. See the grammar points for types and general mistakes derived from the misuse of haplology in Turkish. Be wary of this too when reading Turkish texts via Google searches, as they are sprinkled with mistakes!

Rica ederim, which has the infinitive *rica etmek,* is another common expression in Turkish. It means "to ask for," "to appeal," "to please." In many cases, this is the most polite way of saying "You're welcome." Sometimes it is combined with *Rica ederim, hiç önemi yok* meaning "You're welcome, it is not important at all." The meaning of "not at all" is also embedded in *rica ederim,* so in that sense it is a very compact expression. So any extra addition might sound extravagant. Modesty and humbleness are mannerisms that are extremely valued in Turkish society. Depending on the context, it is important to keep it simple.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Saying "thank you" and "you're welcome" When Offering Something

Çok teşekkür ederim.

"Thank you very much"

Teşekkürler!

"Thanks!"

After hearing *Lütfen kabul edin* (formal) meaning "Please accept," an appropriate reply is usually *Teşekkür ederim,* which means "Thank you." Or if you want to sound slightly less informal and more lively, you can say *teşekkürler!* You will also hear the following examples in banks, from your colleagues or boss: *Zaman ayırdığınız için teşekkürler* meaning "thanks for sparing me your time.: Or if you are calling for attention you can usually write *İlginiz için teşekkür ederim* at the end of an e-mail meaning "thank you for your concern."

When thanking someone, Turks sometimes use *sağ ol* instead of *teşekkürler* to say "thank you." This is an idiomatic expression with a wishful connotation literally meaning "be alive." This expression is often used among close conversation partners such as family and friends.

Haplology in Turkish and Common Spelling Mistakes

Haplology happens as a syllable is dismissed when two consecutive syllables occur that are either similar or identical. In Turkish, haplology generally occurs when words composed of two syllables have a suffix starting with a vowel.

In Turkish, haplology is generally understood to be one of the following:

1. In the last syllable when a suffix starting with a vowel is attached
2. In combined words

For example:

1. *Ağız + ı - Ağzı (Ağızı is wrong) - Ağzıma çarptı.*
   "It hit my mouth"

2. *Alın + ı - Alnı (Alını is wrong) - O kızın alnı çok geniş.*
   "Her forehead is very large"

3. *Pazar ertesi - Pazar+ertesi - Pazartesi - Pazartesi günleri hiç enerjim yok.*
   "Sunday-after equals to "Monday" - "On Mondays, I have no energy."

4. *Ne asıl - Ne+asıl - Nasıl - Nasıl bu hatayı yaptın?*
   "What"-"origin, actual"-"How" - "How did you make this mistake?"

Further examples:

1. *Sofraya buyurun!*
   "(Please) come to the (dining room) table! (to eat)"

Please note: *Buyur-un-* meaning "Here you are" or "Here you go" is an exception where haplology doesn't occur. The correct way of spelling it is *buyurun.*

1. *Buyurun lokum*
   "Here, Turkish delight"

2. *Buyurun ikinci tabak*
   "Here, the second plate (of food)"

3. *Buyurun çay*
   "Here, tea"

4. *Buyurun terlik*
   "Here slippers"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Merhaba, lütfen içeri buyurun!*
   "Hello, please come in."

Sample Sentences

1. *Top ağzıma çarptı.*
   "My mouth was hit by a ball."

2. *O kızın alnı çok geniş.*
   "Her forehead is very large."

3. *Pazartesi günleri hiç enerjim yok.*
   "On Mondays, I have no energy."

4. *Bu hatayı nasıl yaptın?*
   "How did you make this mistake?"

Language Tip

One note to keep in mind about haplology is that it only affects pronunciation in Turkish. Although the correct version of the word *buyurun* is this spelling, it should be pronounced as *buy-run*. In a way, this is an exception where haplology doesn't exist in the written form but continues to exist orally.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Etiquette For Visiting a Turkish Home

When visiting someone—especially for the very first time—it is considered courtesy to bring a small gift such as sweets, dessert or flowers. You can also a bring a souvenir from your country. Other occasions when you might bring gifts include when somebody you know moves in to a new house as a housewarming gift, when you are a house guest during New Year's or during religious holidays (*bayram*) and so on. If you happen to visit your Turkish friend's house during religious feasts, you can hand out pocket money to the children. This is an important custom for Turkish people but it is not expected from a non-Turkish guest. So feel free to experience it the way you want! Mother's, Father's and Valentine's Day are the other popular global events that Turkish people like to celebrate by exchanging gifts, paying visits and organizing events. Turkish mothers are known for their compassion and generosity, so when the mother of a friend treats you exceptionally, it is courtesy to get her some flowers

on Mother's Day.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #4
The Art of Apologizing in Turkish

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TURKISH

1. A: Ah! Aaa... Affedersiniz...
2. HAKAN: Evet?
3. A: Ayağım...
4. HAKAN: Ah, çok özür dilerim! Farketmedim. İyi misiniz?
5. A: Tamam, önemli değil. Şimdi daha iyiyim.

ENGLISH

1. A: Ouch! Umm...excuse me.
2. HAKAN: Yes?
3. A: My foot...
4. HAKAN: Oh, I'm very sorry! I didn't notice. Are you okay?
5. A: Yeah, no problem. I am better now.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
Ah!	Ouch!
şimdi	now, at the moment, right away
affetmek	to forgive, to ask for forgiveness

evet	yes
ayak	foot
çok	a lot
özür dilemek	to apologize
önemli	important, significant, major
değil	not, no

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Affetmek büyüklüktür. (Turkish Proverb) "Forgiveness is supremacy."	**Evet, Türk tatlılarına bayılırım.** "Yes, I love Turkish desserts."
Evet, çok değişik. "Yes, it's very unique."	**Evet, çok iyi konuşuyorum.** "Yes, I speak it very well."
Bunu çok severim. "I like this very much."	**Özür bile dilemedi!** "He didn't even apologize!"
Bu kağıtlar çok önemli. "These papers are very important."	**İyi değilim.** I'm not well.
Evet, baharatlı değil. "Yes, it's not spicy."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Affetmek

Affetmek is a compound word, composed of two parts: *af* which is an Arabic origin noun

meaning "dismissal," "mercy" and *etmek* a very frequent auxiliary verb of Turkish origin meaning "do" or "cost." Altogether they make: *affetmek* meaning "to show mercy and dismissal when faced with an offense." So when somebody says *Affedersiniz* he/she assumes that it's his/her fault bothering, offending or accidentally hurting someone. The verb *etme* is in the future tense: *eder*. So, the expression shows the guilty party's wish for forgiveness in the future. This is the sole reason why this expression is used to grab attention as well as saying "I am sorry." In this dialogue, this word is used to grab the attention of Hakan by a stranger whom Hakan accidentally stepped on. The speaker says *affedersiniz* to grab his attention and also to show that he/she doesn't mean to apologize unless otherwise. To say *affedersiniz* even when you are hurt to grab attention is considered humble behavior and good manners.

Let's see it in another example: *Affedersiniz, sizi duyamıyorum* meaning " I am sorry I cannot hear you." or "My apologies, I can not hear you."

Çok

Basically *çok* means "many, much." *Çok* signifies that the thing you are talking about is very abundant. Saying *Çok yaşa* meaning "Live long" is an idiomatic expression to say when somebody sneezes. The reply for it is *Sen de gör* literally meaning "I wish the same for you as well." These customary expressions are used by everyone and not following them is considered bad manners by the majority.

Çok is a very common word that functions either as an adjective or adverb depending on the type of word that comes right after it. This will be explained later in the grammar point.

Özür dilemek

özür dilemek is a verb phrase and has two constituents: *özür* which is a noun meaning "apology" and *dilemek* which is a verb meaning "to wish for." Altogether it means to wish for an apology. This is the official way of showing that you are sorry so it can also be translated as "I am sorry" or "I apologize." Be careful though, you can not use this word on other occasions like in a funeral, for example. In English, you approach the party in grief and say "I am sorry" to express your sorrow and support during a funeral. However, in Turkish if you say *Özür dilerim* then that means that you have something to do with that person's loss. In Turkish, a different expression is used in funerals. For now let's just give the phrase and its translation: *Başınız sağolsun* meaning "May you be safe and sound." This is used to show that you wish for the health and safety of the grieving family or relatives. A common mistake an English speaker might make is to use it as "I am sorry" in other contexts like if the other person lost something else like money, job or failed and exam. Saying *özür dilerim* here would also mean that you are at fault so avoid using it in these situations.

Feel free to use *özür dilerim* in any situation that you think you are at fault like being late, accidentally hurting someone or making a mistake. This expression is formal but it is used a lot in the daily life.

Let's give an example: *Özür dilerim, sizi üzmek istemezdim* meaning "I apologize, I didn't mean to make you sad"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Most Common Apologetic Expressions in Turkish.

Ah!* Aaa... *Affedersiniz...

"Ouch! Umm...excuse me."

Affedersiniz is the formal way of saying "Excuse me" or " I am sorry." This verb is in the second person plural for formality. This is achieved by the suffix *-siniz* as explained in the previous lessons. *Affedersin* is the informal way of expressing your sorrow or desire to catch attention. The latter one is in the second person singular to express this informality. This is achieved by using the suffix *-sin* indicating second person singular (informal). You will often encounter this word as *Afedersin* on the Internet, in friendship circles, in between family members or in any other kind of close relations. So if a complete stranger approaches you and says *affedersin* this usually means that he/she doesn't have good manners. In any case, Turkish youths use *affedersin* quite a lot with strangers as well. And for them it just becomes natural.

Adjective versus Adverb: The Many Functions of *çok*

Çok as well as many other words can function as adjectives or adverbs in a sentence. Their function is strictly determined by this word's location in the sentence. If *çok* is followed by the noun it becomes a numerical adjective that describes the noun, however if it is followed by a verb then, it becomes an adverb that delineates the following verb.

For example:

1. *Yeni evi çok beğendim.*
   "I like the new house a lot."

Here are some more examples:

1. *Merve çok güzel bir kadın* means "Merve is a very beautiful woman." Here, *çok* is followed by two more adjectives: *güzel* meaning "beautiful" and *bir* meaning "a." And finally it ends up in *kadın* which is a noun meaning "woman." Therefore it acts as an adjective describing the measure of the beauty of that woman.

2. *Yeni evi çok beğendim* means "I like the new house a lot." Here, *çok* is followed by the verb: *beğenmek* so it describes the level of liking the house. Therefore it functions as an adverb.

For example:

1. *Affetmek büyüklüktür.*
   "Forgiveness is supremacy."

2. *Affedersiniz, sizi duyamıyorum*.
   "I am sorry I cannot hear you." or "My apologies, I can not hear you."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. 1. *Ah, çok özür dilerim!*
   "Oh, I'm very sorry!" (formal)

Sample Sentences

---

1. *Ah! Aaa... Affedersiniz.*
   "Ouch! Umm...excuse me." (formal)

2. *Afedersin.*
   "Excuse me," "I am sorry" (informal)

3. *Merve çok güzel bir kadın.*
   "Merve is a very beautiful woman."

4. *Yeni evi çok beğendim.*
"I like the new house a lot"

Language Tip

Affedersiniz can be a tough one to pronounce so let's illustrate this by breaking it into its syllables which is the best way to read Turkish. *A-fe-der-si-niz.*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Work Culture

Turkish people are not shy to apologize in any given situation—that includes their personal and business lives. In the Turkish business world especially, apologies can be manipulated by purposefully using them in every situation. Bosses often hear "I am having some personal problems" or "I broke up with my boyfriend/girlfriend" as an excuse for being late or being unable to complete a project on time. In almost all Turkish corporates, being professional is a valued trait and people act accordingly. However, small-scale companies might cause some conflicts and misunderstandings, because more or less everyone uses the power of first hand connections, sharing private life concerns and asking for understanding and forgiveness are common. Being aware of this is especially important for non-Turkish white collar professionals who are planning to work in managerial roles in Turkey. If you face this kind of situation, simply explaining the work ethics true of your own culture can help people understand your background, and you may even find a middle ground on which both parties agree. In summary, face to face, close relationships are deeply embedded in Turkish culture.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #5 Can you Take My Turkish Order?

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TURKISH

1. GARSON: İyi akşamlar.
2. HAKAN: İyi akşamlar, menü alabilir miyim?
3. GARSON: Elbette.
4. HAKAN: Ayrıca, su alabilir miyim lütfen?
5. GARSON: Hemen efendim.
6. HAKAN: Sipariş de vermek istiyorum.
7. GARSON: Evet, buyurun...

ENGLISH

1. WAITRESS: Good evening.
2. HAKAN: Good evening, can I get a menu?
3. WAITRESS: Sure.
4. HAKAN: Also, can I get water please?
5. WAITRESS: Right away.
6. HAKAN: Could you take my order as well?
7. WAITRESS: Yes, please...

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
akşam	evening
sipariş vermek	to order, to place an order
menü	menu
alabilmek	to be able to receive, to be able to get, buy, take, put on (weight)
elbette	of course, certainly, sure, by all means
su	water
hemen	instantly, immediately, prompt, right away.
efendi	sir, ma'm/ master
sipariş	order
istemek	to want

SAMPLE SENTENCES

İyi akşamlar! "Have a nice evening!"	**İnternetten bir kitap sipariş ettim.** "I ordered a book online."
Menü nerede? "Where is the menu?"	**Marka çantalar alabilmek istiyorum.** "I want to be able to buy brand bags."
Elbette doğum gününe geleceğim. "Of course, I will come to your birthday."	**Kadın su içer** The woman drinks water.
Hemen bir cevap ver. "Give (me) a response promptly.(right away)"	**Efendim, bana mı dediniz?** "Sir/ma'm (excuse me) did you say (it) to me? "

Sipariş gecikti. (past tense) "The order is late."	**O da partiye gelmek istiyor.** "She wants to come to the party, too."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Alabilmek

alabilmek is used to indicate the polite way to get something. By using *-abilmek,-ebilmek* you are emphasizing "to be able to do something." In this context, it is "to be able to get something." This is also used to make your sentence more polite. For example: *Silginizi ödünç alabilir miyim?* meaning "May I borrow your eraser?" In other contexts, you just indicate that you are able to do something for example: *Evet, param var. Alabiliyorum.* meaning "Yes, I have money. I am able to buy it."

Elbette

elbette means "of course," "certainly," "by all means," "you bet" depending on the context. This expression is an adverb of certainty that is frequently used in daily conversations, especially in dialogues between your close friends and family members. Let's see some examples as used in colloquial Turkish: *Elbette seninle geleceğim* meaning: "Most certainly, I will come with you" or the answer to the following question: *Benim için ilaç alır mısın?* meaning "Could you buy medicine for me?" Your answer: *Elbette!* meaning "of course!"

Hemen

hemen means "immediately, without delay." You might also hear this as *hemen hemen*. In that case, the adverb is reduplicated and the meaning becomes: "more or less." Let's illustrate this with examples: In the first context the adverb shows duration; immediate action: *Hemen geri ver* meaning "Give it back right away!" In the second context, *Ödevim hemen hemen bitti.* means "My homework is more or less finished." In this context, *hemen hemen* is an adverb of approximation.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Use *-ebilmek* and *-abilmek* Meaning "to be able to" in

Turkish

İyi akşamlar, menü alabilir miyim?

"Good evening, can I get a menu?"

[item] + *alabilir miyim* (polite way to ask for something)

[*sipariş*] meaning "order" + *alabilir misiniz* (polite way to ask someone to take your order)

Ebilmek/abilmek are the suffixes that make one of the most common Turkish modal verbs. The usage is similar to the English modal verb "can." For example: *yap-abiliyor-um* shows the general ability or possibility to do something. It means "I can do something." Here, *-abilmek* corresponds to "can" while "to do" is *yap-mak*, the root of the verb. Since *-abilmek/-ebilmek* are suffixes, you can simply add them to any verb you would like. For example. *yüz-ebiliyor-um* meaning "I can swim" or *anla-y-abiliyor-um* meaning "I can understand," or *koru-y-abiliyorum* meaning "I can protect."

Here, we're once more faced with Turkish vowel harmony rules.

If the verb has the following vowels in its last syllable: *a, ı, o,* or *u*, then the suffix is :*-abilmek.* For example: *yap-abiliyor-um*

If the verb has the following vowels in its last syllable: *e, i, ö,* or *ü* then the suffix is:*-ebilmek.* For example: *gör-ebiliyor-um* meaning "I can see"

If the verb ends in a vowel then the buffer letter "y" is added. For example: *koru-y-abiliyor-um*

When Used as an Interrogative Sentence, *-ebilmek/-abilmek* Signifies "Politeness"

This meaning is implied especially when combined with the suffix of second person singular ("polite") and adverbs like *lütfen* meaning "please." For example: *Siparişimi alabilir misiniz lütfen?* meaning "Could you take my order please." As you can see here, *-ebilmek/-abilmek* corresponds to one of the many functions of "could" in English, which is to make a polite request.

-ebilmek/-abilmek can also be used to indicate a theoretical possibility or presumption like: *Çok soğuk. Daha sonra kar yağabilir* meaning "It's very cold. It could snow later..."

For example:

1. *Siparişimi alabilir misiniz lütfen?*
   "Could you take my order please?"

2. *Çok soğuk. Daha sonra kar yağabilir...*
   "It's very cold. It could snow later..."

3. *Marka çantalar alabilmek istiyorum.*
   "I want to be able to buy brand bags."

4. *Silginizi ödünç alabilir miyim?*
   "May I borrow your eraser?"

5. *Evet, param var. Alabiliyorum.*
   "Yes, I have money. I am able to buy it."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *İyi akşamlar, menü alabilir miyim?*
   "Good evening, can I get a menu?"

2. *Ayrıca su alabilir miyim lütfen?*
   "Also, can I get water please?"

3. *Siparişimi de alabilir misiniz lütfen?*
   "Could you take my order as well?"

Sample Sentences

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1. *Yapabiliyorum*
   "I can do (something)" or "I am able to do..."

2. *Yüzebiliyorum*
   "I can swim"

3. *Koruyabiliyorum*
   "I can protect"

4. *Anlayabiliyorum*
   "I can understand"

5. *Görebiliyorum*
   "I can see"

Language Tip

The table below shows the positive, negative and interrogative conjugations of the verb *yapabiliyorum* meaning "I am able to do" or "I can do."

Personal Pronouns	Positive	English	Interrogative (positive)	English
	yap-a-biliyorum	"I am able to do"	*yapabiliyor muyum?*	"Am I able to do?"
"you"	*yapabiliyorsun*	"You are able t o do"	*yapabiliyor musun?*	"Are you able t o do?"
"He/She/It"	*yapabiliyor*	"He/She/It is able to do"	*yapabiliyor mu?*	"Is he/she/it able to do?"
"We"	*yapabiliyoruz*	"We are able to do"	*yapabiliyor muyuz?*	"Are we able to do?"
"You" (second person singular / plural -polite)	*yapabiliyorsun uz*	"You are able to do"	*yapabiliyor musunuz?*	"Are you able to do ?"
"They"	*yapabiliyorlar*	"They are able to do"	*yapabiliyorlar mı?*	"Are they able to do?"

Personal Pronouns	Negative	English	Interrogative (negative)	English
"I"	*yap-a-mı-yor-um*	"I am not able to do"	*yapamıyor muyum?*	"Am I not able to do?"
"you"	*yapamıyorsun*	"You are not able to do"	*yapamıyor musun?*	"Are you not able to do?"
"He/She/It"	*yapamıyor*	"He/She/It is not able to do"	*yapamıyor mu?*	"Is he/she/it not able to do?"
"We"	*yapamıyoruz*	"We are not able to do"	*yapamıyor muyuz?*	"Are we not able to do?"
"You" (second person singular / plural -polite)	*yapamıyorsunuz*	"You are not able to do"	*yapamıyor musunuz?*	"Are you not able to do?"
"They"	*yapamıyorlar*	"They are not able to do"	*yapamıyorlar mı?*	"Are they not able t o do?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dining in a Turkish Restaurant

In Turkey, big cities and tourist places have many restaurants with English translations on their menu. Some menus are illustrated with photos of the food they are serving that day. In other restaurants serving fish and meat dishes, you can choose the appetizers yourself while the waiter brings them to your table on a tray for you to choose. In some family restaurants, you can pick the food you would like to eat from an open counter and simply pay at the cashier right away. In Turkish restaurants direct interactions are common between waiters/ waitresses and the customer. This usually happens two ways: 1) The waiter waits for your call giving you time to think and choose from the menu 2) He/she approaches your table without

waiting for your call. But in each case, the staff usually give the customers a couple of minutes to decide.

But prepare yourself for comical, direct translations. We have picked the funniest one that went viral over the Internet for your entertainment. *Tavuk çevirme* is translated as "chicken translation." *Tavuk çevirme* is a common dish that is made by cooking chicken in a machine made for grill chicken. In Turkish, *çevirme* is a word with a lot of synonyms. It can mean: "translate," "turn," "spin" or "avert." This means that the person who is translating this just picked the first word in the dictionary without knowing its exact meaning. The reason why Turkish people make these mistakes more, compared to other non-native speakers is that Turkish words contain a lot of homonyms and synonyms.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #6 Catching Up With an Old Turkish Friend

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TURKISH

1. AYLA: Aa, Bora?
2. BORA: Ayla! Görüşmeyeli ne kadar oldu!
3. AYLA: Hakikaten, uzun süredir görüşemiyoruz!
4. BORA: Eee, ne var ne yok?
5. AYLA: Ne olsun işte... Bildiğin gibi... İyilik sağlık...

ENGLISH

1. AYLA: Oh, Bora?
2. BORA: Ayla! It's been a while!
3. AYLA: Really, long time no see!
4. BORA: So, what's new?
5. A: Well... As you know... All is well

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
görüşmek	to meet, to keep in touch, to do an interview
bilmek	to know
ne kadar	how much

Olmak	to be, to happen, to occur
hakikat	fact, truth
uzun	long
süre	time, period, span
iyilik	goodness
sağlık	health

SAMPLE SENTENCES

En yakın zamanda görüşelim! "Let's see (each other) as soon as possible."	**Onun ismini bilmiyorum.** "I don't know her name."
Bu bluz ne kadar? "How much is that blouse?"	**Çok hasta oldum.** "I became very sick."
Hakikaten mi? "Really?"	**Ayla uzun boylu bir kız.** "Ayla is a tall girl."
Öğretmenim, biraz daha süre verin. "Ma'am (my teacher), give some more time."	**İyilik önemli bir erdemdir.** "Goodness is an important virtue."
Bu aralar sağlığı pek iyi değil. "Nowadays, his/her health is not very good."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Görüşmek

görüşmek is one of the most essential verbs for it has different meanings depending on the context. It can be used when talking about something to someone: whether in a business meeting or about any subject. This verb indicates that ideas are going to be presented and discussed in a mutual discussion. For this reason it can also mean "to interview." For example, if you use this verb in its noun version: *Sizinle bir görüşme yapmak istiyorum.* meaning "I would like to do an interview with you." This first use has a formal connotation.

It can also be used to indicate that you want to improve your friendship after you get acquainted with someone. *Mutlaka görüşelim!* means "Let's meet (devote time to each other) by all means!" Keep in mind that *Mutlaka görüşelim!* has an informal connotation.

Ne kadar

ne kadar is an adjective meaning "how much" or "how many." This word will come in handy when you're shopping for daily food provisions in Turkey. We've already talked about how Turkish people like to do their weekly shopping in the neighborhood *manav* meaning "greengrocers'" or *bakkal* meaning "local, neighborhood grocers" in our previous lessons. You will use *ne kadar* everywhere including *bakkal*, *manav*, supermarkets, bazaars, boutiques or even street vendors. It is appropriate to ask this in both formal and informal situations.

This adjective is composed of two adjectives: *ne* meaning "what" and *kadar* meaning "much, many"

Let's see some examples both in formal and informal contexts:

Imagine you are in a fancy, designers boutique in Istanbul, Nişantaşı (a historical, upscale shopping district in Istanbul) you see a beautiful dress and you ask the shop clerk, *Bu elbise ne kadar acaba?* or *Ne kadar acaba?* by adding *acaba* meaning "I wonder..." you are changing the connotation to a formal one.

Now imagine that you are at a local bazaar shopping for some semi-precious turquoise stone. You ask, *Tanesi ne kadar?* meaning "How much is one piece?" or N*e kadar bunlar?* meaning "How much are these?"

The next setting can be your neighborhood greengrocers. You show some pomegranates and ask, *Kilosu ne kadar?* meaning "How much is one kilo?"

Hakikat

hakikat is a noun which means "fact" or "truth." Turkish society places great value on their

interactions with their neighborhood, family relatives or even apartment neighbors. They value and worry a lot about what other people think about their lifestyle so phrases for confirmation to show that you are listening are very important in Turkish. *Hhakikaten* meaning "really," "honestly" or "in fact" is one of those phrases that functions as a confirmative way to enhance that you are confirming, believing and thinking that the other person is saying the truth. Sometimes it is even confirmed with two words that have meanings like, *Hakikaten, doğru söylüyorsun* meaning "In fact, you are telling the truth." Here the noun *hakikat* is converted to an adverb.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on the Reciprocal Construction of a Verb System Called *işteş fiil* in Turkish.
Hakikaten, uzun süredir görüşemiyoruz!
"Really, long time no see!"

If the action signified by the verb is done by more than one person at the same time, mutually or together, then these are called *işteş fiil* in Turkish.

These verbs are easy to formulate: the *-iş* suffix is added to the end of the stem of the verb. The *-iş* suffix can become *-üş, -laş or -leş* depending on the vowel harmony rules which will be explained in our more advanced lessons.

Let's have a look at some further examples:

döv-mek ("to beat") -*döv-üş-mek* ("to fight with someone")

kaç-mak ("to escape") -*kaç-ış-mak* ("to run away in various directions")

öp-mek ("to kiss") -*öp-üş-mek* ("to kiss each other")

ağ-la-mak ("to cry") -*ağ-laş-mak* ("to weep together")

3 Types of *Işteş Fiil*

İşteş fiil can be grouped into three categories depending on their connotation:

1. The actions are done mutually/reciprocal

2. When actions are done together

3. The action that signifies equality in terms of quality (usually indicates a transition from one situation or context to another in the verb)

In this lesson we'll concentrate on the first group of *işteş fiil* that shows an action done by mutual interaction:

Ayla ile ben, dün okulda görüştük. (işteş) meaning: "Ayla and I met each other yesterday at school."

Özne (subject) *Yüklem*(verb)

The action of this sentence is *görüşmek*. The act of "seeing each other" is performed by more than one subject (Ayla and I) at the same time and mutually. (I saw/met Ayla, Ayla saw/met me). This is why *görüşmek* is an *işteş* verb.

For example:

1. *dövüşmek*
   "to fight against each other"

2. *kaçışmak*
   "to run away in any directions (action done by more than one subject)"

3. *öpüşmek*
   "to kiss each other"

4. *ağlaşmak*
   "to weep together"

5. *Ayla ile ben dün okulda görüştük.*
   "Ayla and I met each other yesterday at school."

6. *Sizinle bir görüşme yapmak istiyorum.*
   "I would like to do an interview with you."

Examples from this dialogue:

Sample Sentences

1. *Ayla ile ben dün okulda görüştük.*
   "Ayla and I met each other yesterday at school."

2. *Mutlaka görüşelim!'*
   "Let's meet (devote time for each other) by all means!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Talking Small Talk

Informal small talk is one of the most varied and interesting features in Turkish, linguistically and culturally. In Turkish society, formal gives way to informal dialogue pretty fast as face to face, primary relations are always very important for networking. From the importance of neighborliness to communication with your office colleagues you need to learn Turkish small talk to build solid, credible and mutually beneficial bonds. Turkish small talk phrases can be applied to every context to highlight a wide range of emotions from humbleness to avoidance. This vocabulary will save you if you don't remember the name of the person you're talking to or are filling the awkward gaps in the conversation. You will also notice that Turkish people use a lot of idiomatic expressions for small talk. These expressions have some negative, fatalistic connotations. The cultural dynamics that result in this will be explained in our advanced lessons later.

Some other useful expressions related to this include:

Bir yaramazlık yok meaning "No mischief"

Eh işte, yuvarlanıp gidiyoruz meaning "Well, nothing much. On our way, rolling and tumbling."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7 Introducing Someone In Turkish

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TURKISH

1. BORA: Hakan, tanıştırayım eşim Merve.

2. HAKAN: Merve merhaba. Ben Hakan.

3. MERVE: Merhaba Hakan. Bora sizden çok bahsetti. Bora'nın hem iş hem de yakın arkadaşısınız değil mi? Tanıştığıma memnun oldum.

4. HAKAN: Sonunda tanıştığımıza bende memnun oldum

ENGLISH

1. BORA: Hakan, let me introduce you. This is my wife Merve.

2. HAKAN: Merve, hello. I'm Hakan.

3. MERVE: Hello, Hakan. Bora has talked a lot about you. You are Bora's colleague and friend, right? Nice to meet you.

4. HAKAN: Nice to finally meet you, too.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
tanışmak	to meet, to know
iş arkadaşı	colleague
yakın arkadaş	close friend
son	end, final, last
çok	a lot, many, much, very

bahsetmek	to mention, to tell about something

SAMPLE SENTENCES

(Sizinle) tanışmamız çok iyi oldu. "Meeting you was very nice."	**Şirket yöneticisi bir iş arkadaşı ile ayrılır.** "The company executive leaves with a colleague."
Sadece yakın arkadaşlarıma güvenirim. "I only confide in my close friends."	**Ofisten çıkmadan önce, son bir telefon görüşmesi yapacağım.** "I will make one final phone call before leaving the office. "
Ayla çok güzel bir kız. "Ayla is a very beautiful girl."	**Hastalığından bana hiç bahsetmedi.** "She/he hasn't mentioned about her illness."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

tanışmak is an *işteş* ("reciprocal") verb referring to the mutual interaction that happens when you "get acquainted with someone." From its connotation, this verb is often used in formal situations, like business meetings and academic introductions. But this is also applicable for any situation that requires a first-time meeting.

çok is an adjective meaning "many, much, very." Don't be surprised when you hear this quantifying adjective in almost every sentence. For example, Turkish women like to use this word when they want to say they like something very much. Imagine you are shopping for fashions with your Turkish friend and she sees something she likes: *Çok güzel,* meaning "Very beautiful." Or, you are walking down the street when you see a very cute stray cat: *Çok tatlı* or *Çok şeker,* both meaning "Very sweet," or *Çok şirin,* meaning "Very cute."

bahsetmek*,* meaning "to mention," is a conjugated verb that is made out of a noun, *bahis-* meaning "bet," "inquiry," or "subject (to talk about)"—and a verb, *etmek*—generally meaning "to do" or "cost." Altogether, it literally means "to talk about a subject." However, it means "to mention" in every context. When Turkish people don't want to show other people that they knew about the subject that they are going to talk about, they say, "Yes, Ayla mentioned a bit about that..." which can be translated to *Evet, Ayla biraz bahsetmişti...*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is the Possessive Suffic of the First Person Singular

Eşim Merve...

"My wife Merve..."

In Turkish, a possessive suffix is added to the end of nouns indicating possession: something or someone belonging to or affiliated with something or someone. It exists in Uralic, Semitic, and Indo-European languages. In Turkish, *-m* or *-ım, -im, -um, or üm* are possessive suffixes that show variation according to the Turkish vowel harmony rules.

Simply keep in mind that if the word ends in a consonant, add *-im, -ım, -um or -üm.*

If the word ends in a vowel, add *-m.*

Let's see some examples in relation to our dialog:

Eş-im, meaning: "My wife"

İş arkadaş-ım, meaning: "My colleague"

Yakın arkadaş-ım, meaning: "My close friend"

Patron-um, meaning: "My boss"

Vowel Harmony Rules and Possessive Suffixes

All possessive suffixes are subject to vowel harmony rules. If the last syllable of the noun has

ü, like in *üzüm*, meaning "grape," add *-üm* to form the possessive. In total: *üzümüm,* meaning "my grape."

If the last syllable of the noun has *a* or *ı*, then add *-ım*.

If the last syllable of the noun has *e* or *i*, then add *im*.

If the last syllable of the noun has *u*, then add *um*.

Here are some examples:

1. *Eşim*
   "my wife"

2. *İş arkadaşım*
   "my colleague"

3. *Patronum*
   "my boss"

4. *Yakın arkadaşım*
   "my close friend"

5. *Üzümüm*
   "my grape"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *İş arkadaşlarımdan çok memnunum.*
   "I am very pleased with my colleagues."

2. *Sadece yakın arkadaşlarıma güvenirim.*
   "I only confide in my close friends."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Eşim Merve...*
   "My wife Merve..."

Sample Sentences

1. *Eşim*
   "my wife"

2. *İş arkadaşım*
   "my colleague"

3. *Patronum*
   "my boss"

4. *Yakın arkadaşım*
   "my close friend"

5. *Üzümüm*
   "my grape"

Possessive suffixes in plural verbs and other personal pronouns will be explained later, in more advanced classes.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Meeting People in Turkey

In Turkish culture, it is considered rude to point at someone in public with your index finger, so please refrain from this gesture when introducing someone. When you want to introduce someone, simply hold your hand palm side up towards the person you want to introduce and keep it at a below-torso level. This gesture emphasizes politeness and humbleness. Eye contact is also very important. Be sure to focus your attention, not on the friend who is introducing you, but on the person you're introduced to. Maintain eye contact, smile wholeheartedly, and give the person a firm handshake. Particularly in business, a firm handshake and eye contact determine the first impressions.

As we've already mentioned, Turkish society is varied, so you will encounter different people coming from different socioeconomic backgrounds, religious faiths, and ways of life. Keep in mind that some men will hesitate and might be offended to shake hands with women. This is

due to strict religious faith and conservatism. You can simply understand this if the person you're introduced to shows signs of hesitation or bewilderment. Simply refrain from a handshake and say *memnun oldum*, meaning "pleased to meet you."

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #8 Here's A Traditional Turkish Gift for You!

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: Hakan, sana Türkiye'den hediye getirdim.
2. HAKAN: Ah ne zahmet ettin. Çok teşekkür ederim.
3. MERVE: Rica ederim. Sana layık değil ama...

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: Hakan, this is a souvenir from Turkey for you.
2. HAKAN: Thank you very much.
3. MERVE: Don't mention it.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
Türkiye'denim	from Turkey	verb
hediye	present, gift	noun
rica etmek	to request, to beg, to appeal, to ask for, please (contextual meaning) as in 'I beg your pardon'	verb phrase
teşekkür etmek	to thank	verb phrase
layık	worthy	adjective
değil	not, no	noun
ama	but, if	adverb

etmek	to do, to cost, to take, to pay, to get	(auxiliary) verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ben Türkiye'denim. "I'm from Turkey."	**Çocuklar hediye açmaya bayılır.** "Kids love to open presents."
Rica etsem kapıyı açar mısınız? "Please, could you open the door?"	**Yardımınız için teşekkür ederim** "Thank you for your help."
Sana layık olmaya çalışıyorum. "I try to be worthy of you."	**İyi değilim.** "I'm not well."
Evet, baharatlı değil. "Yes, it's not spicy."	**Ayla güzel ama kibirli bir kız.** "Ayla is a beautiful but conceited girl."
Acele etmek istemiyorum. "I don't want to rush."	**Otuz çarpı beş kaç eder?** "What is thirty times five?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Türkiye is the name of the Turkish Republic. You will notice that some Turkish people avoid using "Turkey" when writing in English because this word implies the animal. What most people don't realize is that *Türkiye* itself is a word of Arabic origin. *Türk-i* means "of or in relation to Turk," and *-ye* is a derivational Arabic suffix that indicates "country" or "place." Altogether, it makes *Türkiye,* meaning "The country of Turks."

değil is the negative form of "to be." It means "not." In a sentence structure, it comes at the end of the sentence as a verb. For example, if you step on somebody's foot accidentally and apologize, you will hear *Önemli değil* from the other party, meaning "It is not important." You

can also combine it with quantifying adverbs. like *pek* or *çok.* An example is *Pek güzel değil*, meaning "Not very beautiful," or *Çok acı değil,* meaning "Not very bitter."

hediye is a noun, and it means "present." In Turkish, there are only two different words to express three different nouns: "present," "gift," and "souvenir." A present is *hediye,* and a gift is *armağan,* but generally, they are all called "hediye." A birthday present would be *Doğum günü hediyesi*, meaning "birthday present;" a gift from your friend is *arkadaşımdan hediye,* meaning "a gift from my friend;" and a souvenir from Japan would be *Japonya'dan hediye*, meaning "a souvenir from Japan."

GRAMMAR

bo

The Focus of this Lesson Is the Negative Form of "To Be" in a Negative Sentence with the *değil* Postposition
Sana layık değil ama...
"It is not worthy of you, though..."

In our previous lessons, we learned about the personal ending suffixes of the pronouns. In this lesson, we'll focus on how to negate these forms. The *değil* postposition, meaning "not," put at the end of the sentence gives the negative connotation.

When we want to use the negative forms of pronouns, we put the pronoun at the beginning of the sentence. Then, we put noun or adjective in front of the pronoun. The most important rule to keep in mind is that we conjugate the *değil* postposition and we don't conjugate any nouns or adjectives. Our formula is: [Pronoun] + [adjective (unconjugated)] + [conjugated form of *değil]*

Let's illustrate this with an example:

Ben zayıfım means "I am thin."

Negative form: *Ben zayıf değilim*, meaning "I am not thin." *zayıf* is an adjective meaning "thin." As you can see, the adjective remains unconjugated; however, the postposition functions like a verb here, and it is conjugated with the suffix for the first person pronoun, which is *-im*.

Conjugation Table for *değil* with Different Personal Pronouns

---

Pronoun	Conjugated postposition *değil*
Ben	*değilim*
Sen	*değilsin*
O	*değil*
Biz	*değiliz*
Siz	*değilsiniz*
Onlar	*değiller*

For example:

1. *Ben zayıf değilim*
   "I am not thin"
2. *değilim*
   "not am (I)"
3. *değilsin*
   "not are (you)"
4. *değil*
   "not is he/she/it"
5. *değiliz*
   "not are we"
6. *değilsiniz*
   "not are you"
7. *değiller*
   "not are they"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Önemli değil*
   "It is not important."

2. *Pek güzel değil*
   "Not very beautiful."

3. *Çok acı değil.*
   "Not very bitter."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Sana layık değil ama...*
   "It is not worthy of you, though..."

Sample Sentences

---

1. *Bilmemek değil öğrenmemek ayıp.*
   "It's not a shame not to know; what is bad is not learning."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Gift-Giving in Turkey

Gift-giving is an important custom showing good manners in Turkey. Occasions when you are expected to give gifts include: to your family, friends, and colleagues when you return from a foreign country (souvenirs); when you pay a first visit to someone else's house; and when your friend moves to another apartment as a housewarming party gift. Turkish people celebrate the New Year like Christmas. They exchange gifts on the first of December after midnight. Other occasions include: Valentine's Day (to your boyfriend/girlfriend or husband/wife), birthdays, *bayrams* (religious holidays: usually chocolate, sweets, or flowers), and Mother's and Father's Day.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #9 What Is This Turkish Item?

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: Bu reçel mi?
2. BORA: Evet, doğru. (Bu) Türkiye'nin ünlü bir reçelidir.
3. MERVE: Evet, bu bir kavanoz gül reçeli!
4. HAKAN: Gül reçeli?! Nerede yapılıyor?
5. MERVE: Isparta. Yerken mis gibi kokar!

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: Is this jam?
2. BORA: Yes, right. This is a famous Turkish jam.
3. MERVE: Yes, this is a jar of rose jam.
4. HAKAN: Rose jam?! Where is it produced?
5. MERVE: Isparta. It's fragrant when you're eating it.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
bu	this	pronoun
yemek	to eat	verb
reçel	jam	noun

kavanoz	jar	noun
gül	rose	noun
nerede	where, from where	adverb
yapılmak	to be produced, to be done	verb
mis	clean and sweet smelling, fragrant	noun
kokmak	smell	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bu kimin? "Whose is this?"	**Bu nedir?** "What's this?"
Bu çok güzel. "This is very good."	**Aile kahvaltı yapar.** "The family eats breakfast."
Domates yemeyi sevmem. "I don't like to eat tomatoes."	**Türkler kahvaltıda reçel ve peynir yemeyi sever.** "Turkish people like to eat jam and cheese in breakfast."
Şu kavanozu uzatabilir misin? "Could you pass (me) that jar?"	**Türkiye'de gül gıda ve güzellik ürünlerinde kullanılır.** "In Turkey, roses are used in food and cosmetic products."
İstasyonu nereden bulabilirim? "Where can I find the station?"	**Nerede yaşıyorsunuz?** Where do you live?

Ege'de üzüm hasatı sonbaharda yapılır. "In the Aegean (region) the grape harvest is done in autumn."	**Ispanaklı börek yaptım, mis gibi oldu.** "I made spinach pastry, (it) is savory."

Yazın bahçeler yasemin kokar.

"In summer, gardens smell of jasmine."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

bu means "this" and can either be an adjective or an adverb, depending on what follows it. If *bu* is followed by a noun, like, for example, *bu çiçek*, meaning "this flower," then it is a demonstrative adjective. If it is followed by a word other than a noun, then it becomes a demonstrative pronoun. For example, imagine you are pointing at a plate of savory Turkish kebab—you ask, *Bu baharatlı mı?* meaning "Is this spicy?" Please look at the grammar notes for details and exceptions.

Keep in mind that, as a globally recognized cultural insight, pointing at people and calling them *bu* is considered impolite in Turkey. Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns are generally used to point at inanimate objects, so be sure to refrain from using them for people in daily life.

yemek can mean two different things: the action of eating and the food itself. So, in Turkish, *yemek yemek*, meaning "to eat food," is grammatically correct—it is a frequently used expression. For example: *Yemek yemeğe gidelim mi?* meaning "Shall we go out to eat?" or *Şimdi gelemem, yemek yiyorum,* meaning "I cannot come now—I am eating (food)." In Turkish, *yemek* refers to only the main dish or appetizers. Desserts, beverages, and junk food don't count as *yemek*. Let's see this in an example: Imagine a high school student returning from school. His mother asks, *yemek yedin mi?* meaning "have you eaten (food)?" He answers, *Hayır, sadece baklava yedim*, meaning "No, I just ate some *baklavas*" As you can recall from our previous lessons, *baklava* is a syrup-based Turkish dessert made with various nuts and thin layers of pastry.

nerede is an adverb meaning "where?" Learning this word will make your life in Turkey easier, whether you're a tourist or a resident. For example: *Park yeri nerede?* meaning

"Where is the parking lot?" or *İş yerin nerede?* meaning "Where is your workplace?"

GRAMMAR

This Lesson Will Concentrate on Asking if A Is B: *[A] [B] mi?* ("Is [A] [B]?")

Bu, reçel mi?

"Is this jam?"

-mi/-mı is the suffix for an interrogative sentence.

The interrogative form in Turkish is achieved by using *-mi/-mı* suffixes at the end of the sentence, following the vowel harmony rule. These suffixes will always be written separately. Failing to do so will result in a spelling mistake.

For example:

1. *Bu, kalem mi?*
   "Is this a pen?"

2. *Bu, lezzetli mi?*
   "Is this delicious?"

3. *Bu yemek acı mı?*
   "Is this food hot?"

Focus on the comma after the demonstrative pronoun *bu* in the above examples. This comma separates the nouns *reçel*, meaning "jam," and *kalem,* meaning "pen," from *bu*; so, although it is followed by a noun, it becomes a demonstrative pronoun and not an adjective. In the latter case, however, there is nothing between *bu* and *yemek*, so it should be considered *bu yeme*, in which *bu* is an adjective.

The Grammatical Importance of the Adverb *Nerede?* and Determining the Indirect Object in a Sentence

---

Studying *nerede* doesn't come handy only in your daily life. When you ask the following

questions to the verb and subject *nereye, nerede, nereden,* meaning "to where, where, from where," or *kime, kimde, kimden,* meaning "to whom, whose, from whom," determine the indirect subject in the sentence.

Let's illustrate this with an example:

Evde yemek yedim, meaning "I ate at home." You ask *nerede*, meaning "where," of the verb. "Where did you eat?" is *evde* as an answer, which is the indirect object of the sentence.

For example:

1. *Bu, kalem mi?*
   "Is this a pen?"

2. *Bu, lezzetli mi?*
   "Is this delicious?"

3. *Bu yemek acı mı?*
   "Is this food hot?"

4. *Evde yemek yedim.*
   "I ate at home"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Bu çiçek*
   "This flower"

2. *Bu baharatlı mı?*
   "Is this spicy?"

3. *Park yeri nerede?*
   "Where is the parking lot?"

4. *İş yerin nerede?*
   "Where is your workplace?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Bu reçel mi?*
   "Is this jam?"

2. *Nerede yapılıyor?*
   "Where is it produced?"

Sample Sentences

---

1. *Bu, kalem mi?*
   "Is this a pen?"

2. *Bu, lezzetli mi?*
   "Is this delicious?"

3. *Bu yemek acı mı?*
   "Is this food hot?"

4. *Evde yemek yedim.*
   "I ate at home."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Breakfast

Breakfast is a crucial part of Turkish cuisine and lifestyle. A typical Turkish breakfast is composed of various types of bread, cucumbers and tomatoes in olive oil, black tea, various types of jams or honey, "white" (*feta*) cheese, eggs, *kashkaval* cheese, and green or black olives. Cereals, muffins, and pancakes are foreign to the traditional Turkish breakfast. During weekdays, some people prefer to go for a breakfast like a *simit* (a Turkish sesame bagel), jam, and cream cheese bought from a street vendor. Every neighborhood has one or two bakeries in which you can buy freshly baked bread, pastries like *poğaça* (a pastry with cheese or olive filling), and *börek* (a layered pastry with spinach, cheese, or minced meat), which are Turkish favorites.

People like to prepare savory, rich breakfasts during weekends. Sunday breakfast, especially, is a time for family gatherings. Sunday breakfasts usually start late and last a long time. They are prepared diligently and are very varied. Usually, *sucuklu yumurta* (scrambled eggs with sujuk), *menemen* (scrambled eggs with green pepper, tomatoes, and olive oil), clotted cream (served on roast bread with honey or rose jam), and various types of pastries and jams are added to Sunday breakfasts, to which relatives and close friends are cordially invited. In Turkey, balconies or verandas function as active living areas, where breakfasts are held in the summertime. Drinking Turkish coffee after a breakfast, chit-chatting, and watching the street while getting fresh air is one of the most common urban pictures you will encounter when passing by a neighborhood street in Turkey.

An additional note is on Isparta, the Turkish city mentioned in the dialog of this lesson. Various rose products, such as rosewater and rose cologne, as well as rose jam and rose-flavored Turkish delight, are famous in Isparta: a city in the inner Mediterranean Region in Turkey. Turkey exports high-quality rose essence to Europe; it is an essence frequently used in French brands, popular in Europe and throughout the world.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #10 Welcome to my Cosy Turkish Apartment!

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: Hakan, bu sizin eviniz mi?
2. HAKAN: Evet, buyurun içeri girin.
3. KÖPEK: Hav, hav!
4. MERVE: Aa, bu senin köpeğin mi, Hakan?
5. HAKAN: Evet, bu Çomar. Merak etmeyin. Bir şey yapmaz.
6. KÖPEK: Hav, hav, hav!

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: Is this your house, Hakan?
2. HAKAN: Yes, come on in.
3. BORA: Thanks!
4. DOG: Woof! Woof!
5. MERVE: Oh, is this your dog, Hakan?
6. HAKAN: Yes, this is Çomar. Don't worry. He won't do anything (bad).
7. DOG: Woof! Woof! Woof!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
yapmak	to do, to make, to perform	verb
şey	thing, stuff, matter	noun
ev	house	noun
içeri	inside	preposition
girmek	to enter	verb
hav	woof, bark	noun (onomatopoeic)
köpek	dog	noun
merak	to be curious of, concern, to worry	verbal phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ayla çok iyi resim yapar. "Ayla paints (to do/make a picture) very good."	**Hayatta en sevmediğim şey yalandır.** "The thing I dislike most in life is lies."
Kapıda bekleme, içeri gel. "Don't wait outside, come inside."	**Öğretmen sınıfa girdi.** "The teacher entered the classroom."
İstanbul'da sabahları sokak köpekleri çok havlar. "In Istanbul, stray animals bark a lot in the mornings."	**Tüylü köpek topun arkasından koşuyor.** "The shaggy dog is running after a ball."
Bu akşam geç kalacağım, merak etme. "I will be late tonight, (but) don't worry."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

ev

In Turkish, the meanings for "home" and "house" are the same; therefore, only one word exists to signify these meanings: ***ev***. If you want to indicate the possession of a house/home, you simply add the possessive suffix for the first person singular, as we discussed in the previous lesson of this series: *-im, -ım*. It becomes *ev-im*, meaning "my house/home." Let's illustrate our explanation in the following examples:

Home: "My home is cosy" translates to *Evim konforlu.*

House: "That house is pretty" translates to *O ev güzel*.

hav

hav is an onomatopoeic word imitating the sound of a dog, which is "woof"in English. It also functions as the root of the verb *havlamak*, which translates to "bark." Turkish is very rich in terms of onomatopoeic sounds. Some examples include: *miyavlamak*, meaning "to meow;" *şakımak* and *ötmek*, which are attributed to bird sounds meaning "twitter" and "hoot;" *anırmak*, meaning "to brey" for donkeys; and *kişnemek,* which translates as "to whinney" for horses. There are also natural sounds, like *şırıldamak,* which means "to splash gently;" *şakırdamak*, meaning "to rattle;" and *gürüldemek,* meaning "to burble." And, some are used in reduplication, like *lıkır lıkır,* indicating the sound of glugging; *kütür kütür,* indicating the sound of something firm and crunchy when eaten, like apples; and last but not least, *hapır hupur,* which is an onomatopoeic reduplication imitating the sound of eating with a great appetite.

yapmak is one of the most-used verbs in Turkish, generally meaning "to do," "to make," or "to perform." Its meaning changes contextually and is redefined by the nouns that come before. Some examples include:

Resim yapmak, meaning "to draw a picture"

Bina yapmak, meaning "to build a building"

Şaka yapmak, meaning "to make a joke"

Ödev yapmak, meaning "to do homework"

Yoga yapmak, meaning "to practice yoga"

As you can see, *yapmak* has many connotations, depending on the noun with which it is combined.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is to Show the Changes in the Possessive Suffixes, Depending on the Personal Pronoun

Hakan, bu sizin eviniz mi?

"Is this your house, Hakan?"

Aa, bu senin köpeğin mi, Hakan?

"Oh, is this your dog, Hakan?"

Personal pronouns	Possessive pronouns	Possessive suffix	Example: *ev* ("house/home")
Ben	*Benim*/"my"	*-im*	*Benim evim*
Sen	*Senin*/"your"	*-in*	*Senin evin*
O	*Onun*/"his,her,its"	*-si*	*Onun evi*
Biz	*Bizim*/"our"	*-miz*	*Bizim evimiz*
Siz	*Sizin*/"Your"	*-iniz*	*Sizin eviniz*
Onlar	*Onların*/"Their"	*-leri/ları* (depending on the vowel harmony rules)	*Onların evleri*

The possession holder is clear from the suffixes attached; therefore, in daily life, possessive pronouns are dismissed, unless you want to put more emphasis on the possession holder.

benim evim will simply be used as *evim* in written and oral language. Both mean "my house" in English.

Consonant Harmony

In our previous lesson, we explained Turkish vowel harmony rules, but there are other essential rules that affect the way suffixes are used in Turkish. As an initial rule, please keep in mind that a vowel following another vowel is never allowed in Turkish. Therefore, there are rules to avoid this. One of them, besides the vowel harmony rules, is a consonant harmony rule. When words end in the following consonants-*p, ç, t,* and *k*-they become softer and turn

into *b, c, d,* and *ğ* through consonant harmony, respectively.
(p, ç, t, k) - (b, c, d, ğ)

Köpek- köpeğ-i (onun köpeği)

An example would be: *Hakan'ın köpeği çok tatlı*, meaning "Hakan's dog is very sweet."

Consonant harmony in Turkish is there to make speech more fluent. Types of consonant harmony rules will be further explained in more advanced lessons.

For example:

1. *benim evim*
   "my house"

2. *evim*
   "my house"

3. *Hakan'ın köpeği çok tatlı.*
   "Hakan's dog is very sweet."

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Evim konforlu.*
   "My home is cosy."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Hakan, bu sizin eviniz mi?*
   "Is this your house, Hakan?"

2. *Aa, bu senin köpeğin mi, Hakan?*
   "Oh, is this your dog, Hakan?"

Sample Sentences

1. *1. Güzel, aydınlık bir evi var.*
   "She/he has a beautiful, bright house."

2. *Bu akşam geç kalacağım, merak etme.*
   "I will be late tonight, (but) don't worry."

3. *Hayatta en sevmediğim şey yalandır.*
   "The thing I dislike most in life is lies."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Visiting Rooms

There are two types of living rooms in a typical Turkish house. The main living room is called *misafir odası,* literally meaning "guest room." This is a space that is lavishly decorated with gold laminated mirrors, silverware, porcelain sets and paintings. *Oturma odası* literally translates to a "sitting room," indicating a cosy living space reserved only for family. As its name suggests, *misafir odası* functions as a space for guests and official gatherings, such as engagement parties, birthdays, and meetings with far relatives. This room is not used in daily life by family members. It almost acts like a reception chamber, where the hosts want to show to impress with a materialized version of the family's welfare, socio-economic status, and the facade of the lifestyle they want to reflect to outsiders. If you are a first-time visitor, don't be surprised to find out that you are not able to access the sitting room and bedrooms. The two faces of the Turkish house exist to keep the host's actual life private while showing the guests respect and hospitality.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #11
What's This Delicious Turkish Dish?

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: Yemek hazır! Sofraya buyurun !
2. MERVE: Oo harika görünüyor!
3. HAKAN: Haydi soğutmadan yiyin! Ayrandan da için!
4. BORA: (eating) Mmm. Çok lezzetli. Eline sağlık Hakan. Bu nedir?
5. HAKAN: Karnıyarık. Afiyet olsun.

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: Dinner is ready! Here, come to the dinner table!
2. MERVE: Oh, (it) looks great!
3. HAKAN: Come on, eat it before it's cold. Drink ayran as well!
4. BORA: (eating) Mmm. Very delicious. Health to your hands, Hakan. What is this?
5. HAKAN: Stuffed eggplants. Enjoy your meal!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
soğutmak	to cool	verb
sofra	dinner table (a table which has a meal laid out on it)	noun

lezzetli	delicious	adjective
eline sağlık	God bless your hands (for your cooking) (lit:Health to your hands!)	phrase
afiyet olmak	Enjoy your meal! (lit: May it be a feast for you!)	phrase
Haydi!	Come on!, Go ahead!, Go on!	interjection
içmek	to drink	verb
ne	what	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Rakıyı soğutmadan içme! "Don’t drink arrack before cooling."	**Anne kızını sofraya çağırdı.** "The mother called her daughter to the dinner table."
Evet, çok lezzetli. "Yes, it's very delicious."	**Kadın lezzetli pizzanın tadını çıkarıyor.** "The woman is enjoying delicious pizza."
Elinize sağlık, yemek çok lezzetli olmuş. "God bless your hands, the food was delicious."	**Afiyet olsun, daha tatlı ister misin?** "Enjoy your meal, would you like some more dessert?"
Haydi bir kere daha tekrarla! "Come on, repeat one more time!"	**Bir şey içmek ister misin?** "Do you want something to drink?"
Doğumgününüz ne zaman? "When is your birthday?"	**Ne yapıyorsunuz?** "What do you do?"

Bu yerin ismi nedir?

"What is this place's name?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

eline sağlık

This is an idiomatic phrase literally meaning "health to your hands." This phrase is used to thank wholeheartedly the person who cooked or prepared the food for you, whether it is breakfast, lunch, dinner, or a simple snack. If the person you want to thank for the food is a close friend, colleague, or family member—in short, someone you know well-then use it in the informal: *eline sağlık*. However, if you are a first-time guest, or if the head of the restaurant you went to paid you special attention—in short, in any situation that requires more emphasized courtesy—just use the formal version: *Elinize sağlık!* Using this phrase in a fast food chain or to a regular waiter or waitress is not necessary, and sometimes, it might even sound odd. However, in a a situation where primary relations are more important, like buying food from street vendor (whether *balık ekmek*, meaning "fish and bread," or *kuru fasülye pilav*, meaning "dry beans with pilaf"), it'll create a warm atmosphere, and you may even get an additional portion for your courtesy!

afiyet olmak

Afiyet olsun is the reply for *Elinize sağlık*, literally meaning "May the food I prepared be a feast for you." You use this phrase when you are the person who cooked or prepared the meal. Usually, people don't wait to be praised by receiving *Elinize sağlık*. They just go ahead and say, "Enjoy your meal!" (*Afiyet olsun!*) And, most probably, the answer they'll get is *Çok lezzetli olmuş. Elinize sağlık!* meaning "It's very delicious. May your hands be blessed!"

As explained earlier, in a fast food chain or an ice cream place, it is kind of odd to say *elinize sağlık* because the food has already been mass-produced or processed by someone with whom you cannot communicate directly. In any case, the person who gives the food to you will say, *afiyet olsun!* In these cases, you can simply reply to them with the phrase we learned in Lesson 1 of this series: *sağ olun.*

içmek

içmek, meaning "to drink," is a verb that applies for all soft drinks, including water, medicine,

and alcoholic drinks with a name. Let's illustrate this with an example:

1. *Her sabah süt içerim,* meaning "I drink milk every morning."
2. *Nar suyu içmek istiyorum,* meaning "I want to drink pomegranate juice."
3. *Kola içmeye ne dersin?* meaning "How about drinking cola?"

İlacını içtin mi? meaning "Did you take your medicine?" (literally, "did you drink your medicine?")-this is used with both pill and liquid forms of medicine

Viski içmek ister misin? meaning "Would you like some whiskey?"(literally, "Would you like to drink Whisky?")

However, keep in mind that the alcoholic beverage you are talking about should have a label like "whiskey," "wine," "beer," etc. If you want to say, "I don't like to drink alcohol," then we don't use *içmek.* Instead, we use *Alkol almayı sevmiyorum*. As you can remember from Lesson 5 of this series, *almak* is a verb with a variety of meanings, "to take" being one of them. So, this sentence translates to: "I don't like to take/have alcohol," literally.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is the Imperative Form in Turkish
Ayrandan da için!
"Drink *ayran* as well!"

The imperative tone is used when you demand, strongly suggest, ban, or warn someone to do something. Let's start by explaining the second singular person (sen) imperative tone. This is very similar to English because the plain verb is used—without any suffix. Let's give some examples to clarify:

Koş! meaning "Run!

Dur! meaning "Stop!"

Ye! meaning "Eat!"

However, as Turkish is a language of suffixes, the difference from English presents itself in the imperative form for different personal pronouns. Let's see how these are constructed:

Personal Pronoun in Turkish	Personal Pronoun in English	Suffix
Ben	"I"	no first person singular form
Sen	"you"	no suffix attached
O	"he/she/it"	verb + (*-sın*), (*-sin*)
Biz	"we"	no first person plural form
Siz	"You"	verb + (*(y)ın*), *(y)in* formal) (*iniz*), (*ınız*) extremely formal, not used often anymore
Onlar	"They"	verb + (*sınlar*), (*sinler*)

Now, let's see some examples constructed according to the suffixes of the table above:

Personal Pronoun	***yemek* - "to eat"**	***demek* - "to say"**	***içmek* - "to drink"**
sen	*ye!*	*de!*	*iç!*
o	*yesin!*	*desin!*	*içsin!*
siz	*yiyin!*	*deyin!*	*için!*
onlar	*yesinler!*	*desinler!*	*içsinler!*

Now, let's focus on the specific meanings these suffixes bring to the sentence by looking in-depth at one of the examples from the table above.

Case	Meaning
sen iç!	"drink" from the first person singular to a single person.

o iç-sin! (içsin!)	"let him drink," not like "allow him to drink"- this has a meaning that you want the other person to drink in an imperative way
siz iç-in (için!)	"drink!" second person plural to multiple people
onlar iç-sinler (içsinler!)	"let them drink!" (Again, the meaning does not focus on "allow them to drink"-*içsinler* means that you want them to drink and you express it in an imperative way)

Wish Clause

As you can see from the above explanations, there is no first person singular or first person plural form of the imperatives. So there is another another form called the "wish clause" that gives a similar meaning for these personal pronouns. This will be explained further in our future lessons.

For example:

1. *Sen iç!*
   "You (should) drink!"
2. *O içsin!*
   "He/she/it (should) drink!"
3. *Siz için!*
   "You (should) drink!"
4. *Onlar içsinler!*
   "They (should) drink!"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Rakıyı soğutmadan içme!*
   "Don't drink the *arrack* before cooling"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Sofraya buyurun!*
   "Come to the dinner table!"

2. *Soğutmadan yiyin!*
   "Eat it before it's cold!"

3. A*yrandan da için!*
   "Drink from the *ayran* as well!"

Sample Sentences

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1. *Koş!* "Run!"

2. *Dur!* "Stop!"

3. *Ye!* "Eat!"

4. *De!* "Say!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dinner Guests in Turkey

Turkish people are especially courteous and self assertive when it comes to having guests over dinner. Exhibiting diligence and mastery are the key elements. That's why you'll be delightfully greeted with a variety of dishes: appetizers, various cold dishes dressed in olive oil, a main dish, and more than two types of desserts and fruit. Your Turkish hosts will probably act like having these varied dishes is just a part of their ordinary daily routine. However, in most cases, this is not true. This is only a humble performance for you to not to

feel bad about yourself, having seen all the time-consuming preparations made just for you.

Your Turkish hosts can become very persistent, forcing you to eat more food. If you empty a plate, know that seconds and thirds will come in a jiffy. They won't listen to you, even if you say that you are full. They'll respond by saying *yersin yersin...*meaning "you'll eat it anyway." In Turkey, generosity—especially when it comes to food-is a highly valued trait, so by asking you to eat more, they are showing the fact that they value and respect their guests.

Right after meals, Turkish people like to eat something sweet that goes well with Turkish black tea. Usually within an hour after the meal, they also drink Turkish coffee. This is believed to ease digestion and help you get rid of the after-meal drowsiness.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #12
Can You Eat This Turkish Meatball?

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2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
5 Grammar
7 Cultural Insight

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TURKISH

1. BORA: Bu nedir?

2. HAKAN: Bu, balık köftesi.

3. MERVE: Balık köftesi?

4. HAKAN: Evet, Karadeniz yöresinin yemeğidir. Balıktan yapılır. Et yersin değil mi?

5. MERVE: Evet ama sadece balık eti!

6. HAKAN: İyi, iyi... Ucuz kurtulduk...

ENGLISH

1. BORA: What's this?

2. HAKAN: This is a fish meatball.

3. MERVE: Fish meatball?

4. HAKAN: Yes, it is a dish from the Black Sea Region. It's made of fish. You eat meat, right?

5. MERVE: Yes, but only fish!

6. HAKAN: (laughs) Well, well...That was close....

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
kurtulmak	to get rid off, to discard	verb
balık	fish	noun
köfte	meatball	noun
Karadeniz	Black Sea	noun
yöre	vicinity	noun
et	meat	noun
İyi	good	adjective
ucuz	cheap	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ünlü aktris spor yaparak kilolarından kurtuldu. "The famous actress got rid of her weight by doing sports."	**Kartal uçuyor ve balıklar için saldırıyor.** "The eagle is flying and swooping for fish."
Kuzu etinden köfte çok lezzetlidir. "Köfte made from lamb is very delicious."	**Karadeniz'in hamsisi meşhurdur.** "Black Sea is famous with its anchovy."
Türkiye yöresel mutfak açısından çok çeşitlidir. "Turkey is very rich in terms of vicinity cuisines."	**Ben kırmızı et yemem.** "I don't eat red meat."
Bu güzel! "This is good!"	**Bu daha mı ucuz?** "Is this one cheaper?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Karadeniz

Karadeniz bölgesi is one of the seven geographical regions in Turkey. Located in the northern part of Turkey, this region borders the Black Sea, from where it gets its name. The coast is very steep and rocky, and rivers form many abundant, alluvial lowlands. Plateaus, viaducts, and rich forests are also key geographical features. Because of its wild nature, it is one of the major danger zones for avalanches. The Black Sea region harbors tobacco, Turkish black tea, and hazelnut production. The attractive and rich fauna, crater lakes, rivers, and stream available for rafting; the foggy plateaus; and the local cuisine make this region a charming place for adventurous local tourists. The region itself has three sub-regions: *Batı Karadeniz*, meaning "Western Black Sea Region;" *Orta Karadeniz,* meaning "Middle Black Sea Region;" and *Doğu Karadeniz*, translating to "Eastern Black Sea Region."

et

There is a controversial debate in the world in labeling the flesh of fish as a type of meat. In the Turkish language and culture, there is no such difference. *Et,* meaning "meat" or "flesh," can be from any living creature, from *insan eti,* meaning "human flesh," to *kümes hayvanlarının eti,* meaning "the meat of poultry animals."

Some examples can be:

Keçi eti: "goat meat"

Kuzu eti: "lamb"

Koyun eti: "mutton"

Dana eti: "beef"

Balık eti: "fish"

Sülün eti: "pheasant meat"

Tavuk eti: "chicken"

Tavşan eti: "rabbit meat"

Keep in mind that *domuz eti*, meaning "pork," is forbidden by Islam, the religion of the majority of people in Turkey. Even the non-religious people in Turkey tend to avoid eating pork because it is not acquired as a taste starting from early childhood.

Other seafood, like *karides,* meaning "shrimp;" *ahtapot,* meaning "octopus;" and *midye*, meaning "mussels," are referred by their names in daily language. But you'll also hear sentences like: *Ahtapot etinin yumuşak olması için iyi marine etmek gerekir*, which translates to "In order to make the meat of the octopus softer, marinate it well."

Keep in mind that, because of the previously stated reasons, no Turkish restaurant will serve you fish, shrimp, octopus, or mussels when you say that you are a vegetarian, even if you are a *pesce*—vegetarian.

If you want to ask what meat is used in a Turkish dish, simply ask:

Bu et ne eti acaba? meaning, "What type of meat is this, I wonder?"

iyi

iyi, meaning "good," is a multi-faceted conditional adjective that can fit in a variety of situations. You can simply express that you are feeling good. You just need to say *İyi hissediyorum*, meaning "I feel good," or simply "I am good," which translates to *İyiyim!* You can also use this adjective in order to show that you approve of something. Imagine that you cut your very long hair and that, now, you have an extremely short pixie haircut. You ask your mom, "How do I look?" and she replies, *İyi olmuş, çok uzamışlardı,* meaning "I think it's good. It was really long."

You can also express a condition that went well using this adjective. Imagine that the Turkish language exam you've long prepared for went extremely well. Your friend asks, "How was your exam?" and you reply, *İyi geçti,* meaning "It went well."

In some other contexts, we use *iyi* to express our concern. Imagine your grandmother looking a bit pale on a particular morning. You ask worriedly, *Anneanne iyi misin?* meaning "Grandma, are you okay?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is *bildirme kipi*, Meaning "Indicative" in Turkish
Bu balık köftesidir.
"This is fish meatball."

In Turkish grammar, a clause that is in the indicative form has a subject followed by a verb group. Clauses of this kind are typically used to make clear statements-for example, in the

sentence *Bu kedidir,* meaning "This is a cat." Here, with the *-dir* suffix attached to the word, you are indicating and emphasizing the fact that the object that stands close to you is a cat. This form is also called the "indicative mood" and is constructed by *-dir* and *-dır* suffixes attached to the end of the verb, depending on the vowel harmony rules.

Let's see the examples below in order to construct the question form of the indicative mood:

1. *Bu bir defter midir?* ("Is this a notebook?")
   - *Evet, bu bir defterdir.* ("Yes, this is a notebook")
   - *Hayır, bu bir defter değildir.* ("No, it is not a notebook")

Remember that the vowel harmony rules affect the first consonant and the second vowel of the indicative suffix.

When the last word ends in one of the following consonants-*f, s, t, k,ç, ş, h,* or *p*-the *d* from the suffix *dır* or *dir* changes into *tır* or *tir.* To give some examples:

*Bu bir kitap**tır***, meaning "This is a book."

*O bir mühendis**tir,*** meaning "He/she is an engineer."

For example:

1. *Balık ekmek popüler bir Türk sokak yemeğidir.*
   "Fish and bread is a popular Turkish street food."

2. *Kuzu etinden köfte çok lezzetlidir.*
   "Meatball made from lamb is very delicious."

3. *Karadeniz'in hamsisi meşhurdur.*
   "Karadeniz is famous for its anchovy."

4. *Türkiye yöresel mutfak açısından çok çeşitlidir.*
   "Turkey is very rich in terms of vicinity cuisines."

5. *Türk mutfağında et kadar zeytinyağlılar da önemlidir.*
   "In Turkish cuisine, olive-oiled dishes are as essential as meat ones."

6. *Avrupa'ya göre, Türkiye'de sebze ve meyve çok ucuzdur.*
"As compared to Europe, fruits and vegetables are very cheap in Turkey."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Bu nedir?*
"What's this?"

2. *Bu balık köftesidir.*
"This is fish meatball."

3. *Karadeniz yöresinin yemeğidir.*
"It's a dish from the Black Sea Region."

4. *Balıktan yapılır.*
"It's made out of fish."

Sample Sentences

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1. *Bu bir kitaptır.*
"This is a book."

2. *O bir mühendistir.*
"He/she is an engineer."

Language Expansion

It's not hard to imagine that the imperative form, constructed with *-dir* and *-dır* suffixes, is also called the "book form" because of its absolute, informative mood.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish

Cuisine

Turkey has seven regions, in which you'll notice big differences in terms of lifestyle, culture, geography, and cuisine. The variety of cuisine is not about the different spices and seasonings used for the same recipes; rather, it is about the uniqueness of each dish. What we mean by this "uniqueness" is that you'll confront totally different eating habits and recipes in every region. For example, the Aegean region, where olive trees are abundant, is famous for its cold-served olive-oil dishes. Braised artichokes in olive oil, stuffed squash blossoms, stuffed vine leaves, and zucchini are just some of the highlights. Having inherited the fundamental elements of the Ottoman court cuisine, the Marmara Region unites dough-based culinary tastes of inner Anatolia with a variety of vegetables, as well as well-seasoned lamb. Dozens of different cheese types, soups, and dough-based foods are all unique in terms of their taste, texture, and aroma.

One of the essential elements of Turkish food is yogurt. It's not hard to imagine this because "yogurt" is loaned from Turkish to other languages. Originally, it was called *yoğurt* in Turkish. You'll be surprised to find yogurt granulated and added into soup, eaten with rice, or even consumed as a salad drink called *cacık*.

Turkish people, whether they are in cities or villages, still rely on home-cooked meals in their everyday lives. Going to restaurants remains a weekend event. You'll find that most older people go to restaurants once or twice a month, just to eat something specific.

Turkish cuisine is also very seasonal, just like its climate. Lightly fried vegetables served with yogurt, eggs with tomatoes with basil and mint, and white cheese eaten with slices of watermelon and cucumbers are the core elements of a light summer meal while battling with heat waves.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #13 Looking For A Bathroom in Turkey

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2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
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#13

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: (stomach rumbling) Ee.. Affedersin, banyo nerede acaba?
2. HAKAN: Orada. Koridorun sonunda soldaki kapı.
3. MERVE: Teşekkürler.
4. HAKAN: Dolapta temiz havlu var!

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: (stomach rumbling) Umm, excuse me. Where's the bathroom, I wonder?
2. HAKAN: Over there. Left door at the end of the corridor.
3. MERVE: Thanks.
4. HAKAN: There's a clean towel in the cupboard.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
var	available, the condition of existence, there is/there are	verb
banyo	bathroom	noun
nerede	where, from where	adverb
acaba	I wonder	expression
orada	over there, at that place	adverb

koridor	hallway, corridor	noun
sol	left	noun
kapı	door	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Onun çok güzel gözleri var. "She/he has beautiful eyes."	**İstasyonu nereden bulabilirim?** "Where can I find the station?"
Nerede yaşıyorsunuz? Where do you live?	**Bu bayanlar tuvaleti mi acaba?** "Is this the ladies' room?"
Orada çok iyi anılarım oldu. "I have lots of good memories at that place."	**Burdan asla sola dönme.** "Never turn left here."
Oğlan kapıyı açar "The boy opens the door."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

acaba is an adverb meaning "I wonder..." or "Is that so?" depending on the context in which it is used. With the former meaning, it makes the question sentence more polite, as if you are emphasizing that you are asking the question only with the permission of the other party. It also shows some level of uncertainty, highlighting the fact that you are in need of guidance or help. The last attribute is a functional one. Adding *acaba?* to the end of your interrogative sentence makes it more melodical. Can you notice the unique melody it adds to the conversation in our related podcast?

Let's illustrate it with several examples:

Imagine that you meet someone you like and are wondering whether he/she is going to call you back. You speak to yourself dreamily, *Beni arar mı acaba?* meaning "I wonder if he/she is going to call me..." Or, imagine the phone call you are expecting is from your boss on your vacation. It's clear that you don't want to receive the call. You speak to yourself nervously in wonder, *Of, beni arar mı acaba?!* meaning, "Humph, I wonder whether he/she is going to call me..."

The latter meaning has a more sinister or passive aggressive tone. Imagine your mom having low expectations of your mathematics exam. She says, "I think you are going to fail this one," gloomily. You are upset and a bit offended, so you snap back, *Acaba!* meaning "Is that so?!"

sol is a directional adverb meaning "left," while its antonym is *sağ*, meaning right. Some Turkish people can be superstitious when it comes to using their right or left foot, for example, to step out from their houses or to step into a mosque. The right hand and foot are considered more holy and valuable than the left ones. That's why, when they are entering a place they respect, like a mosque, or trying to attract good luck when they start something new, like a new job or a vacation they are about to set off to, they use their right foot to step in. What's more is that, when they leave, the right foot should be the one that leaves the place last. The roots of this lie in Islamic tradition.

banyo is a loan word from Italian, meaning "bathroom" in Turkish. Just because the contemporary name of it is loaned from another language doesn't mean that the "bathroom culture" was foreign to Turkish people in the past. In Turkish, "bathroom" was known under the name *hamam,* which is now only used for "Turkish bath house."

During Ottoman times, going to a Turkish public bath was one of the few occasions when women could experience a social life outside their home zone. The hammam was not only a place in which to take care of your daily hygiene, but also where a woman could meet with friends and acquaintances, engage in gossip, and check out prospective brides for her sons. The baths were also considered festive spaces, where the important days and many of the significant turning points of woman's life were celebrated. One of the most festive and entertaining of these gatherings was known as *gelin hamamı,* or "bridal bath."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is the Conditions of Existence (*var*) and Non-Existence (*yok*)

Dolapta temiz havlu var!

"There's a clean towel in the cupboard!"

var is a simple and frequently used verb claiming that something exists. Therefore, it signifies the meaning "there is" and/or "there are." Notice that both *-var* and its antonym *yok* are used for both singular and plural ("there is, there isn't") and ("there are, there aren't").

For example:

1. *Selin'in güzel saçları var.*
   "Selin has beautiful hair."

2. *İleride iyi bir restoran var.*
   "There is a good restaurant ahead."

Now, let's focus on the interrogative form. Do you remember the interrogative suffixes *-mı* and *-mi* that we studied in Lesson 9? Simply add these suffixes right after your verb.

For example:

1. *Paran var mı?*
   "Do you have money?"

2. *Araban var mı?*
   "Do you have a car?"

As you can see, *var* can only have the interrogative suffix *mı*, according to the vowel harmony rules.

The Antonym of *var* is *yok*

Yok- shows the condition of being non-existent. It signifies the connotations for "there isn't, there aren't" in English.

For example:

1. *Evde yemek yok.*
   "There is no food in my house."

2. *İleride iyi bir restoran var.*
   "There is a good restaurant ahead."

3. *Paran var mı?*
   "Do you have money?"

4. *Araban var mı?* "Do you have a car?"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Onun çok güzel gözleri var.*
   "She/he has beautiful eyes."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Dolapta temiz havlu var!*
   "There's clean towel in the cupboard!"

Sample Sentences

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1. *Evde yemek yok.*
   "There is no food in my house."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Going to the Bathroom in Turkey

In a typical Turkish house, there's usually one large bathroom with a toilet, cupboards, and a shower and/or a bathtub and another mini room that consists of a toilet pan and a sink. The former large bathroom is called *banyo,* and the smaller one is called *tuvalet* in Turkish. As a guest, you'll be guided to the main bathroom, where you can find clean towels just for you. Don't be surprised if you are offered lemon- or lavender-scented eau de Cologne when you

return to the living room. Offering eau de Cologne is an everyday custom performed by the majority of Turkish people for refreshment.

One last essential cultural point that non-Turkish people might be surprised about is the bidet. Every Turkish toilet comes with a bidet, usually installed in the middle of the toilet bowl. Turkish people use this water pipe for sanitary reasons after using the toilet.

You might also confront two different styles of toilets: The first one is called an *alaturka* toilet. This is a loan word, meaning "Turkish-style toilet," which is more known as a "squat toilet" nowadays. The second one is an *alafranga,* meaning "Western-style toilet." You will especially see Turkish-style toilets in the gas stations during your road trips outside big cities.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #14 Being Really Clumsy in Turkey

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: (washing dishes) Merve, çok teşekkür ederim!
2. MERVE: Bir şey değil. Ah! (sound of glass breaking) Özür dilerim!
3. HAKAN: İyi misin?
4. MERVE: Ben iyiyim ama bardağını kırdım...
5. HAKAN: Canın sağolsun. Önemli değil.
6. MERVE: Gerçekten çok özür dilerim.

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: (washing dishes) Merve, thank you very much!
2. B: Not at all. Oh! (sound of glass breaking) I'm sorry!
3. A: Are you okay?
4. B: I'm fine, but I broke your glass...
5. A: May you be safe. No big deal.
6. B: I'm really very sorry.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class

dilemek	to wish for	verb
bardak	glass	noun
kırmak	to break	verb
canı sağolmak	May you be safe and sound. [can: life, soul, spirit sağolmak: to thank (lit: may it be safe and sound)]	phrase, idiom
önemli	important, essential	adjective
değil	not, isn't	noun
özür dilemek	to apologize	verb phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mutlu yeni yıllar dilerim. "I wish you a happy new year."	**Çay çok süslü bir bardakta geldi.** "Tea is served in a very decorative glass."
Sert sözleriyle kalbimi kırdı "He/she broke my heart with his/her piercing words."	**Paranı kaybettiğin için bu kadar üzülme, canın sağ olsun.** "Don't be so sad over losing money, your safety is the most important thing."
Önemli bir toplantıya geç kaldım! "I am late for an important meeting!"	**Çok yakışıklı değil ama karizmatik bir erkek.** "He is not very handsome but he is a charismatic man."
Özür bile dilemedi! "He didn't even apologize!"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

kırmak

kırmak is a verb that can be used in many contexts. The root of this verb is *kır,* which means "to break," "to hurt," or "to offend."

The most basic meaning is "to break something." For example: *Çocuk vazoyu kırdı*, meaning "The kid broke the vase."

Other than that, just like the English "to break someone's heart," Turkish has an idiomatic expression called *kalp kırmak*. For example: *Sert eleştirisiyle kalbimi kırd,ı* meaning "He/she broke my heart with his/her brutal critique."

However, keep in mind that "breakup" doesn't work with *kırmak* in Turkish. In Turkish, *ayrılmak*, meaning "to separate," is used for romantic breakups. An example is *Erkek arkadaşımdan ayrıldım*, meaning "I broke up with my boyfriend."

bardak

In Turkey, tea is served in a special glass called *ince belli çay bardağı,* meaning "Turkish thin-waisted tea glass." Generally speaking, a light, hourglass figure is considered to be of great quality. Traditionally, Turkish people don't enjoy drinking black tea from a mug or a cup. Some extreme Turkish tea gourmets will even consider it distasteful or inappropriate. Turkish coffee, however, is served in a petite porcelain coffee cup and accompanied by a glass of cold water.

canı sağolmak

Canın sağolsun is an idiomatic phrase in the second person singular. This phrase is used by the people who want to comfort you when you are sad and sorry about a thing you did regretfully with or without being conscious about it. This is used especially when you lose or drop something of a great value, like a large amount of money in cash, a credit card, a computer, etc. It is also used when you unintentionally break or harm something that doesn't belong to you. Usually, this phrase literally means, "may your soul/life be safe and sound" and highlights the fact that the thing you are sad about is of very minor importance.

Imagine Person A losing her wallet. She comments in a panic, *Eyvah! Bana hediye ettiğin cüzdanı kaybettim!* meaning, "Oh no, I lost the wallet you've given me as a present." Person B replies in a comforting tone, using the phrase we've just studied: *Canın sağolsun, yenisini alırız*, meaning "May you be safe and sound. We'll buy a new one."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is the Possessive Construction in Turkish

Bardağını kırdım.

"I broke your glass."

We studied the possessive suffix of the first person singular in Lesson 7 of this series. Now, we'll concentrate more on how the possessive form is constructed according to different personal pronouns in Turkish. As you know, Turkish is a language of suffixes and their order; that's why we'll illustrate possessive constructions schematically in the table below.

Possessive pronouns	English translations	Possessive suffixes
benim	"my," "mine"	*-(i)m*
senin	"your," "yours"	*-(i)n*
onun	"his," "her," "its"	*-(s)ı*
bizim	"our," "ours"	*-(i)mız*
sizin	"your," "yours"	*-(i)nız*
onların	"their," "theirs"	*-(ı)ları*

If the word the possessive suffix is attached to ends in a vowel, the vowel in parentheses at the beginning of the suffix (see table above) is not needed.

Sen-in kalem-(i)n, meaning "your pencil/pen."

Here, *kalem*, meaning "pen/pencil," ends with the consonant *-m*; therefore, the vowel shown in parenthesis (*-i*) is needed.

Sen-in silgi-n, meaning "your eraser."

Here, *silgi*, meaning "eraser," ends in the vowel *-i*; therefore the vowel shown in parentheses is not needed.

This illustrates one very fundamental grammar rule in Turkish: that consonant and vowel letters follow one another (apart from some exceptions, especially with Arabic or Persian loan words)

To emphasize more, we use both the possessive pronoun and the word with the possessive suffix together, such as in *benim odam*, meaning "my room;" but, in general, using just the possessive ending on the noun is enough. Colloquially, it is also possible to disregard the possessive suffix attached at the end of the word and to simply say *benim oda*. As you can see here, the word is left without a suffix, such as a possessive suffix. Keep in mind that the latter case is only applicable to conversational (oral) Turkish.

Personal pronouns in possessive form	***ad* ("name")**	***para* ("money")**
benim	*ad-ım*	*para-m*
senin	*ad-ın*	*para-n*
onun	*ad-ı*	*para-(s)ı*
bizim	*ad-ımız*	*para-mız*
sizin	*ad-ınız*	*para-nız*
onların	*ad-ları*	*para-ları*

Keep in mind that the *-s* in the third person singular suffix example works as a buffer letter.

For example:

1. *Senin kalemin*
   "your pencil/pen"

2. *Senin silgin*
   "your eraser"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *kalbimi*
   "(my) heart"

2. *yenisini*
   "(it's) new one"

3. *Erkek arkadaşım*
   "(my) boyfriend"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Bardağın*
   "Your glass"

Sample Sentences

---

1. *Sert sözleri*
   "(his/her) brutal/harsh words"
2. *Paranı*
   "(your) money"
3. *Canın*
   "(your) life, soul"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Influence of the French Language in Turkey

In Turkish, there is a considerable number of loan words coming from French. The sole reason for this influence is the French Revolution and, consequently, its reformative ideas in 1789. The Young Turks, a secularist and nationalist reform party composed of successful scholarship holders who were sent to France in pursuit of further studies by the Ottoman Empire, started rebelling against the rigid monarchy of the empire during the late nineteenth century. Being a politically aggressive but highly intellectual group, they started translating many books and introducing new vocabulary to Ottoman Turkish. At those times, Ottoman

Turkish was still written using the Arabic script. Only the very privileged palace officials had access to higher elite education, apart from the Young Turks. The rest of the public had extremely high illiteracy rates. With ease, the Young Turks gained the power to influence everyday life with French concepts and words. Turkish people still use some of these words in their daily life. Below is a brief list of frequently used French loan words in Turkish in alphabetical order:

Abajur	"lamp shade"
Aksesuar	"accessory"
Ambalaj	"wrapping/package"
Ampul	"light bulb"
Asansör	"elevator"
Avukat	"lawyer"
Bagaj	"luggage/baggage"
Biftek	"steak"
Baraj	"dam"
Badana	"whitewash"
Bluz	"blouse"
Direksiyon	"steering wheel"
Eşofman	"tracksuit"
Fermuar	"zipper"
Gardırop	"wardrobe"
Garson	"waiter/waitress"
Kolye	"necklace"

Kuzen	"cousin"
Küvet	"bathtub"
Mersi	"thanks"
Okul	"school"
Pardon	"sorry, excuse me"
Rötüş	"retouching"
Tabure	"stool"

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #15
A Long, Hot Turkish Summer

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: Günaydın! Of, çok sıcak. Kaliforniya'da yazlar çok sıcak değil mi?
2. HAKAN: Evet, Türkiye'de de yazlar sıcak mı?
3. MERVE: Evet.Türkiye'nin genelinde yazlar sıcak ve kurudur.
4. HAKAN: Tipik Akdeniz iklimi...

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: Good morning! Humph...it's so hot! Summers in California are really hot, aren't they?
2. HAKAN: Yes. Are summers in Turkey hot, too?
3. MERVE: Yes. Summers are hot and dry in the majority of Turkey.
4. HAKAN: Typical Mediterranean climate...

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
yaz	summer	noun
genel	general	adjective
kuru	dry	adjective
tipik	typical	adjective
Akdeniz	Mediterranean	noun

iklim	climate	noun
Günaydın.	Good morning.	expression
of	humph	interjection
sıcak	hot	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Türkiye'de yazın okullar üç ay tatil olur. "In Turkey, schools are on a break for three months in summer."	**Filmi genel olarak sevmedim.** "I didn't like the movie in general."
Sabah astığım çamaşırlar öğlene kurudu. "The laundry I hanged in the morning dried in noon."	**Tipik Türk kahvaltısı çay, beyaz peynir, zeytin ve ekmekten oluşur.** "Typical Turkish breakfast is composed of tea, feta cheese, olives and bread."
Akdeniz Bölgesi''nin bitki örtüsü makidir. "Maquis are the flora of the Mediterranean Region."	**Ege Bölgesi'nin iklimi çok güzeldir.** "The climate of the Aegean region is very nice."
Günaydın, nasılsınız? "Good morning, how are you?"	**Of, kapat şu filmi, çok sıkıldım!** "Humph, turn this movie off, I am very bored!"
Güneş sıcak çölü yakıp kavuruyor. "The sun is heating the hot desert."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

of is an exclamation, generally meaning "humph," that shows boredom, agitation, weariness, pain, or fatigue.

For example, *Of ne sıkıcı*, meaning "Humph-so boring!" and *Oof of! Senden adam olmaz,* meaning "Honestly, you won't make a man out of yourself." Here, *Oof of* is an emphasized version of *of*, which is a sound mimicking the loss of air. It usually signifies that the person using it is in awe or bewilderment, for example, of somebody else's sluggish behavior.

Sometimes, this exclamation also marks astonishment, emphasizing the meaning of the accompanying adjective *Of çok güzel!* meaning "Phew, how beautiful!"

Akdeniz translates to "Mediterranean" in Turkish. It is a compound word composed of *ak,* meaning "white, clear," and *deniz* meaning "sea." The Mediterranean Region in Turkey is located on the very southern part of the country, and it borders the Mediterranean Sea to the south and the Anatolia Region to the north. One of the best known tourist spots of the Mediterranean Region is a city called Antalya. Antalya is famous for its ancient Greek ruins, waterfalls, and sandy beaches. Learning how to swim in *Akdeniz* is fairly easy because the salt concentration is quite high, allowing things to elevate higher in the water without any effort.

For example:

1. *Akdeniz'de güzel şelaler var*.
   "There are beautiful waterfalls in the Mediterranean."

İklim means "climate" in Turkish, and it's a loan word from Arabic.

Türkiye'nin iklimi ılımandır, meaning "Turkey's climate is temperate."

Some important related terminologies are listed below:

1. *iklim değişikliği,* meaning "climate change"
2. *mikro klima*, meaning "micro-climate"
3. *global ısınma,* meaning "global warming"
4. *sera etkisi,* meaning "greenhouse effect"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is *İsmin -de hali*, Meaning "The Locative Case," in Turkish Noun Cases

Türkiye'de

"In Turkey"

Noun cases are specific types of suffixes that modify nouns and give them an orientation without constructing a new meaning. There are five different noun cases in Turkish.

1. *İsmin -i hali*, meaning "accusative"
2. *İsmin -e hali*, meaning "dative"
3. *İsmin -de hali,* meaning "locative"
4. *İsmin -den hali*, meaning "ablative"
5. *İsmin yalın hali,* meaning "nominative"

In this lesson, we'll concentrate on the locative form. The other forms will be explained in detail in our future lessons.

In English, there are prepositions such as "in," "at," and "on," to identify the orientation and the direction of the verbs and other elements of a sentence structure. Instead of "in," "at," and "on," Turkish uses locative case suffixes attached to the words where orientation is needed. In terms of orientation, the locative form signifies a "static position" (*bulunma hali*).

Let's illustrate this with some examples:

Ankara'da, meaning "In Ankara"

Arabada, meaning "In the car"

The locative case suffixes are *-da* and *-de*. The letter *-d-* is transformed into *-t-* if the last letter of the word is a strong consonant (*ç, f, h, k, p, t, s,* or *ş*).

-da if the last vowel of the word is a back vowel (*a, ı, o,* or *u*).

-de if the last vowel of the word is a front vowel (*e, i, ö,* or *ü*).

The reason for the above-stated rules is because the locative form has four vowels (*-de*, *-da*, *-te*, and *-ta*), which change according to both consonant mutation and vowel harmony rules, which we've mentioned in our earlier lessons.

Absolute form	English translations	Locative form
ağaç	"tree"	*ağaç-t-a*
petek	"honeycomb"	*petek-t-e*

Exceptions in the Locative Case

As you know from our previous lessons, there are many loan words in Turkish, especially from Arabic, Persian, and French. Most of these words contradict with the stated rules above. Some of them take the opposite suffix, some others have their final letter doubled, and others lose their last vowel:

Absolute form	English translations	Locative form
saat	"hour, clock, watch"	*saatte*
harf	"letter"	*harfte*

Unfortunately, there is no rule for these exceptions; you just have to be careful with the loan words and memorize these exceptions.

For example:

1. *Ankara'da*
   "In Ankara"
2. *Ağaçta*
   "In the tree"
3. *Arabada*
   "In the car"
4. *Okulda*
   "At school"

5. *Petekte*
   "In the honeycomb"

6. *Saatte*
   "At the hour"

7. *Harfte*
   "In the letter"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Akdeniz'de*
   "In the Mediterranean"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Kaliforniya'da*
   "In California"

2. *Türkiye'de*
   "In Turkey"

3. *genelinde*
   "In general"

Sample Sentences

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1. *Türkiye'de*
   "In Turkey"

2. *Sıcak havalarda*
   "In/during hot weather"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Weather

Turkey is one of the lucky countries experiencing four seasons. Summers are hot and dry, winters are cold and marked by rain or snowfall, springs are mild and sunny, and autumn is cool and rainy. In general, we can say that Turkey has a continental climate that has contrasting and clearly defined seasons. Apart from this, every region has its own climate zone, as well. For example, the Black Sea Region receives the greatest amount of precipitation throughout the year; therefore, it has a mild Oceanic climate, with cold and rainy winters and warm and rainy summers. The climate varies from temperate Mediterranean to temperate Oceanic between the Mediterranean, Coastal Aegean, and Marmara Regions. The continental climate shows its harsher side in the vast inner regions of Anatolia.

Istanbul, being the core metropolis of Turkey's historical, cultural, economic, and financial life, receives the most tourist attention. If you are planning a visit to Istanbul, choose either September or early to mid-October, when the weather is still warm, or April or May, when you can enjoy the crisp weather and blossoming Judas tree flowers.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16 Oh! Some Convenient Turkish Interjections!

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: Bu benim ailemin fotoğraf albümü.

2. MERVE: Vay vay, ne güzel..(turns pages). Aa, bu kim?

3. HAKAN: O benim kız kardeşim.

4. MERVE: Ay, çok tatlı. Peki, bu kim?

5. HAKAN: Ee şey... O benim.

6. MERVE: Hadi canım şaka yapıyorsun! Tüh tanıyamadım ya. Çok pardon! Burada ne kadar gençsin!

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: This is my family's photo album.

2. MERVE: Wow..Wow! How nice..(turns pages). Oh, who is this?

3. HAKAN: That's my younger sister.

4. MERVE: Oh, she's sweet! Well, and who's this?

5. HAKAN: Umm...that's me.

6. MERVE: What! You're kidding! Oops! I didn't recognize you. You're so young here!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
ee	umm	exclamation
genç	young	adjective
aile	family	
albüm	album	noun
güzel	beautiful	adjective
kızkardeş	younger sister	noun
Ay!	Oh!	exclamation
tatlı	sweet	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ee teşekkür ederim, ne diyeceğimi bilemiyorum. "Umm thank you very much, I don't know what to say."	**Günümüz Türk gençliği kişisel haklar ve politika konusunda çok bilinçli.** "Contemporary Turkish Youth is very conscious about personality rights and politics."
Aile kahvaltı yapar. "The family eats breakfast."	**Ünlü popçu Tarkan yeni albüm çıkarttı.** "Famous pop singer Tarkan released a new album"
Güneşli güzel bir gündü. "It was a sunny, beautiful day."	**Kızkardeşimle çok kavga ederiz.** "We fight alot with my little sister."
Ay ay ay çok panik oluyorum. "Oh Oh Oh! I am panick a lot."	**Çok tatlı.** "It's very sweet."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

güzel

güzel simply means "beautiful" in Turkish. The usage of this word is quite versatile in terms of meaning. You can use this adjective for animate and inanimate things. For example: *Ay, gözleri çok güzel,* meaning "Wow, his/her eyes are beautiful," or, when you see a dress you like, *Bu elbise çok güzel,* meaning "This dress is beautiful," or *İstanbul güzel bir şehirdir*, meaning "Istanbul is a beautiful city."

Also, you can describe your satisfaction over a situation or an outcome. Let's illustrate this with a dialogue between a mother and a child. The boy says, "I got an A in my math exam." His mother replies, *Çok güzel.*

It is not very common to use *güzel* with animals. Usually, animals are *şirin*, meaning "cute."

kız kardeş

kız kardeş generally means "sister." An "elder sister" has a special name in Turkish and is called *abla*, while a "younger sister" is called *küçük kız kardeş,* meaning "younger sister." Colloquially, some people use *bacı* for "elder sister" or "sister" in general.

tatlı

tatlı can be a noun or an adjective. The noun *tatlı* means "dessert": for example, *sütlü tatlılar*, meaning "milk-based desserts," or *Osmanlı saray tatıları,* meaning "Ottoman royal desserts."

The adjective *tatlı* means "sweet," "amiable," or "pleasant." Turkish people use this a lot in their daily lives. It's not uncommon to see someone say it enthusiastically after seeing something or someone cute.

Let's look at the sentence *Çok tatlı bir kız!* meaning "She is a very sweet girl!" Here, *tatlı* signifies "pretty in soul and in appearance."

Sometimes, it is used to describe inanimate things, like *Çok tatlı bir hava,* meaning "Very sweet/pleasant weather."

However, when you're talking about animals, mostly *şirin*, meaning "cute," is used, like in *Ne kadar şirin bir kedi yavrusu!* meaning "What a cute kitty!"

Keep in mind that *tatlı* and *şirin* sometimes have not-so-desirable connotations, especially according to some women, because, usually, these adjectives are attributed to infancy and being childlike. For the majority of Turkish women, being "beautiful," which is *güzel* in Turkish,

is much more desirable than being called *tatlı* or *şirin*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is Interjections and Exclamations in Turkish

Vay vay

"Wow wow..."

Turkish is a very versatile language in terms of the abundancy of exclamations and interjections used in everyday life. They have significant functions, particularly in oral conversation. These interjections help avoid the dullness of a conversation and help make the dialog more kinesthetic. These interjections are very culture-specific and have a pragmatic function that helps in framing the dialog mentally and depicting it verbally.

Interjection	Translation	Example	Translation of the example
Vah vah!	"How sad/How unfortunate"	*Vah vah, çok üzüldüm*	"How sad, this upsets me much!"
Tüh be!	"Oh no"	*Tüh be! Ziyan oldu*	"Oh no, such a waste!"
Of!	"Pfff"	*Of çok sıkıldım!*	"Pfff, I am so bored!"
Vay be!	"Wow/Wow wow!"	*Vay be, ne kadar yeteneklisin*	"Wow, you are very talented!"
Uf!	"Aww/Ouch"	*Uf, canım yanıyor*	"Aww, it hurts."
Oh!	"Oh my/You asked for it!"	*Oh olsun sana!*	"There, that teaches you a lesson."
Eh	"Well..."	*Eh, fena değil.*	"Well, not bad."
Ee?	"So what?"	*Ee, sonuç nedir yani?*	"So what? I mean, what's the result?"

Aman/ Aman da Aman	"Good heavens/ Goodness gracious"	*Aman da aman anasının kuzusu*	"Good heavens, you are such a mother's darling (literally mother's yeanling)."
Hadi be!/Hadi ya/ Hadi canım	"Get out of here!/ You don't say/Oh, come on..."	*Hadi be, atıyorsun!*	"Get out of here—you are kidding."
Allah!/Hay Allah!	"Oh my God/Darn"	*Hay Allah, randevumu nasıl da unuttum!*	"Oh my God! How did I forget my appointment!"
Yok ya!	"You don't say/No way"	*Bir de üstüne ona para mı vereceğiz? Yok ya !*	"And they expect us to pay money over that? No way!"
Öö/ögh!	"Yikes!"	*Öö, bozuk süt çok kötü kokuyor.*	"Yikes! The rotten milk smells awful."

Intonation

The meaning of Turkish interjections may change with the intonation. Depending on certain patterns, like the mental state of the speaker and the intonation, different feelings of surprise, disbelief, or regret may be conveyed. Let's take *hadi be*, meaning "get out of here," "you don't say..." or "come on."

In our first dialogue, Ayşe and her husband are late for a dinner invitation, and *Ayşe* realizes that she has forgotten her wallet:

1. Ayşe: *Hii! İnanmıyorum. Cüzdanımı unuttum. Bir dakika daha bekle lütfen*
   "Oh my! I can't believe it. I forgot my wallet. Wait one more minute, please."

2. Ayşe's husband: *Hadi be hızlı ol!*
   "Come on, hurry up!"

Our second example is a reaction of awe and bewilderment: *Hadi be olamaz!* meaning "Get out of here! It's not possible."

For example:

1. *Hadi be*
   "Get out of here!" "Come on"

2. *Hii!*
   "Oh my!"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Ay, gözleri çok güzel.*
   "Wow, her/his eyes are beautiful."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Vay vay*
   "wow wow"

2. *Aa* "oh"

3. *Ay!* "oh!"

4. *Ee şey...*
   "well then.."

5. *Hadi canım*
   "come on..."

6. *Tüh!*
   "how sad/how unfortunate"

Sample Sentences

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1. *Ay ay ay! Çok panik oluyorum.*
   "Oh oh oh! I am panicking a lot."

2. *Ee.. teşekkür ederim, ne diyeceğimi bilemiyorum.*
   "Umm, thank you very much. I don't know what to say."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Family Relations in Turkey

Family relationships in Turkey are pretty close. Brothers and sisters, especially are closely connected to each other, not only when they are underage and still living with their parents, but also after they get married and move out of the house. The role of the elder brother is still quite traditional and patriarchal. They are expected to be protective of their younger and older sisters and be responsible for their security and well-being.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #17 Asking Somebody's Age in Turkish

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TURKISH

1.	MERVE:	Ya, Hakan, küçük Ayla nerede?
2.	HAKAN:	Orada.
3.	MERVE:	(in a soft voice) Ah, çok tatlı maşallah...
4.	BORA:	Çok küçük değil mi... Kaç yaşında?
5.	HAKAN:	Bir yaşında. (Ayla starts to cry).
6.	MERVE:	Ah, affedersin. Çok özür dileriz. Gürültü mü yapıyoruz? Özür dilerim!

ENGLISH

1.	MERVE:	Hey, Hakan, where's the little Ayla?
2.	HAKAN:	(She's) over here.
3.	MERVE:	(In a soft voice) Ah, how sweet!
4.	BORA:	She's so small, isn't she? How old is she?
5.	HAKAN:	One year old. (Ayla starts crying)
6.	MERVE:	Oh, we are sorry, so sorry! Are we loud? I'm sorry!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class

ya	no kidding!?	particle, interjection
küçük	small	adjective
maşallah	May God preserve from the evil/ praise be!	noun/interjection
yaş	age	noun
gürültü	loudness	
çok	a lot, many, much, very	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Deme ya... "You don't say..."	**Benim küçük paraya ihtiyacım var.** "I need some small bills."
Gözleriniz çok güzel, maşallah "Praise be! Your eyes are beautiful."	**Yeni yaşında mutluluklar dilerim.** "I wish you happiness in your new age."
Akşamları yurtta çok gürültü olur. "Evenings in the dorm are very noisy."	**Ayla çok güzel bir kız.** "Ayla is a very beautiful girl."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

maşallah

maşallah, meaning "praise be" or, literally, "may the protection of God be upon you," is a phrasal interjection loaned from Arabic. It is frequently used in everyday life because offering your blessing when giving a compliment is considered a humble, generous behavior without ill intentions.

Another phrase that goes well with *maşallah* is *hayırlı olsun,* meaning "may it go well." This is said when somebody achieves immaterial things, like success at a current job, or when

buying something new, like a new house. For example*: Yeni evin hayırlı olsun. Çok güzel, maşallah*, meaning "May your new house bring fortune to you. Praise be, very beautiful!"

yaş

yaş can be a noun or an adjective depending on the context. As a noun, it means "age," and as an adjective, it means "wet, humid, or damp." This word is a great example of the extensive usage of homonym words in Turkish. Let's see two examples demonstrating this:

1. *Otuz yaşındayım.*
   "I am thirty years old."

2. *Sandalye yaş, oturamadım*.
   "I couldn't sit down because the chair is wet."

gürültü

gürültü is a noun of onomatopoeic origin meaning "loud noise" or "clamor."

Sınıf çok gürültülü, meaning "The class is very noisy," is a good example.

Sometimes, an auxiliary verb like *etmek* is combined with this noun. It becomes *gürültü etmek*, meaning "to make noise," "to cause a clamor."

1. *Çocuklar çok gürültü ettiler.*
   "The kids made a lot of noise."

In some other cases, you may hear it used with another verb: *gürültü çıkarmak* or *gürültü yapmak,* meaning "to make noise."

çıkmak means "exit" or "come off," and *yapmak* means "to make a lot of noise" or "to do." For instance:

1. *Taşınırken çok gürültü çıktı.*
   "We made a lot of noise when we moved in."

2. *Gürültü yapmayın çocuklar!*
   "Don't make a lot of noise, kids!"

You may also hear combinations of *gürültü* with other onomatopoeic expressions. For instance: *gürültü patırtı,* meaning "hustle and bustle."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is Personal Suffixes in Detail
Kaç aylık?
"How old is he/she?"

In Lessons 1 and 4 of this series, the first person singular, the second person singular, and plural suffixes were explained briefly through some examples. In this lesson, we'll learn the necessary suffixes for each personal pronoun in Turkish.

Personal pronouns	Translation	Suffixes
Ben	"I"	*-(y)im*
Sen(informal)	"you"	*-sin*
O	"he/she/it"	*-dır* (usually dismissed in oral language)
Biz	"we"	*-(y)iz*
Siz (formal)	"you"	*-siniz*
Onlar	"they"	*-ler/lar*

There are two peculiarities we would like to explain about this table. First of all, *sen,* meaning "you," is singular and informal. This means that *sen* is only used when speaking to close friends, colleagues (outside the working space), family members, and children. *Siz*, on the other hand, is used when you need to be formal: for example, when you are talking to an elderly person or someone you respect, to strangers, or to your colleagues (inside the working space). *Siz* is used in the singular as well.

The second point is *o* that covers all of "he/she/it." There is no distinction between "he" and "she" in Turkish. In Turkish, the gender is understood by the context, which will be explained in our future lessons.

The final point is about the functions of the suffixes. The suffixes above indicate the person involved and the number of the subject. You may think of it as "to be" in English, which differentiates with every personal pronoun.

Keep in mind that, since the subject of the sentence is understood by the personal suffixes attached to the verb, personal pronouns are often dismissed in daily language.

According to the vowel harmony rules, personal suffixes can be added to the root of the word in four different ways, presented below (except for third person plural suffixes: *ler/lar*).

For the first person singular, if the root of the word ends in a vowel:

-yım, -yim, -yum,* or *-yüm

As it's explained in detail in our previous lessons, *y* is a buffer letter that derives from the Turkish grammar rule: a vowel cannot be followed by another vowel. Now, let's see some examples:

iyiyim - "I am well"

kötüyüm - "I am bad/not well"

mutluyum - "I am happy"

kıskancım - "I am jealous"

If the root of the word ends in a consonant:

-im, -ım, -üm,* or *-um

açım - "I am hungry"

tokum - "I am full"

öğrenciyim - "I am a student"

üzgünüm - "I am sad"

For the second person singular (informal):

-sin, -sın, -sun,* or *sün

güzelsin - "You are beautiful."

ahlaklısın - "You are moral."

sorunlusun - "You are troubled."

üzgünsün - "You are sad."

For the third person singular, keep in mind that the suffix is ***-dır*** or ***-dir***, according to the vowel harmony rules. However, in daily speech, this ending is not used.

1. *Şirin.*
   "She is cute."

2. *Tüylü*.
   "It is fluffy."

3. *Yakışıklı*
   "He is handsome."

For the first person plural, if the root word ends in a vowel, it has four variants:

y-ız, y-iz, y-uz, **and** ***y-üz***

1. *şişmanız.*
   "We are fat."

2. *güzeliz*.
   "We are beautiful."

3. *uzunuz.*
   "We are tall."

4. *yüzücüyüz*.
   "We are swimmers."

If the root word ends in a consonant:

ız, iz, uz, **or** ***üz***

1. *fakiriz*.
   "We are poor."

2. *hazırız*.
   "We are ready."

3. *susuzuz.*
   "We are without water."

4. *Türküz.*
   "We are Turkish."

For the second person plural (plural and formal of the second person singular):

siniz, -sınız, -sünüz,* or *-sunuz

1. *evlisiniz.*
   "You are married."

2. *bekarsınız.*
   "You are single."

3. *yüzücüsünüz.*
   "You are a swimmer," or "You are swimmers."

4. *sosyologsunuz.*
   "You are a sociologist."

For the third person plural:

ler* or *lar

1. *çirkinler*
   "They are ugly."

2. *kısalar*
   "They are short."

Asking and Saying a Baby's Age

Normally, we ask *kaç yaşında?* if we want to learn the age of another person. However, with babies, when they are younger than one year old, we ask, *Kaç aylık,* meaning "How old is she/he in months?"

For example:

1. *iyiyim*
   "I am well."

2. *kötüyüm*
   "I am bad/not well."

3. *mutluyum*
   "I am happy."

4. *kıskancım*
   "I am a jealous (person)."

5. *açım*
   "I am hungry."

6. *tokum*
   "I am full."

7. *öğrenciyim*
   "I am a student."

8. *üzgünüm*
   "I am sad."

9. *güzelsin*
   "You are beautiful."

10. *ahlaklısın*
    "You are moral."

11. *sorunlusun*
"You are troubled."

12. *üzgünsün*
"You are sad."

13. *Şirin*.
"She is cute."

14. *Tüylü.*
"It is fluffy."

15. *Yakışıklı*
"He is handsome."

16. *şişmanız*
"We are fat."

17. *güzeliz*
"We are beautiful."

18. *uzunuz*
"We are tall."

19. *yüzücüyüz*
"We are swimmers."

20. *fakiriz*
"We are poor."

21. *hazırız*
"We are ready."

22. *susuzuz*
"We are without water."

23. *Türküz*
"We are Turkish."

24. *evlisiniz*
"You are married."

25. *bekarsınız*
"You are single."

26. *yüzücüsünüz*
"You are a swimmer," or "You are swimmers."

27. *sosyologsunuz*
"You are a sociologist."

28. *çirkinler*
"They are ugly."

29. *kısalar*
"They are short."

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Yeni evin hayırlı olsun. Çok güzel.*
"May your new house bring fortune to you. It's very beautiful!"

2. *Otuz yaşındayım*
"I am thirty years old."

3. *Sandalye yaş, oturamadım.*
"I couldn't sit down because the chair is wet.

4. *Çocuklar çok gürültü ettiler*
"The kids made a lot of noise."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Küçük Ayla nerede?*
"Where is little Ayla?"

2. *Orada*
"She is over there."

3. *Ah, çok tatlı*
"Oh, she is sweet."

4. *Affedersin.*
"Excuse me."

5. *Çok özür dileriz.*
"We are very sorry."

6. *Gürültü mü yapıyoruz?*
"Are we loud?"

7. *Özür dilerim.*
"I am sorry."

Sample Sentences

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1. *Deme ya...*
"You don't say."

2. *Japonya'da evler çok küçük(tür).*
"The houses are very small in Japan.

3. *Gözleriniz çok güzel.*
"Your eyes are beautiful."

4. *Yeni yaşında mutluluklar dilerim.*
"I wish you happiness in your new age."

5. *Akşamları yurtta çok gürültü olur.*
"Evenings in the dorm are very noisy."

6. *Bayramda çok tatlı yedim ve şişmanladım.*
"I ate lots of desserts in this *bayram,* and I gained weight."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Compliments and Blessings

In Turkish culture, complimenting is quite generous, but praising words are always accompanied with blessings, so that you show the other person that you don't have any ill wishes, like envy or jealousy. In Turkey, the praises accompanied by blessings are usually about beauty, success and wealth or about when you buy something new. *Maşallah*, meaning "May God protect you from the evil," is said especially when complimenting someone on success, achievement, or beauty. For example, usually, Turkish people like to give a compliment if you have colored eyes, like blue, green, or hazel, because this is a rare and admired trait. For example: *Gözleriniz ne kadar mavi, maşallah*, meaning "Praise be, your eyes are so blue." (The literal meaning of this sentence is "May god bless and protect your eyes, for they are so blue (a trait that is looked up to).")

You will soon find out that Turkish people may be very offended if you don't say *maşallah* because, for them, if you don't offer your blessings, it shows a grudge or jealousy. Superstition says that this negative energy is called *nazar,* meaning "the evil eye," and that it can harm people in many ways. That's why, even nowadays, you can see people wearing "blue-eye beads" or "evil-eye beads" for protection. These beads are believed to suck away all the negative energy and prevent it reaching you. Turkish people decorate their houses with these glass or ceramic beads or wear them as a necklace, brochette, or bracelet. The mythology behind it says that if one of the beads breaks down, it means a very strong *nazar* has hit you, and the bead stored it all up and broke down in order to protect the carrying person.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #18 Talking About Likes and Dislikes in Turkish

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: Ce ee! Ce ee! (Ayla giggles)

2. HAKAN: Ayla "ce ee" yapmayı çok seviyor.

3. BORA: Aa, gerçekten mi? Tamam o zaman. Ce ee! (Ayla cries) Ay ağlattım seni! Özür dilerim!

4. MERVE: Ayla erkekleri sevmiyor galiba?

5. HAKAN: Oyuncak bebekleri de sevmiyor.

6. MERVE: Hadi ya, sert bir kız olacak desene.

7. HAKAN: Sanmam, açık pembeyi çok seviyor!

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: Peek-a-boo! Peek-a-boo! (Ayla giggles)

2. HAKAN: Ayla loves to play "Peek-a-boo" a lot.

3. BORA: Oh, really! Okay then...peek-a-boo! (Ayla cries) Ahhh! I made you cry! I'm sorry!

4. MERVE: I dare say, Ayla doesn't like men. (Everyone laughs)

5. HAKAN: She doesn't like the dolls, as well.

6. MERVE: You don't say! I think she'll be a stern girl.

CONT'D OVER

7. HAKAN: I don't think so. She likes pink a lot!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
ce ee!	peek-a-boo!	interjection
sevmek	to like, to love	verb
ağlamak	to whine, to cry	verb
erkek	man	noun
galiba	daresay, presumably	adverb
oyuncak bebek	doll	phrase
sert	hard, stern, tough	adjective
sanmak	to suppose	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ce ee! Buradayım! "Peek-a boo! I am here!"	**Adam kadını seviyor.** "The man loves the woman."
Kız, köpek yavrularını gerçekten sever. "The young girl really likes the puppies."	**Sınavdan kötü not alınca çok ağladı.** "When he/she got a bad grade on the exam, she cried a lot."
Bu erkekler tuvaleti değil. "This isn't the man's room."	**Galiba hasta oluyorum** "I think I am getting sick."

Bazı oyuncak bebekleri korkunç buluyorum. "I find some dolls scary."	**Babamın gereksiz sert tepkileri var.** "My father has unnecessarily strong reactions."

Ben, sizi Amerikalı sanıyordum.

"I've supposed that you are American."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

ağlamak

ağlamak is a verb of Turkic origin, meaning "to cry." Another related verb is *hıçkırarak ağlamak*, literally translating to "to cry with hiccups" and meaning "to sob." There are some onomatopoeic expressions used with this verb, like *hüngür hüngür ağlamak*, meaning "cry one's heart out."

An example can be *Küçük çocuk annesini bulamayınca hüngür hüngür ağlamaya başladı*, meaning "The little child started crying his/her heart out when he/she couldn't find his/her mom."

erkek

erkek is a noun meaning "male" or "man" in Turkish. "Gentleman" translates to *Bay*; however, this word is very outdated and can be only heard in generic announcements, like *bayanlar ve baylar,* meaning "ladies and gentlemen." That's why the "gentlemen's toilet" is called *erkekler tuvaleti* nowadays. Therefore, keep in mind that if you are looking for a public toilet in Turkey, you should ask *Erkekler tuvaleti nerede acaba?* meaning "Where is the gentlemen's, I wonder?"

sert

sert is an adjective that can be used in many contexts because it can mean "vigorous," "tough," "stern," "hard," or "rigid." Let's start with a simple example. If you want to refer the firm and hard texture of an apple, you say *Elma çok sert*, meaning "The apple is very hard in texture." Or, if you want to refer to the strength of the wind, you say *Rüzgar çok sert,* meaning "The wind is very strong."

Sert is also used when you are defining a human characteristic. Usually, it is used for "bitter," "tough" people who are angry in nature or grim and forbidding in appearance. When used as a personal attribute, it doesn't necessarily have to signify a negative connotation.

For example:

1. *Mehmet, iyi kalpli ama sert bir adamdır.*
   "Mehmet is a kindhearted but tough man."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is *İsmin -i hali,* Meaning "Accusative Case" in Turkish
Açık pembeyi çok seviyor.
"She likes light pink a lot"

As you know from Lesson 15 of this series, where we explained the locative case, noun cases are specific types of suffixes that modify nouns and give them an orientation without constructing new meanings. In this lesson, we'll concentrate on *ismin i-hali* which is the "accusative case" in Turkish. Usually, it is the action of the verb that determines which noun case we should use. However, it is a little different with the accusative case. The accusative case is used to make the noun of the sentence a direct object. This suffix functions like the definite article in English.

For example:

1. *Kitap okudum.*
   "I read a book."

2. *Kitab**ı** okudum.*
   "I read the book."

Sometimes, a demonstrative or a conditional adjective is needed to make the noun a direct object.

1. *Bu konuy**u** anlamadım.*
   "I didn't comprehend this topic."

As you can see, the suffix of the accusative form is mainly **-i**. However, according to the vowel harmony rules, it can be ***ı, u,*** or ***ü*** as well. To construct the "accusative case" successfully, which is also called *ismin belirtme durumu*, we need to learn the following rules, which require our previous vowel harmony knowledge:

1. If the word ends in a vowel, add the suffix ***yi, yı, yu,*** or ***yü:***

kapı ("door")

köprü ("bridge")

2. If the word ends in a consonant (except ***ç, k, p,*** or ***t***), add the following suffixes: ***i, ı, u,*** or ***ü:***

deniz ("sea")

köy ("village")

alyans ("wedding ring")

okul ("school")

3. If the last letter of the word is **ç**, it usually softens and becomes **c**:

kılıç ("sword")

4. If the last letter of the word is **k**, then, in most cases, the **k** is converted to **ğ**:

bebek ("baby")

There are some monosyllabic words in which **k** remains the same, like:

ok ("arrow")

Another exception can be words ending with **nk,** which is converted to **ng**. An example is:

renk ("color")

5. If the last letter of the word is **p,** it is usually converted to **b**:

kitap ("book")

6. If the last letter of the word is **t**, keep in mind that there are some words in which **t** remains the same:

bilet ("ticket")

In other words, however, **t** softens and is converted to **d**:

kağıt ("paper")

There are some special cases when forming the accusative case; however, these will be explained in future lessons.

Saying that You Like or Dislike Something in Turkish

Showing that you like or dislike something is very important in every language.

That's why, here, we'll illustrate different levels of liking something, from positive to negative, in Turkish:

1. *Çok seviyorum.*
   "I like/love very much."

2. *Seviyorum.*
   "I like/love."

3. *Sevmiyorum*.
   "I don't like."

4. *Hiç sevmiyorum.*
   "I dislike."

5. *Hiç ama hiç sevmiyorum or Gerçekten hiç sevmiyorum*.
   "I really do not like whatsoever."

It is better to use *hiç sevmemek* than *nefret etmek* when expressing dislike. *Nefret* is a word that expresses a strong negative connotation that is associated with "hatred" and "disgust."

For example:

1. *Kitap okudu*m
   "I read a book."

2. *Kitabı okudum.*
   "I read the book."

3. *Bu konuyu anlamadım.*
   "I didn't comprehend this topic."

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Küçük çocuk annesini bulamayınca hüngür hüngür ağlamaya başladı.*
   "The little child started crying his/her heart out when he/she couldn't find his/her mom."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Ayla "ce ee" yapmayı çok seviyor.*
   "Ayla loves to do "Peek-a-boo" a lot."

2. *Ayla erkekleri sevmiyor galiba?*
   "I dare say, Ayla doesn't like the men."

3. *Oyuncak bebekleri de sevmiyor.*
   "She doesn't like the dolls, as well."

4. *Sanmam, açık pembeyi çok seviyor!*
   "I don't think so. She likes pink a lot!"

Sample Sentences

---

1. *O, atları çok sever.*
   "He/she likes the horses a lot."

2. *Bazı oyuncak bebekleri korkunç buluyorum.*
   "I find some dolls scary."

3. *Ben, sizi Amerikalı sanıyordum.*
"I've supposed that you are American."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Baby Showers

A Turkish baby shower is called *lohusa gelenekleri,* meaning "Puerpera traditions." After a birth, pitchers of sherbet with different flavors called *lohusa şerbeti,* meaning "puerperal postpartum sherbet," are sent out to relatives, close family friends, and neighbors to announce the good news.

Traditionally, the childbed is set up in the most spacious bedroom and is covered with a quilt of satin or velvet, heavily embroidered with silk or metal braids. A copy of the Qu'ran (the holy book of Islam) in a pouch is set by the bed, and a silver mirror (symbolizing good fortune and a brilliant life) is hung on a wall somewhere nearby. A head of garlic pierced on a skewer is wrapped up in red tulle, and evil-eye beads are attached to it. This garlic is believed to keep bad luck, ill fate, and suffering away from the house.

The childbed is dismantled on the seventh day of the birth. On that day, the local *imam* or the head of the family (usually the oldest man) whispers the "Call to Prayer" *(ezan)* and the Confession of Faith into the child's right ear. He then repeats the baby's name three times into its left ear.

Most of these traditions from Ottoman times are no longer practiced, but generally, the logic is to have the baby shower after the birth, not before. The sole reason for this time frame (a week after) is to ensure that the baby is healthy. The first week is quite critical in a baby's life. Doing preparations before the childbirth is not considered practical for this reason.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #19 Asking the Time in Turkish

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: (from the bathroom) Bora, Hakan'la buluşmamız tam olarak ne zaman?

2. BORA: On buçukta.

3. MERVE: Peki şimdi saat kaç?

4. BORA: Dokuzu beş geçiyor. Acele et de geç kalmayalım!

5. MERVE: Tamam! Sadece bir dakika daha!

6. BORA: (pacing nervously) Hep öyle söylersin ama yine de her zaman geç kalırsın...

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: Bora, what time exactly is the meeting with Hakan?

2. BORA: It's at half past ten.

3. MERVE: And what's the time now?

4. BORA: It's five past nine. Hurry up so that we won't be late.

5. MERVE: Yee-s! Just one more minute!

6. BORA: (pacing nervously) You always say so, but every time you are late anyway.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
yine de	still, nevertheless
öyle	thus, so, as such
hep	always
daha	more, further
buluşma	meeting, appointment
tam olarak	exactly
şimdi	now, at the moment, right away
acele etmek	to hurry, to rush
geç kalmak	to be late
sadece	only, just

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hep söz veriyorsun... "You always promise..."	**Daha çok içme bence.** "I don't think you should drink more."
Tam olarak neresi? "Where exactly?"	**Acele etmek istemiyorum.** "I don't want to rush."
Geç kalırsan darılırım. " I would be offended if you are to be late."	**Sadece kitap okuyorum.** "I'm just reading a book."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Word #1 explanation goes here *şimdi*

şimdi is a *zaman zarfı* meaning " time adverb" in English. This adverb is usually accompanied

with present continuous tense in Turkish. Imagine your friend is calling you from your meeting point, she asks worriedly,

Ne zaman geliyorsun meaning "When will you be coming?" You on the other hand, are walking and about to arrive, you reply, *Şimdi geliyorum* meaning " I am coming now"

Şimdi is a word of Turkic origin and sometimes you'll hear, *şimdilik* in the colloquial language. This means, "as of now" or "only for now". Imagine you are doing a temporary part-time job as a waitress, somebody asks you, "Are you a waitress" and you reply, *şimdilik!* meaning "only for now"

Word #2 explanation goes here *acele etmek*

acele etmek is a verb made by two components, *acele* is a noun of Arabic origin meaning "hurry" or "haste" and "etmek" is an auxiliary verb of Turkic origin generally meaning "to do" Some examples can be,

Acele etmekten yoruldum meaning "I became tired of hurrying up "

Word #3 explanation goes here *geç kalmak*

geç kalmak is also a verb made of two components. Both parts are of old Turkic origin. *geç* meaning "lateness" and *kalmak* meaning "to stay", "to remain", "to be"

An example is,

Geç kalmak istemiyorum meaning "I don't want to be late"

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is how to talk about time in Turkish.

Peki şimdi saat kaç?

"And what time is it now?

Asking about the time, answering and understanding, telling that you will be late are essential parts of your daily life in Turkey.

1) To ask, "What is the time?" in Turkish, you say *Saat kaç?* As you remember from our previous lessons, "saat" is a word of Arabic origin meaning "hour" and *kaç* is a word of Turkic

origin meaning "how much?", "how many?"

Your replies can be,

"It is 2 o'clock"

Saat iki.

"It is 5 o'clock"

Saat beş.

"It is 12 o'clock"

Saat on iki.

2) To talk about the time past the hour, you say the hour first followed by *-y, -i, -ı, -u, -ü* depending on the Turkish harmony rules. Keep in mind that *-y* buffer letter is only added if the last letter of the previous word ends in a vowel. Finally, add the minutes and then *geçiyor* the present continuous form of the verb *geçmek* meaning "to pass".

To say "quarter past", simply put *çeyrek* (quarter) where the minutes would go.

The formulate of telling the time "past the hour" is,

saat+hour+(y)i+minute+geçiyor

Saat beşi on geçiyor.

" It's ten past five."

Saat on ikiyi yirmi geçiyor.

" It's twenty past twelve."

Saat üçü çeyrek geçiyor.

" It's quarter past three."

3) Telling "half past" the hour is very simple in Turkish. Just add *buçuk* meaning "half" after saying the hour.

Dört buçuk

"Half past four"

4) To tell the time to the hour, the hour comes first followed by either *-(y)e* or *-(y)a*

depending on the vowel harmony rules. As in point 1, buffer letter *-(y)* is only added if the last letter of the previous word ends in a vowel. Then, add the minutes and *var* meaning "there is" from lesson

To say "quarter to", put *çeyrek* meaning "quarter" where the minutes would go.

The formula of talking about the time "to the hour" therefore is,

*saat+ (y)e or (y)a+ minute+ va*r

Some examples are,

Saat sekize on var.

"It's ten to eight"

Saat ikiye çeyrek var.

"It's quarter to two"

5) When giving a certain time for an appointment you may want to use "at" to signify the certain time you want to meet, such as "at half past nine". Let's see the formula of this in Turkish,

hour+ (y)i+ minute+ geçe

Some examples are,

İkiyi çeyrek geçe buluşalım.

"Let's meet at quarter past two."

6) After half past the hour, you may want to say "at...to...",

hour+ (y)a or (y)e+ minute+ kala

Some examples are,

Yediye beş kala

"at five to seven"

Bire çeyrek kala

"at quarter to one"

Special names when telling the time in Turkish

Sometimes you will hear *yarım* meaning "half" in Turkish. When it's "12:30" or "24:30" Turkish people simplify it by saying *yarım*.

Saat yarım olmuş yatmam lazım.

"It's already half past twelve, I need to go to bed."

Examples of your explanation go here:

1. *Saat kaç?*

"What is the time?"

2."It is 2 o'clock"

Saat iki.

3."It is 5 o'clock"

Saat beş.

4."It is 12 o'clock"

Saat on iki.

5.*Saat beşi on geçiyor.*

" It's ten past five."

6.*Saat on ikiyi yirmi geçiyor.*

" It's twenty past twelve."

7.*Saat üçü çeyrek geçiyor.*

" It's quarter past three."

8.*Dört buçuk*

"Half past four"

9.*Saat sekize on var.*

"It's ten to eight"

10.*Saat ikiye çeyrek var.*

"It's quarter to two"

11.*İkiyi çeyrek geçe buluşalım.*

"Let's meet at quarter past two."

12.*Yediye beş kala*

"at five to seven"

13.*Bire çeyrek kala*

"at quarter to one"

14.*Saat yarım olmuş yatmam lazım.*

"It's already half past twelve, I need to go to bed."

Examples from this dialog:

1. On buçukta

"It's at half past ten."

2. *Peki şimdi saat kaç?*

"And what time is it now?"

3. *Dokuzu beş geçiyor*.

"It's five past nine."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Commuting is rather complicated in big cities in Turkey. Traffic and punctuality can become a problem especially in Istanbul when commuting from Asian to European side for an important meeting or your job.

Usually because of this, large companies have shuttles to pick their employees from their residences, just like a school bus. If you are commuting by yourself, don't forget to add an extra half an hour for the traffic especially during rush hours. Ferries and seabus are punctual and preferable since there is almost always a road traffic jam. In Istanbul, there is a special name for the road traffic jam called *köprü trafiği* meaning "bridge traffic jam" because you need to cross one of the two main bridges in order to commute from the Asian to European side or vice versa. Expect a huge traffic jam during *Ramadan* just an hour before the fast-breaking for people rush to go to a restaurant or their residences to eat. Other times are before and after a football game near a stadium and during national holidays.

Keep in mind that yellow jitneys and minibuses don't have a time schedule, they operate by taking turns and on a first come first go basis. Although, busses have a time schedule, expect a 10-15 minutes delay especially during *Ramadan*.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20 Talking About Animate and Inanimate Objects in Turkish

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3 Sample Sentences
4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
5 Grammar
7 Cultural Insight

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TURKISH

1. BORA: (On a drive)(Stomach rumbling) Acıktım.

2. HAKAN: Aa, burada bir seyyar satıcı var. Ona gidelim mi? Tavuklu pilav sever misin?

3. BORA: Şey....

4. HAKAN: Sevmez misin?

5. MERVE: Benim alerjim var da...

6. HAKAN: Tavuk etine karşı alerjin mi var?

7. MERVE: Evet, bir ona alerjim var, ne yazık ki.

8. BORA: Hakan! Önüne bak! Dikkat! Yolda köpek var!

9. HAKAN: Ah evet. Bir an boş bulundum. Onu görmedim. Teşekkürler!

ENGLISH

1. BORA: (On a drive) (Stomach rumbling) I'm hungry.

2. HAKAN: Oh, there's a street vendor over there...How about going to him? Do you like chicken rice?

3. BORA: Errr...

4. HAKAN: You don't like it?

CONT'D OVER

5. MERVE: Well, I am allergic...

6. HAKAN: Allergic to chicken? (surprised)

7. MERVE: Yes, I have an allergy to just that, unfortunately.

8. BORA: Hakan! Look ahead! Be careful, there is a dog on the road!

9. HAKAN: Oh, yes! I was taken aback for a moment. I didn't see it. Thanks!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
an	moment	noun
boş bulunmak	to be taken unawares, to be taken aback	idiomatic expression
yol	road, route	noun
dikkat	attention	exclamation
acıkmak	to be hungry	verb
seyyar satıcı	street vendor	noun phrase
alerji	allergy	noun
tavuk	chicken	noun
ön	front	adverb
bakmak	to look	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bir an boş bulundum, o sözü söylemek istemezdim. "I was taken aback for a moment, I didn't mean to say those words."	**Dikkat önüne bak!** "Attention, watch out!"
Kahvaltı etmezsem çok acıkırım "If I don't have breakfast, I will be very hungry."	**Seyyar satıcıdan cüzdan aldım.** "I bought a wallet from a street vendor."
Çileğe alerjim var. "I have strawberry allergy."	**Tavuk ve civcivler yiyeceklerini gagalıyorlar.** "The chicken and chicks are pecking at their food."

Maymun kameraya bakar

"The monkey looks at the video camera."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

acıkmak

acıkmak has the meaning "to feel hungry" in Turkish. The root of this word is of Turkic origin: *aç*, meaning "hungry or peckish." *Acıkmak* also signifies the meaning that "you became hungry over a time." For example, imagine that you skipped lunch for a business meeting. By evening, you are starving, and you say *Çok acıktım!* meaning "I feel hungry!" But, if you want to concentrate on the condition of being hungry as of now, you simply say *Çok açım,* meaning "I am hungry!"

dikkat

dikkat is an exclamation meaning "watch out" or "attention." You will see this on traffic signs or hear it from people. For example, imagine that you are commuting by bus on the sweep road bends in the Black Sea Region on a rainy day. Expect to see traffic signs saying *Dikkat! Kaygan zemin*, meaning "Attention! Slippery road." A more colloquial example could be a

teacher warning his/her students: *Sınav kağıdına adınızı yazmaya dikkat edin,* meaning "Pay attention to writing your names on the exam paper."

boş bulunmak

boş bulunmak is yet another idiomatic expression in Turkish. *boş* is an adjective meaning "empty," and *bulunmak* is a verb meaning "to exist," "to appear," or "to be in a place." Altogether, this expression literally translates to "to appear empty," and it means "to be taken aback" or "to be caught unaware." Usually, Turkish people say this when they are spaced out and suddenly taken aback by something that grabs their attention, like a random sound or movement. They are taken by surprise and say this expression as an excuse for that condition. So, it is usually followed by an apologetic word like "pardon," or *affedersiniz.*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is Talking About Animate and Inanimate Objects in Turkish
Onu görmedim
"I didn't see it"

In Turkish, there is no difference between talking about inanimate and animate objects. Animals, plants, things, and people are all referred to with the third person singular, which is *O* or, in the plural, *Onlar.*

For example:

1. *O, iyi bir öğrencidir.*
   "She is a good student."

2. *O, akıllı biridir.*
   "He is a smart person."

3. *O şirindir.*
   "It (a cat) is cute."

4. *Onu getirir misin?* (pointing to the book over the table.)
   "Can you bring that?"

5. *Onu koparma!* (pointing to a daisy on the field)
   "Don't pick it off!"

Lack of Gender When Talking About Inanimate and Animate Objects with the Third Person Singular and Plural in Turkish

---

In Turkish, there is no substitute for "he" or "she." The Turkish just have *o*, which covers all of "he," "she," and "it." As you can see, it is used for both genders and for inanimate and animate objects. So, if you are talking about a woman and you want to specify her gender, you simply say *O kadın*, meaning "That woman." Let's see this in an example:

1. *Onun boyu uzundur.*
   "He/she is tall."

If you know the person, you simply use her name when referring to her:

1. *Ayşe'nin boyu uzundur*
   "Ayşe is tall"

When you talk about a person unknown to the person you are talking to, you can talk about her gender by adding:

1. *O adamı sevmiyorum.*
   "I don't like that man."

For example:

1. *O, iyi bir öğrencidir.*
   "She is a good student."
2. *O, akıllı biridir.*
   "He is a smart person."
3. *O şirindir.*
   "It (a cat) is cute."
4. *Onu getirir misin?* (pointing to the book over the table.)
   "Can you bring that?"

5. *Onu koparma!* (pointing to a daisy on the field)
   "Don't pick it off!"

6. *Onun boyu uzundur.*
   "He/she is tall"

7. *O adamı sevmiyorum.*
   "I don't like that man."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Ona gidelim mi?*
   "How about going to him?

2. *Evet, bir ona alerjim var.*
   "Yes, I have allergy for just that."

3. *Onu görmedim.*
   "I didn't see it."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Street Food in Turkey

You will never go hungry on the streets in Turkey. After paying a visit to any city in Turkey, you will soon find out that almost every large street has a couple of street vendors selling a variety of goods and food, from stuffed mussels to leather key chains or books. Some of the foods you can get from a street vendor are: *balık-ekmek* ("fish sandwich"); *kokoreç* ("well-seasoned skewered lamb intestine sandwich"); toasts with feta or string cheese; other sandwiches with cheese, tomatoes, pickles and *sujuk* ("turkish spicy sausage"); *tavuk-pilav* ("chicken pilaf"); stuffed mussels; *kumpir* ("jacket potato"); cotton candy; apple candy; fruits and veggies; *simit* (a kind of Turkish bagel with sesame) with gruyere cheese, jam and honey; ice cream; and other bakery goods. Some of the street vendors are quite famous and have really good-quality goods; however, keep in mind that some of them also sell foods that are not prepared sanitarily. We suggest you ask a friend or Turkish locals from the neighborhood to guide you

to a quality one.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #21 Asking Simple Questions in Turkish

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: (Ayla cries) Aa, Ayla, aç mısın? Hakan, Ayla muz yer mi?

2. HAKAN: Evet, yer. Ayla muzu çok sever.

3. MERVE: Gerçekten mi? Peki, Ayla, al bakalım. Bak taze mi taze...

4. (Dog whines.)

5. BORA: Hakan, Çomar muz yer mi?

6. HAKAN: Aman dikkat! Kokusunu aldı mı herşeyi yer! Şeker sağlığına zararlı!

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: (Ayla cries) Oh, Ayla, are you hungry? Hakan, does Ayla eat bananas?

2. HAKAN: Yes, she does. Ayla loves bananas!

3. MERVE: Oh, really? Okay, Ayla. Here you go.

4. (Dog whines)

5. BORA: Hakan, does Çomar eat bananas?

6. HAKAN: Oh, watch out! He will eat anything as soon as he smells it! Sugar is bad for his health!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
al bakalım	here you go	phrase
çomar	mastiff, large watchdog	noun
taze	fresh	adjective
aman	oh, mercy, my	exclamation
kokusunu almak	to sniff out, to perceive the smell of	phrase
her şey	everything	pronoun
zararlı	harmful, bad	adjective
muz	banana	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

İnanmıyorsan, al bak! "If you don't believe, have a look at it yourself."	**Sivas Kangal köpeklerine irilikleri yüzünden genelde "çomar" adı verilir.** "Sivas Kangal dogs are usually named "çomar" because of their massiveness."
Türkiye'de en taze sebze ve meyveler pazarlarda bulunur. "In Turkey, the freshest vegetables and fruits are found in bazaars."	**Bir yanık kokusu aldım.** "I've just smelled of something burning."
Herşey iyi gidiyor. "Everything goes well."	**Biber gazı çok zararlı bir kimyasaldır.** "Pepper spray is a very harmful chemical."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

koku almak means "to nose around." *koku* means "an odor/a smell," and *almak* is a verb that we've explained before in this series, meaning "to receive," "to buy," or "to take." So, literally, it means, "to nose around an odor." This phrase can be used for an animal, like a dog, sniffing something (*Köpekbalığı kan kokusu aldı*, meaning "The shark has smelled the blood") or for a human being (*Taze ekmek kokusu alıyorum*, meaning "I am smelling fresh bread"). Another verb is *koklamak,* meaning "to smell." While *koku almak* emphasizes the time and process it takes for that odor to reach your nose, *koklamak* emphasizes the immediate action of smelling something. Imagine, for instance, smelling a bouquet of roses. Somebody asks you, "What are you doing?" You reply *Gülleri kokluyorum,* meaning "I am smelling the roses."

her şey is a pronoun meaning "everything." It is composed of *her,* meaning "every," and *şey*, meaning "thing." According to the Turkish Language Association, this pronoun should be written separately. Failing to do so counts as a spelling mistake. The common saying "Everything will be alright" is expressed with *Her şey güzel olacak.* This sentence literally means, "Everything will be beautiful."

zararlı, meaning "harmful" or "hazardous," is an adjective constructed with the derivational affix *-lı*, from the noun *zarar*, meaning "damage," "harm," or "injury."

Derivational affixes play a strong role in Turkish grammar, since they construct gerundives and other adjectives. An example is *Fast food sağlığa çok zararlıdır*, meaning "Fast food is very harmful for the health."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is the Many Uses of Interrogative Suffix in Turkish
Ayla muz yer mi?
"Does Ayla eat bananas?"

Question sentences in Turkish can be classified into two groups:

1. Yes/no questions
2. Regular questions

In this lesson, we'll concentrate on how to ask yes/no questions using the interrogative suffix. In Turkish, we understand the interrogative form from a suffix that is written separately at the

end of the sentence. This suffix can be *-mi, -mı, -mu,* or *-mü*, depending on the vowel harmony rules.

As you've seen in our previous lessons, suffixes in Turkish are usually written together with the word they are appended to. So, you might wonder: Why is *-mi* a suffix instead of a word, if it is written separately? The reason the interrogative suffix *-mi* is labeled as a suffix is that it has to satisfy the major and minor vowel harmony rules for the word it is appended to. Let's demonstrate this with the following dialog:

1. A: *Onun adı Hakan.*
   A: "His name is Hakan."
   B: *Onun adı Hakan mı?* (Note how the regular sentence is turned into a yes/no question sentence by the addition of the question suffix *-mi*.)
   B: "Is his name Hakan?"
   A: *Evet öyle*.
   "Yes, it is."
   B: *Bu Hakan'ın evi mi?*
   B: "Is this Hakan's house?"
   A: *Hayır, bu benim evim.*
   A: "No, it's my house."

Personal pronouns	Interrogative suffix	English translation
Ben	*mi-yim*	"am I"
Sen	*mi-sin*	"are you"
O	*mi*	"is he/she it"
Biz	*mi-yiz*	"are we"
Siz	*mi-siniz*	"are you"
Onlar	*ler- mi*	"are they"

Other Uses of the Interrogative Suffix

1. As an intensifier: *Yemek lezzetli mi lezzetli!* meaning "This food is very delicious!"

2. To convey an "if" meaning: *Bir e-mail attın mı hemen cevap verir!* meaning "He/she will answer immediately if you e-mail him/her."

3. To convey an "as soon as," "when," or "whenever" meaning: *Sokağın sonuna geldin mi, sağında sinemayı göreceksin,* meaning "When you've come to the end of the street, you will see the movie theater on your right."

4. Used with a negative verb to mark emphasis: *Bir de beni azarlamaz mı?* meaning "And he/she would have to scold me as well."

5. As an enclitic particle used to make a statement into a question, thus forming a tag question at the end of a sentence.

For example:

1. *Onun gözleri ela, değil mi?*
   "His/her eyes are hazel, aren't they?"

2. *O okula geldi, değil mi?*
   "He/she came to the school, didn't he/she?"

As you can clearly see from the examples above, unlike in English, the same word phrase (*değil mi?*) is used to construct a tag question in Turkish.

For example:

1. *Onun adı Hakan mı?*
   "Is his name Hakan?"

2. *Bu Hakan'ın evi mi?*
   "Is this Hakan's house?"

3. *Yemek lezzetli mi lezzetli.*
   "The food is very delicious."

4. *Bir e-mail attın mı hemen cevap verir!*
   "He/she will answer immediately if you e-mail him/her."

5. *Sokağın sonuna geldin mi, sağında sinemayı göreceksin.*
   "When you've come to the end of the street, you will see the movie theater on your right.

6. *Bir de beni azarlamaz mı?*
   "And he/she would have to scold me as well."

7. *Onun gözleri ela, değil mi?*
   "His/her eyes are hazel, aren't they?"

8. *O okula geldi, değil mi?*
   "He/she came to the school, didn't he/she?"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Aç mısın?*
   "Are you hungry?"

2. *Ayla muz yer mi?*
   "Does Ayla eat bananas?"

3. *Çomar muz yer mi?*
   "Does Çomar eat bananas?"

4. *Gerçekten mi?*
   "Oh really?"

5. *Bak taze mi taze...*
   "Here you go."

6. *Kokusunu aldı mı herşeyi yer.*

Sample Sentence

1. *Tadı güzel mi?*
   "Does it taste good?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Names

A Turkish name consists of an *ad* or *isim*, both meaning the same, and a *Soy-ad*, meaning "surname." Keep in mind that there might be more than one given name. *Soyad* comes at the last part of the full name. Turkish surnames are patrilineal, which means they pass from a father to his children. Turkey has abolished all notions of nobility, so there are no noble forms or types of surnames. According to contemporary Turkish civil law, when a man and a woman get married, the woman takes the man's surname, but if she wants to keep her maiden name, she can. Most young Turkish women prefer to keep their maiden names, thus ending up with two surnames.

Most names are gender-specific in Turkish. However, there are also a great number of names that are unisex, like *Deniz*, meaning "sea;" *Devrim*, meaning "Revolution;" and *Füsun,* meaning "enchantment" or "magic." Almost all Turkish names, especially the ones of Turkic origin, have meanings. Let's introduce our characters' names and the meanings behind them: *Merve* is the name of a mountain near *Mekke*, which is believed to be holy. *Ayla* means "the halo around the moon" or "moonlight." *Bora* is the name of a cold wind that blows from the northeast. *Hakan* means "Turkish ruler, king." Finally, *Ahu,* who will be introduced later, is the name of an Asiatic gazelle.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22 Which Turkish Beverage Do You Want to Drink?

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: (At the supermarket) Bora, ne içmek istersin? Kola mı, ayran mı?
2. BORA: Çok susadım. Ayran alıyım.
3. HAKAN: Tamam. Ya sen Merve?
4. MERVE: Ben ikisini de pek sevmiyorum.
5. HAKAN: Peki. Meyve suyu da var. Nar mı? Şeftali mi?
6. MERVE: Nar suyu lütfen.

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: (At the supermarket) Bora, what would you like to drink? Cola? Ayran?
2. BORA: I am very thirsty. I will have ayran.
3. HAKAN: Okay. And you, Merve?
4. MERVE: I don't like either very much.
5. HAKAN: Alright. There's fruit juice as well. Pomegranate or peach juice?
6. MERVE: Pomegranate juice, please.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
içmek	to drink	verb
şeftali	peach	noun
susamak	to become thirsty	verb
kola	coca cola	noun
ayran	ayran	noun
tamam	okay, understood, roger that	interjection
pek	quite, firm, strong	adverb, adjective
meyve suyu	fruit juice	phrase
Nar	pomegranate	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bir şey içmek ister misin? "Do you want something to drink?"	**Spor yaptıktan sonra çok susadım.** "I became very thirsty after doing sports."
Kola diğer bir çok gazoz gibi karbonatlıdır. "Coke like many other soft drinks are carbonated"	**Ayran susuzluk giderir.** "Ayran is a thirst quencher."
Tamam geliyorum. "Okay, I am coming"	**Bu aralar pek iştahım yok.** "I don’t have much appetite these days."

Türkiye kışın nar açısından çok zengindir.

"Turkey is very abundant in pomegranates during winter."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

nar means "pomegranate." *Nar* is one of the most popular Turkish fruits of the winter. The motherland of pomegranate starts in the Eastern Mediterranean region of Turkey and extends out to Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan and to neighboring regions all around. Throughout the world, pomegranate is considered an industrial plant, usually used as a raw material in medicines, dyes, animal feed, etc. However, in Turkey, pomegranate is consumed as a fresh fruit or juice. It is also used as an ingredient to decorate milk-based desserts to give them a refreshing taste.

Pomegranate has its place in Turkish culture as well. Smashing a pomegranate in front of your door during New Year's Eve is believed to bring abundance and good luck. There is even a riddle in Turkey highlighting the significance of the fruit: *Çarşıdan aldım bir tane. Eve geldim bin tane,* meaning "I bought one in the bazaar. I came home; a thousand!" Can you guess the answer for this riddle?

kola

kola means "coke" in Turkey, and, usually, when a Turkish person makes this order, what he/she means is that he/she wants a specific brand: Coca-Cola.

In Turkish, some brand names are replaced with the item/product itself. For example, *Selpak* is a Turkish brand producing paper handkerchiefs as well as many other toiletries. Since it is one of the first and most famous consumer brands, all paper handkerchiefs are now called *selpak* in Turkish daily language. Keep in mind that "handkerchief" means *mendil* and "paper handkerchief" means *kağıt mendil*. Don't be surprised to hear somebody ask you *Selpağınız var mı?* meaning "Do you have a Selpak?" What the other person is asking for is just a paper handkerchief.

pek is a heteronym word, which means both "quite" and "firm" or "strong." The adverb function of *pek* usually has a negative meaning when used alone. For example: *Bu aralar pek iştahsız*, meaning "Nowadays, he/she is without any appetite," or *Pek keyfim yok*, meaning "I am not quite in high spirits." However, if it is accompanied with another quantifying adverb, it can have a positive meaning. For instance: *Pek çok kez söyledim*, meaning "I have said it quite a lot of times."

Pek, as an adjective, can mean "firm" or "strong." Most commonly, it is used in idiomatic expressions: *Gözüpek bir delikanlı*, meaning "He is a daredevil." This expression literally means, "he is a young man with a strong gaze." In Turkish culture, a strong, piercing gaze is a symbol of inner strength and courage.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is Adverbs of Measurement and Quantity in Turkish

Ben ikisini de pek sevmiyorum.

"I don't like either very much."

Learning adverbs in Turkish is quite essential because they are used in everyday conversation frequently, thus making your dialog richer in expression. Generally, adverbs are sentence components that modify any part of language other than a noun. Specifically, in Turkish, adverbs are auxiliary words that qualify or quantify, not only verbs, but also adjectives and other adverbs.

In Turkish, there are many adverbial subcategories: adverbs of time, place, measurement, and quantity, as well as interrogative adverbs and adverbs of quality and situation. There are also suffixes and postpositions, which construct adverbs. Adverbs of time, place, measurement, and quantity have a very important role in Turkish; therefore, they need very special attention. In this lesson, we will just introduce some basic adverbs of measurement and quantity that will help you build a natural dialog in Turkish.

Adverbs of measurement and quantity in Turkish	Translations
az	"a bit, few"
biraz	"some, a little"
çok	"many, much, very, such"
daha	"more, further, yet, still, again, plus"
en	"the most of"
fazla	"too, too much, too many, extra"
hep	"ever, evermore, always"
kadar	"as much as, as well as"
kısmen	"partially, partly, to a certain degree"
pek	"so, quite, not much"

hiç	"never, none, any, at all"

Let's illustrate the table above with the following examples:

1. *Yemek az geldi.*
   "The dinner came small (in portion)."

2. *Çok susadım.*
   "I am very thirsty."

3. *Fazla konuşma!*
   "Don't talk a lot."

4. *Hep benimle ol!*
   "Be with me forever!"

5. *Ne kadar bunlar?*
   "How much are these?"

6. *Ödevimi kısmen bitirdim.*
   "I finished my homework, partly."

7. *Filmi pek beğenmedim.*
   "I didn't like the movie much."

8. *Bugün işe gitmeyi hiç istemiyorum.*
   "Today, I don't want to go to work at all."

Keep in mind that you can also combine these adverbs:

1. *En az ben yedim.*
   "I ate the fewest."

Turkish isn't as strict as English in what can and cannot be used as an adverb.

In theory, though it's not always practical, you may use any Turkish adjective as an adverb.

For instance, as we have seen in our previous lessons, *çok* may be used as an adjective meaning "a lot." (for example: *Çok insan,* meaning "A lot of people") or as an adverb meaning "many, much, very," depending on the sentence in which it appears (*Çok sıkıldım,* meaning "I am very bored").

For example:

1. *Yemek az geldi.*
   "The dinner came small (in portion)."

2. *Çok susadım.*
   "I am very thirsty."

3. *Fazla konuşma!*
   "Don't talk a lot!"

4. *Hep benimle ol!*
   "Be with me forever!"

5. *Ne kadar bunlar?*
   "How much are these?"

6. *Ödevimi kısmen bitirdim*.
   "I finished my homework, partly."

7. *Filmi pek beğenmedim.*
   "I didn't like the movie much."

8. *Bugün işe gitmeyi hiç istemiyorum.*
   "Today, I don't want to go to work at all."

9. *En az ben yedim.*
   "I ate the fewest."

10. *Çok sıkıldım.*
    "I am very bored."

Examples from this lesson:

1. *Bu aralar pek iştahsız.*
   "Nowadays, he/she is without any appetite."

2. *Pek keyfim yok.*
   "I am not quite in high spirits."

3. *Pek çok kez söyledim.*
   "I have said it quite a lot of times."

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Çok susadım.*
   "I am very thirsty."

2. *Ben ikisini de pek sevmiyorum.*
   "I don't like either very much."

Sample Sentences

---

1. *Spor yaptıktan sonra çok susadım.*
   "I became very thirsty after doing sports."

2. *Kola, diğer bir çok gazoz gibi karbonatlıdır.*
   "Coke, like many other soft drinks, is carbonated."

3. *Bu aralar pek iştahım yok.*
   "I don't have much of an appetite these days."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Non-Alcoholic Turkish Beverages

Non-alcoholic Turkish beverages are very local and come in a great variety. For instance, *Şıra* is one of the savory non-alcoholic Turkish drinks, made by crushing grapes, followed by a

short fermentation process. It tastes sweet and is usually served with *Iskender kebab*. The second beverage we are going to introduce is also a healthy choice. It's called *turşu suyu*, meaning "pickle juice," and it is usually served as an appetizer. Making *turşu,* meaning "pickle," is a common autumn food tradition. You may use a variety of vegetables, from carrots to cabbage, for your desired taste. Let us remind you that the "pingy" taste is not for everyone. Our third beverage is on the sweet side. It's called *boza*-a perfect drink for the long and cold winter nights in Turkey. It is a cold drink made from a fermented grain, served with cinnamon and roasted chick peas. *Boza* usually has a little acidic sweet flavor that makes its taste an acquired one. It is a healthy choice, believed to warm you up and strengthen because of its vitamin A, B, and E content. We recommend you drink *boza* separately from your meal and consume it as a snack. Another famous winter drink is called *sahlep*. *Sahlep* is one of the famous beverages in Turkey, made from *saloop* flour. It is served hot, and its texture is creamy. Usually, it is served with a cinnamon topping as well. You can order *sahlep* in many coffee shops and tea houses all around Turkey. It is usually served during the winter. And finally, we have the world-famous *ayran*, a popular, revitalizing drink served during summer. This is a very simple Turkish drink prepared with yogurt, water, and salt. *Ayran* is a very healthy, refreshing drink that can be consumed with any meal, like *kebabs*, *pilaf*, Turkish meatballs, and other meat dishes.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #23 Let's Have a Cup of Turkish Coffee in a Traditional Coffee House!

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2 Turkish
2 English
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3 Sample Sentences
3 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
4 Grammar
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TURKISH

1. BORA: Hakan, orası neresi?

2. HAKAN: Ee, orası mahallenin kahvehanesi. Kahvehaneye gitmeyi sever misin?

3. BORA: Evet, kahvehaneye gitmeyi severim.

4. HAKAN: Peki o zaman. Ne zaman gidelim? Bu akşam gidelim mi?

5. BORA: Bu akşam çok iyi olur. Ama Merve'ye sen söyle.

6. HAKAN: (laughs) Merve, bu akşam Bora ve ben kahvehaneye gidiyoruz.

7. MERVE: Tamam. İyi eğlenceler ama geç kalmayın!

ENGLISH

1. BORA: Hakan, what's that place?

2. HAKAN: Oh, that's a kahvehane (traditional Turkish coffee house). Do you like going to the kahvehane?

3. BORA: Yes, I do!

4. HAKAN: Well then, when should we go? Shall we go tonight?

5. BORA: That will be good! But you tell Merve.

6. HAKAN: (laughs) Merve, tonight, Bora and I are going to the kahvehane.

CONT'D OVER

7. MERVE: Okay! Have fun, but don't be late!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
mahalle	neighborhood, district	noun
kahvehane	traditional coffee house	noun
ama	but, if	adverb
söylemek	to tell	verb
İyi Eğlenceler!	Have fun!	phrase
geç kalmak	to be late	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

İstanbul'un bazı ilçelerinde mahalle kavramı güçlü ve baskındır. "In some Istanbul districts, the neighborhood concept is strong and dominant."	**Türk kahvehanelerinin kökeni Osmanlı'ya dayanır.** "The roots of Turkish coffee houses trace back to Ottoman Period."
Ayla güzel ama kibirli bir kız. "Ayla is a beautiful but conceited girl."	**Söylemek istediğim çok şey var.** "I want to say a lot of things."
Mezuniyet balosunda iyi eğlenceler! "Have fun in prom!"	**Geç kalırsan darılırım.** "I would be offended if you are to be late."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

mahalle

mahalle, which is a noun meaning "neighborhood," is a residential cityscape with cultural significance in Turkey. Let's give further explanations for what we mean by that. A *mahalle* is smaller and less populated than a "district," as defined by the Turkish urban management system. And, culturally, it is the smallest cultural unit of city space where primary relations, like neighborliness, are important. To illustrate this in an example, you can say, *İstanbul ili, Kadiköy ilçesi, Erenköy mahallesinde oturuyorum,* meaning, "I live in Istanbul, Kadiköy district, Erenköy neighborhood."

kahvehane

kahvehane is a compound word composed of *kahve*, which is a noun meaning "coffee," and *hane*, which is an old word meaning "dwelling" or "house." Altogether, it makes *kahvehane,* literally meaning, "coffee house." Note that *kahvehane* refers to an old, traditional-style coffee house, as explained in the cultural insight section of this lesson. Contemporary cafés are called *kafe* in Turkish.

İyi eğlenceler!

İyi eğlenceler! is a commonly used phrase, simply meaning "Have lots of fun!" This phrase can be used by everyone in almost every occasion, from going out to a movie to shopping, eating out, meeting a friend, a night out partying, etc. However, for occasions involving vacations and holidays, *İyi tatiller*, meaning "Happy holidays!" is prefered.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is Asking Questions in Turkey, Part 2

Ne zaman gidelim?

"When do we go?"

As explained in Lesson 21, Turkish interrogative sentences can be classified into two groups. We have studies the basic yes/no questions and question tags in Lesson 21; therefore, in this lesson, we'll concentrate on regular questions. Before looking at how the interrogative form is constructed in detail, let's see some of the basic question words in Turkish.

Turkish question words	English translations
ne?	"what?"

kim?	"who?"
hangi?	"which?"
nere?	"where?"
ne zaman?	"when?"
nasıl?	"how?"
kaç tane?	"how many?"
ne kadar?	"how much?"
ne sıklıkla?	"how often?"

By regular questions, we mean the ones constructed using the question words listed above. As you can see, unlike the examples in Lesson 21, the answers to these questions are not simply "yes" or "no." In English, there is a certain word order for regular question sentences. The question word comes first, and the rest of the sentence components follow it. In Turkish, however, questions are constructed in a quite different way. You can simply follow the instructions below to construct a regular interrogative sentence in Turkish.

1. Locate the word or phrase that gives the actual answer to the question.
2. Simply replace that word or phrase with the appropriate question word.

Let's illustrate the above explanations with an example. The question we want to ask is, "What is this?" Let's say the answer is "This is a table," which is *Bu bir masa*. The answer to the question is *...bir masa,* meaning "..is a table." Now, replace this phrase with the question word *ne,* meaning "what," and the question sentence becomes *Bu ne?*

To summarize, a question sentence has the same word order as a regular sentence. The difference is that the part of the sentence that is asked is replaced by the appropriate question word.

Where Do Suffixes Go When Formulating an Interrogative Sentence in Turkish?

Adding to the explanation above, keep in mind that the question word takes all the suffixes of the word it is replacing.

Consider the sentence *Bora işe gidiyor.* meaning "Bora is going to work."

Let's say you want to ask, "Who is going to work?" which is *Kim işe gidiyor?* in Turkish. As you can see, *Bora* in the regular sentence is replaced by *kim,* meaning "who." Notice that the rest of the sentence is still the same.

Now, to understand the suffixes, let's formulate another related question: "Where did Bora go?" which is *Bora nereye gitti?* in Turkish. Here, *iş* in the regular sentence is replaced by *nere*. Note that the question word *nere* also takes the directional suffix *-e* of the word *iş* and becomes *nereye*, meaning "to where."

For example:

1. *Bu ne?*
   "What is this?"

2. *Bu bir masa.*
   "This is a table."

3. *Kim işe gidiyor?*
   "Who is going to work?"

4. *Bora işe gidiyor.*
   "Bora is going to work."

5. *Bora nereye gitti?*
   "Where did Bora go?

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *Kahvehaneye gitmeyi sever misin?*
   "Do you like going to a Turkish coffee house?"

2. *Ne zaman gidelim?*
   "When do we go?"

3. *Bu akşam gidelim mi?*
   "Shall we go tonight?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Turkish Coffee Custom

In Ottoman palaces and mansions, the service of Turkish coffee involved a ceremony that was practiced in detail by custom. Before the coffee, guests would be offered a confectionary: jam, *akide* (a kind of Turkish hard candy, usually with cinnamon or sesame), or *lokum* ("Turkish delight"). These were presented on a silver tray bearing a covered bowl in the center, surrounded by goblets holding spoons and cups of water to be drunk after taking the sweet. After being passed around to the guests, the coffee would be served by three young girls. The elegance of the service was an indication of the family's affluence. Coffee was frequently accompanied by tobacco, which would be smoked in a *nargileh* or a long-stemmed *chibouk*.

Turkish coffee still plays an important role in contemporary Turkish life. It functions like a cultural medium for neighbors, friends, and family members to gather and spend time together. Also, Turkish men go to their local neighborhood *kahvehane,* meaning "traditional coffee houses," to spend time, watch the news, discuss daily matters and politics, and play Turkish *rummikub*, called *okey*.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24 Different Shades of Color and Taste in Turkish

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TURKISH

1. MERVE: (The sound of eating)Mmm, bu çok baharatlı ve lezzetli bir yemek. (Cough cough cough!) Acı !

2. HAKAN: O, tabasko sosu.

3. BORA: Tabasko? 'Tabasko' Türkçe'de nasıl denir?

4. HAKAN: Bir saniye lütfen...(beeping, searching on his phone). Ee, Tabasko'ya Türkçe'de de 'tabasko' denir. Acılı sos demek.

5. MERVE: Üff... yandım çok acı! Su var mı?

ENGLISH

1. MERVE: (The sound of eating) Mm. This is a very spicy and tasty food. (Cough, cough, cough!) It's hot!

2. HAKAN: (laughing) That's the Tabasco.

3. BORA: Tabasco? How do you say "Tabasco" in Turkish?

4. HAKAN: Please wait a moment. (beeping) Oh, "Tabasco" in Turkish is also called "tabasco." It means a spicy sauce.

5. MERVE: (Cough, cough, cough.) Ohh, hot sauce!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class

baharatlı	spicy, seasoned with spices, hot and spicy	adjective
acı	hot, bitter, sad, sorrowful	adjective
tabasko	tabasco	noun
sos	sauce	noun
nasıl	how, in what way	adverb
demek	to say, to mean, to tell	verb
saniye	second	noun
yanmak	to burn	verb
su	water	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Karabiber Osmanlı mutfağının vazgeçilmez baharatıydı. "Black pepper was the irrevocable spice of the Ottoman cuisine."	**Acı çekmeden uykusunda öldü.** "He/She died in his/her sleep without feeling any pain."
Makarnaya yoğurtlu sos yaptım. "I made yoghurt sauce for pasta."	**Nasılsınız?** "How are you?" (Formal)
Otele nasıl geri dönerim? "How do I get back to the hotel?"	**Bu ne demek?** "What does this mean?"
İnsanlar "Merhaba" der "The people say, 'Hello.'"	**Yeni yıla saniyeler kaldı.** "Seconds left to the New Year."

Dün tarihi ahşap bina yandı. "Yesterday, the historical, timber building burned down."	**Kadın su içer** "The woman drinks water."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

acı means "bitter," "hot," or "sorrowful." This adjective has a variety of meanings, ranging from taste to feelings. As a qualificative adjective describing a taste, *acı* refers to both "bitterness," as in bitter almonds, and "hotness" of the food, as in hot jalapeno peppers.

It can also describe a sorrowful, very painful event. You will find that Turkish people use it a lot after disasters or the death of someone. Most commonly, you will hear them say *çok acı bir olay,* meaning "a very sad/unfortunate event."

It is also used to describe more physical forms of pain. For example, imagine burning your hand when cooking. You can say *Ah çok acıdı!* meaning "Oh! It hurts a lot."

demek means "to tell" or "to say." *demek* is the most fundamental verb that helps us build direct speech by quoting ideas, statements, and utterances directly. For example: *Öğrenciyim "dedi,*" meaning "He/she said, 'I am a student.'"

However, in indirect speech or reported speech in Turkish, *söylemek,* another verb with similar meanings, is preferred. This is to say any idea, statement, or utterance without quoting it explicitly. For example: "She said she was coming" which is *O geleceğini söyledi.*

yanmak means "to burn," "to be on fire," and "to burn out."

You can use this verb in order to explain the process of any kind of fire, flame, or glow consuming a material. It can be the food you just burned: *Yemek yandı*, meaning "The food is burned." Notice that this example is in the passive voice. Another example could be *Ahşap bina yandı*, meaning "The timber building burned down."

Since Turkish is a very rich language in terms of idiomatic expressions, we should mention yet another one with *Yanmak*. *Yandı bitti kül oldu*, literally meaning "It's burned. It's finished. It became ashes," is a famous rigmarole indicating that something is totally disappeared to its ashes.

This verb can also connote feelings of despair, exhaustion, and hopelessness, like a clamor in panic. *Çok büyük para kaybettim. Yandım!* can be given as an example. It means, "I lost a huge amount of money. I am ruined!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson Is Adjectives, Part 1

Bu çok baharatlı ama lezzetli bir yemek

"This is a very spicy, but delicious, food."

Turkish adjectives are words that describe or modify another person or thing in the sentence. In Turkish, any word that modifies a noun in terms of number, shape, color, etc. can be considered an adjective. For example: *Yeşil elma*, meaning "green apple." Here, *yeşil,* meaning "green," defines the color of the apple. Since "apple" is a noun, *yeşil* functions as an adjective in this example.

Tatlı bir yemek, which means "a sweet food." Here, *tatlı*, meaning "sweet," and *bir*, meaning "a," are both adjectives because "sweet" determines the taste of the food and *bir*, its number. In summary, the most fundamental point is: adjectives modify nouns, while adverbs modify verbs. In this lesson, we will learn more about the color and taste adjectives.

"Color adjectives" in English	***Renk Sıfatları***
"black"	*siyah*
"white"	*beyaz*
"purple"	*mor*
"blue"	*mavi*
"green"	*yeşil*
"red"	*kırmızı*
"orange"	*portakal rengi*
"yellow"	*sarı*

"gray"	*gri*
"brown"	*kahverengi*

As you can see, *kahverengi*, meaning "brown," is a compound word made out of *kahve,* meaning "coffee," and *renk,* meaning "color." All in all, *kahverengi* literally means "coffee color."

Qualificative adjectives related to taste	***Tat ile ilgili Niteleme Sıfatları***
"bitter"	*acı*
"sweet"	*tatlı*
"hot"	*acı, baharatlı*
"spicy"	*baharatlı*
"salty"	*tuzlu*
"fresh"	*taze*
"sour"	*ekşi*

Some examples deriving from the table above are presented below:

Acı ilaç means "bitter medicine"

Tatlı armut means "wweet pear"

Ekşi yeşil erik means "sour green plum"

Asking How to Say Something in Turkish

For example:

1. *Yeşil elma*
   "green apple"

2. *Tatlı bir yemek*
   "a sweet food"

3. *Acı ilaç*
   "bitter medicine"

4. *Tatlı armut*
   "sweet pear"

5. *Ekşi yeşil erik*
   "sour green plum"

Examples from this lesson:

1. *çok acı bir olay*
   "a very sad/unfortunate event"

Examples from this dialogue:

1. *1. Bu çok baharatlı ve lezzetli bir yemek.*
   "This is a very spicy and tasty food."

2. *Acılı sos*
   "Spicy sauce."

Pronunciation Tip

In Turkish, English loan words or brand names are pronounced as they are written. For example: "Burger King" is pronounced *Bur-ger King* (*bur* as in *burmak*, meaning "to wring") without elongating the sound, as if it were a Turkish word. Another puzzling word to hear is "McDonalds;" you can hear many Turkish people say *Mak do-nalt*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Spicy Dishes in

Turkey

Although Southeastern cuisine has a lot of hot dishes, in many other regions, like in Marmara or Aegean, it is not an accustomed taste. Keep in mind that adjectives describing the hotness of the food may differ depending on these regional differences. Usually, *acı* means "bitter" in Turkish, like the taste of a bitter grapefruit. However, sometimes, it refers to the hotness of the food; for example, "cayenne pepper" is called *acı biber* in Turkish. So, literally, it is called "bitter pepper."

Other times, you will hear some Turkish people expressing spicy, hot food by saying *baharatlı,* which means "seasoned with spices." So, don't be surprised if you hear a Turkish person say *Üff, çok baharatlı. Bu kadar acı yemeğe alışık değilim,* meaning "Uff, it's very spicy. I am not used to eating such hot food," after eating very hot Mexican food. Keep in mind that *üff* imitates the sound of blowing. You can use this expression while cooling a spoon of soup before swallowing or trying to reduce the pain of an open wound after applying oxygen to sterilize.

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #25 Do You Remember the Turkish Grammar You've Learned in This Series?

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TURKISH

1. HAKAN: Seneye Meksikaya gidiyorum.
2. MERVE: Neden?
3. HAKAN: Kız kardeşim evleniyor.
4. BORA: Tebrikler! Ne güzel! Ne zaman gidiyorsun?
5. HAKAN: Haziranda.
6. MERVE: Harika! Ahu da gidiyor mu?
7. HAKAN: Evet. Ayrıca Ayla da gidecek. Çomar da gidecek.
8. MERVE: Çomar da mı? Vay!
9. HAKAN: Sonra da, Türkiye'ye geri geleceğiz.
10. BORA: Gerçekten mi? Vay vay!

ENGLISH

1. HAKAN: I'm going to Mexico next year.
2. MERVE: Why?
3. HAKAN: My little sister is getting married.
4. BORA: Congratulations! That's nice. When are you going?

CONT'D OVER

5. HAKAN: In June.

6. MERVE: Neat! Is Ahu going as well?

7. HAKAN: Yes! Ayla will also go. Çomar will go too.

8. MERVE: Çomar too? Wow.

9. HAKAN: After that, we'll come back to Turkey.

10. BORA: Really? Wow!

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English	Class
sene	year	noun
neden	why, reason	adverb
evlenmek	to marry, to get married	verb
tebrik	congratulations	noun
haziran	June	noun
ayrıca	also, besides, furthermore	particle
sonra da	and then	particle
geri gelmek	to return back	verb phrase
harika	superb, wonderful	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Neden yemek yemiyorsun? "Why don't you eat?"	**Yirmi beş yaşında evlendi.** "She/he got married when she/he was twenty five."
Aile tebrikleri kabul etti. "The family accepted the greetings."	**Yaz ayları haziran, temmuz ve ağustostur.** "The summer months are June, July and August."
Ayrıca bu kitabı da okumanızı tavsiye ederim. "Besides I also recommend you to read this book."	**Sonra da lunaparka gidelim.** "Then, let's go to the amusement park."
Cüzdanımı unuttuğum için geri geldim. "I returned back because I forgot my wallet."	**Harika bir kahvaltı ettim.** "I had a fabulous breakfast."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

evlenmek

evlenmek means "to get married" or "to marry someone." Literally it means, "to obtain a house" emphasizing the establishment of a household by marriage. Turkish people like to make puns and play with the meaning of the word so that when they buy or rent a new house, they say *evlendim*.

geri gelmek is a modal verb meaning "to return" or "to reunite." This verb has a direct meaning indicating the action of returning to somewhere, for instance to your home country or where you have just come from, and it also has a romantic connotation highlighting the sudden interest of the person who broke up with you in the past.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is a Review of Some Grammar Points

Eşi ile tanışmak istiyorum.

"I want to meet her husband."

As shown in the previous lessons, noun cases include a set of suffixes that show variety according to the vowel and consonant harmony rules. These suffixes modify the nouns and give them an orientation, however, the meaning remains the same. There are five different noun cases in Turkish.

In this series, we've studied two distinct noun cases that are often used in Turkish: the locative form constructed with *-de* and *-da* (and according to the vowel harmony rules sometimes *-te* and *-ta*) and the accusative case which we generally construct with *-i* and *-ı* suffixes.

Our first point is the locative case, which we talked about in lesson 15. Locative suffixes function just like the English prepositions "in," "at," and "on" to identify the orientation and the direction of the verbs and other elements of a sentence structure. Instead of "in," "at," and "on," Turkish uses locative case suffixes attached to the words where orientation is needed. In terms of orientation, the locative form signifies a static position, which is known as *bulunma hali* in Turkish.

Let's study the example from the dialogue:

1. *Haziran-da*
   "In June."

Our second point is the many uses of interrogative suffixes, which was covered in lessons 21 and 23. In this review, we'll focus on "yes-no questions" from lesson 21 exclusively. This set of suffixes is placed at the very end of the sentence right before the question mark. Let's remember the interrogative suffix that changes depending on the vowel harmony rules: *-mi, -mı,- mu,* or *-mü.*

We've especially picked this dialogue because unlike all the examples in lesson 21, it illustrates the other uses of interrogative suffixes. As you remember from the grammar point of that lesson, the interrogative suffix can also be used as an intensifier, or to convey "if," "as soon as," "when," and "whenever." Also, it can be used with a negative verb to highlight emphasis. Finally, it can function as an enclitic particle used to make a statement into a question, thus forming a tag question at the end of a sentence.

Our interrogative from this lesson's dialogue is *Gerçekten mi*?, meaning "Really?" The connotation of this sentence signifies doubt, uncertainty, or disbelief. So it's generally negative. Therefore, *mi'* is used to highlight more emphasis. This is a good example for point 4 in lesson 21.

Our third point is about the possessive suffixes in Turkish, which are explained in detail in lessons 9 and 10. Notice that the personal pronoun, which is the possession holder, is absent.

Eş, meaning "partner," in this case "future husband," belongs to Hakan's sister: *Onun eşi.*

In this example, *o* is third person singular and signifies Hakan's sister. Therefore, *-i* suffix attached to the noun *eş* is a third person possessive suffix.

Our final example, *vay vay*, meaning "wow!," takes us back to lesson 16: Turkish interjections and exclamations. Turkish is a very versatile language in terms of the abundance of exclamations and interjections used in everyday life. With the appropriate usage of these interjections, your daily dialogue in Turkish will sound natural. You will find yourself involved in dynamic and expressive Turkish dialogues once you study them! Perfect for kinesthetic learners, these interjections are very culture-specific and have a pragmatic function that helps frame the dialogue mentally and produce it verbally.

We've highlighted the grammar points that can be relatively difficult to understand as compared to others throughout this series. Please check review the grammar notes of each lesson, and don't hesitate to comment when you have further questions.

For example:

1. *Haziranda*
   "In June"

2. *Gerçekten mi?* "Really?"

3. *Eşi ile tanışmak istiyorum.*
   "I want to meet her husband"

4. *Vay Vay* "Wow!"

Sample

Sentences

1. *Yirmi beş yaşında evlendi.*
   "She got married when she was twenty five."

2. *Aile, tebrikleri kabul etti.*
   "The family accepted the greetings."

3. *Yaz ayları haziran, temmuz ve ağustostur.*
   "The summer months are June, July and August."

4. *Ayrıca bu kitabı da okumanızı tavsiye ederim.*
   "Furthermore, I also recommend you to read this book."

5. *Sonra da lunaparka gidelim.*
   "Then, let's go to the amusement park."

6. *Cüzdanımı unuttuğum için geri geldim.*
   "I returned because I forgot my wallet."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Food Souvenirs from Turkey

Since this lesson is about vacations, we will introduce the top three ready-to-eat food souvenirs that you might want to bring back to your friends and family from your vacation in Turkey. The first one is a healthy choice: sun-dried apricots. Turkey is the leading apricot producer in the world, and these products are quite famous, with their thick, moist, and chewy textures. Pay attention for your dried apricot to be sun-dried, which is *gün kurusu* in Turkish. These ones are organic and dried naturally under the sun. You can easily distinguish them by their terracotta color. The bright orange ones are also sour and delicious, but they are chemically processed, since they are dipped in hydrated lime. Our second edible souvenir is the notorious "Turkish delight," which is known under the name *lokum* in Turkey. These sugar-sprinkled cubes of thickened milk or fruit syrup come in many flavors. We especially

recommend you try *çifte kavrulmuş,* meaning "double-roasted," and *güllü*, meaning "with rose flavor." Pay attention to our third one, because it is one of the hidden local gourmet items originating from southeastern parts of Turkey. It is called *cezerye,* and it is a confection made with caramelized carrots and nuts, sprinkled with dried, shredded coconuts. This confection is quite healthy and is usually recommended by doctors to patients who cannot give up their sweet tooth and who have to follow a strict diet. You can buy all these products from your local *kuruyemişçi*, a store selling dried fruits and nuts.

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