



Basic Grammar

Word Order

Turkish follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order.

Example:

Ben elma yiyorum. (I apple eat.)

Modifiers generally precede the words they modify.

Example:

Kırmızı araba (Red car)

Vowel Harmony

Two-Way Vowel Harmony (e-type)

Words use either front vowels (e, i, ö, ü) or back vowels (a, ı, o, u). Suffixes adapt accordingly.

Examples:

ev-de (at home), *okul-da* (at school)

Four-Way Vowel Harmony (a-type)

The last vowel determines the suffix:

- a/e after a/e/ı/i
- ı/i after ı/i
- u/ü after o/ö/u/ü

Examples:

kitap-ı -> *kitabı* (the book), *göz-ü* -> *gözü* (the eye)

Suffixes

Turkish is an agglutinative language. Suffixes are added to roots to change meaning and grammatical function.

Example:

ev (house) -> *evler* (houses) -> *evlerde* (in the houses)

Essential Vocabulary

Greetings

Merhaba	Hello
Günaydın	Good morning
İyi günler	Good day
İyi akşamlar	Good evening
İyi geceler	Good night
Nasılsın(ız)?	How are you?
Teşekkür ederim, iyiyim	Thank you, I am fine
Memnun oldum	Pleased to meet you

Basic Words

Evet	Yes
Hayır	No
Lütfen	Please
Teşekkür ederim	Thank you
Rica ederim	You're welcome
Affedersiniz	Excuse me / Sorry

Numbers

Bir	One
İki	Two
Üç	Three
Dört	Four
Beş	Five
Altı	Six
Yedi	Seven
Sekiz	Eight
Dokuz	Nine
On	Ten

Common Phrases

Basic Interactions

Adınız ne?	What is your name?
Benim adım...	My name is...
Nerelisiniz?	Where are you from?
Ben ...'lıyım.	I am from...
Türkçe biliyor musunuz?	Do you speak Turkish?
Evet, biraz.	Yes, a little.

Asking for Help

Yardım edebilir misiniz?	Can you help me?
Tuvalet nerede?	Where is the toilet?
Bu ne kadar?	How much is this?
Anlamadım.	I don't understand.
Tekrar söyler misiniz?	Could you say that again?

Getting Around

...ye nasıl gidebilirim?	How can I get to...?
Otobüs durağı nerede?	Where is the bus stop?
Taksi durağı nerede?	Where is the taxi stand?
Buraya yakın mı?	Is it near here?
Uzakta değil.	Not far away.

Pronunciation Guide

Vowels

- a: like 'a' in father
- e: like 'e' in bed
- ı: a close, unrounded back vowel, similar to the 'a' in about (but more closed)
- i: like 'ee' in feet
- o: like 'o' in bore
- ö: like the 'eu' in French 'feu' or the 'ö' in German 'schön'
- u: like 'oo' in boot
- ü: like the 'u' in French 'tu' or the 'ü' in German 'über'

Consonants

- c: like 'j' in jam
- ç: like 'ch' in chat
- ğ: lengthens the preceding vowel; almost silent
- j: like 's' in pleasure
- ş: like 'sh' in shop
- Other consonants are generally pronounced as in English.

Stress

Stress is generally on the last syllable.

Example:

tele-Vİ-zyon