

Lesson 1(Ders 1)

- **The Turkish Alphabet (Türk Alfabeti),**
- **Pronunciation (Söyleniş) ,**
- **Agglutination (Bitiştirme)**
- **Vowel Harmony (Ünlü Uyumu)**
- **Vowel Harmony and Personal Pronouns: (Ünlü Uyumu ve Kişi Zamirleri)**
- **To be (olmak)**

There are **29** letters in the Turkish Alphabet, fewer than English letters:

aA bB cC çÇ dD eE fF gG ğĞ hH ıI iİ jJ kK lL mM nN oO öÖ pP rR sS şŞ tT uU üÜ vV yY zZ

21 One of these letters are Consonants

and **8** of them are vowels: **a e i o ö u ü**

Vowels are pronounced short in Turkish unlike long English ones. Most consonants sound the same as they do in English:

Merhaba: Hello

▶ as the e in 'get'

Evet: Yes

Hayır: No

▶ As the u in the 'cup'

Nasılsınız?: How are you?

▶ as the i in 'cousin' or the 'er' in butter.

İyyim: I am fine.

▶ as the i in 'it'

Teşekkürler: Thank you

- ▶ as the German ü or as the u in the French word ‘tu’.

Uzak: Distant

- ▶ as the u in ‘pull’

Oğlan: Boy

- ▶ as the o in ‘box’

Öğlen: Afternoon

- ▶ as the German ö or as the eu in the French word ‘deux’, or as the i in ‘bird’.

Cep: Pocket

- ▶ as the j in ‘John’

Ĵale: Girls name.

- ▶ as the j in the French word ‘Jaques’, or as the s in ‘pleasure’

Veli: Boys name

- ▶ a sound half-way between the English w and v.

Çamur: Mud

- ▶ as the ch in ‘child’

Şule: Girls name.

- ▶ as the sh in ‘show’

Boğa: Bull

- ▶ ‘ğ’ (yumuşak g) has no sound. **Ğ**, always comes after a vowel and turns that vowel into a long sound. You might think of it as doubling the vowel before there are no words. There are no words beginning with ğ.

Agglutination

Where English uses a number of words, Turkish often uses only one. Turkish does this by sticking related words to each other which is called ‘agglutination’ For example “you will be able to come” is a single word in Turkish:

Gel+ebil+ecek(will)+sin(you)

- ▼ ▶ be able to

Come

(stem)

Vowel Harmony:

Most vowels in words whether they are agglutinated or not they have to rhyme or harmonise with each other.

The vowels below commonly harmonised with each other in words:

a – ı – o – u

- 1- araba (car)
- 2- soba (stove)
- 3- bardak (glass)
- 4- kalem (pen) –exception

e – i – ö – ü

- 1- ediven (glove)
- 2- keçi (goat)
- 3- kilim (rug)
- 4- kiraz (cherry) -exception

When agglutinating the words with different endings they have number of different forms: For example;

-e type endings

e goes after **e i ö ü**

a goes after **a ı o u**

-following are –e type endings

-e to, for

-den from

-de at, on, it

-ce according to

-e endings which contain the letter **e**. They have two possible forms. For example, the ending **-le** can be either **-le** or **-la**.

-i type endings

i goes after **e, i**

ı goes after **a, ı**

ü goes after **ö, ü**

u goes after **o, u**

-ci denotes a person occupation

-li with, containing

-lik ness

-siz without

	unrounded		Rounded	
	Open	closed	Open	closed
Front	e	i	ö	ü
back	a	ı	o	u

-i endings which contain the letter **ı**. They have four possible forms. For example, the ending **-iyor** can be **-iyor**, **-ıyor**, **-üyor** or **-uyor**. (We will see this in the present continuous tense section)

Vowel Harmony and Personal Pronouns: (Ünlü Uyumu ve Kişi Zamirleri)

- ım** comes after **ı,a** **Almanım (I am German)**
- im** comes after **i,e** **İngilizim (I am English)**
- um** comes after **u,o** **Orduluyum (I am from Ordu)**
- üm** comes after **ü,ö** **Karabüklüyüm (I am from Karabük)**

Usually you do not need to use personal pronouns (ben,sen etc)Thus İngilizim is enough to say I am English, and İngiliz will do for he is English. However you do need to use onlar when you say they. The usual way to say they are Turkish is Onlar Türk. When you use personal pronoun onlar, you do not need to use the ending –ler.

To be: The Turkish equivalents of the different parts of the verb to be are the endings **–im, –sin, –iz, –siniz and –ler**

singular	plural
Ben ingiliz im – I am English	Biz İngiliz iz – We are English
Sen İngiliz sin –You are English	Siz İngiliz siniz -You are English
O İngiliz- he/she is English	Onlar İngiliz(ler)-They are English

Plurals and Vowel Harmony

the they form only has two different versions because it follows the rule of e-type vowel harmony.

-ler comes after **i,e,ü,ö**

-lar comes after **ı,a u,o**

Ben	Sekreterim (secretary)	Türküm (Turkish)	Almanım (German)	Memnunum (Pleased)
Sen	Sekretersin	Türksün	Almansın	Memnunsun
O	Sekreter	Türk	Alman	Memnun
Biz	Sekreteriz	Türküz	Almanız	Memnunuz
Siz	Sekretersiniz	Türksünüz	Almanız	Memnunsunuz
Onlar	Sekreterler	Türkler	Almanlar	Memnunlar

Exercises:

1- Please write the below words by using different personal pronouns:

-Türk

-Ben.....

-Sen.....

-O.....

Biz.....

Siz.....,

Onlar.....

-Alman

Ben.....

Sen.....

O.....

Biz.....

Siz.....

Onlar.....

2- Write the plural forms of singular nouns below:

-ayı (bear)

-elma (apple)

-eşek (donkey)

-karpuz (watermelon)

-ayakkabı (shoes)

-hali (carpet)

-üzüm (grape)