

Turkish Manual: Language and Culture



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** This is a compendium of materials; the presenters are not claiming ownership of the information. This language manuals' purpose is to serve as a reference.

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Demographics and Language

Turkish is the official language in the Republic of Turkey, spoken by 90% of its population. It is the 15th most widely spoken language in the world. Approximately 77 million people speak Turkish worldwide.

<http://www.photius.com/rankings/languages2.html> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language

Turkey is located in South Eastern Europe and shares borders with Bulgaria, Greece, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Syria. It also borders with the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Aegean Sea.

The capital of Turkey is Ankara. The Turkish government's political structure is a republican parliamentary democracy.

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/turkey-country-profile.html>



Map from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language

Demographic of Turkey

Ethnic Groups

The population of Turkey (December 2009) was estimated to be 72.5 million people. About 80% of the population is Turkish. The major ethnic minority (by mother tongue), the Kurds, is estimated at 20%. Arabs, Turkmen, Circassians, Greeks, and others do account for a small percentage of the population.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Asia-and-Oceania/Turkey-ETHNIC-GROUPS.html> and
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey>

Religion

Turkey is a secular state with no official state religion. However, the main religion practiced in Turkey is Muslim with an affiliation of 99.8% (mostly Sunni). The other 0.2% is made up mostly of Christians and Jews.

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/turkey-country-profile.html>

Politics and Government

Before the 1970s, there was very little Turkish American involvement in American politics. The Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, however, mobilized many individuals because of U.S. government support for the Greeks. Nonetheless, the small Turkish American community was not able to counter the influence of the much larger and more powerful Greek American organizations. Turkish Americans proudly point to Turkey's membership in NATO and its military and political support of the U.S. government during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Economy and Employment

Early Turkish immigrants to the United States were predominantly from Turkey's rural community. They settled in large, industrial cities and found employment as unskilled laborers. The majority came to earn money so that they could improve their economic situation and that of their families in Turkey. After the 1950s, a well-skilled and highly educated class immigrated to the United States, the majority being medical doctors, engineers, and scientists. Today, Turkish Americans are visible in virtually every field. The majority are professionals and enjoy a middle-class lifestyle.

<http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Sr-Z/Turkish-Americans.html>

Languages Spoken in Turkey

The official language of Turkey is Turkish with 90% of the population speaking it. Minority languages include Kurdish spoken by 6% of the population. Arabic is spoken by 1.2% of the Turkish population; however, most of those are bilingual Arabic and Turkish speakers. Other minority languages include Circassian, spoken by more than 0.09% throughout the country, Greek, Armenian and Judezmo, a Romance language spoken by Jews.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey#Demographics>

Linguistic Community

Turkish is part of the Ural- Atlantic languages. The official standard language of Turkey is Istanbul Turkish. However, like the other languages of the world, Turkish has various dialects that have been

shaped by the mass media as well as by the Turkish education system. The various types of dialects of Turkish are presented in the table below:

| Region | Dialect |
|--|--|
| Rumelia | Rumelice Also includes the distinct dialects (influenced by Balkan linguistic union) of: - Deliorman - Dinler - Adakale, |
| Edirne | Edirne |
| Cypriot | Kıbrıs (Cypriot Turkish) |
| Aegean Region to Antalya | Ege |
| Mediterranean Region Of Turkey | Yörük |
| Southeast to the east of Mersin | Güneydoğu |
| Eastern Anatolia | Doğu |
| Central Anatolia | Orta Anadolu |
| Eastern Black Sea Region | Karadeniz |
| Kastamonu | Kastamonu |
| Eastern group of Hamsheins around Artvin | Hemşinli/ Hemsince (influenced by Armenian) |
| Greece | Karamanlica/ Καραμανλῆδικα (Karamanlidika) |

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language

Geographical Distribution

Turks primarily live in Turkey. Regions of Turkey with the largest populations are İstanbul (+12 million), Ankara (+4.4 million), İzmir (+3.7 million), Bursa (+2.4 million), Adana (+2.0 million) and Konya (+1.9 million). Turks can also be found in the surrounding areas of Turkey such as Northern Cyprus (Turkish Cypriots), Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Macedonia, the Dobruja region of Romania, Pakistan, the Sandžak region of Serbia, Kosovo, Syria and Iraq.

After World War II there was migration of the Turks into Europe under the Labour Export Agreement, as a result many Turks settled in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, and Austria as well as in the United Kingdom. It is estimated that there 100,000 Turkish and 130,000 nationals of the Turkish Republic of Cyprus are currently living in the United Kingdom. These high numbers of Turkish individuals, makes the United Kingdom the third largest Turkish community in Europe.

Extending from Europe, individuals of Turkish descent can also be found in smaller number in Chile (1,000), Brazil (5,000), and Mexico (fewer than 2,000).

Turks can also be found in some parts of the United States and Canada.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_people

Population in the United States and Canada

In the United States, the greatest number of Turkish- Americans have settled in Paterson, New York City (mostly in Brooklyn), Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and Rochester. Other concentrations of Turkish Americans may be found along the East Coast in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland and Virginia; and some have ventured into California (esp. Los Angeles), Minnesota, Indiana, Texas, Florida and Alabama. There has also been an increase in the population of individuals of Turkish descent in Canada. While the majority of Turkish immigrants have settled in Montreal and Toronto, Turkish individuals can also be found in Calgary, Edmonton, London, Ottawa, and Vancouver. The population of Turkish Canadians in Metropolitan Toronto may be as large as 5,000.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_people

Linguistic Features

Phonology

Turkish Vowels

Turkish vowels are traditionally represented in a ‘cube’ shape, consisting of all possible values of the features, front/back, high/low, and rounded/unrounded, as in [Figure 1](#). Each vowel can occur long, from the deletion of *ğ*, and the vowels /e i a u/ can occur long in Arabic loanwords, giving a total of 16 vowel phonemes. The vowel letters are for the most part self-explanatory, except for *ı*, an undotted ‘i,’ which is a high back unrounded vowel, IPA [ɯ]. All Turkish vowels are phonetically lax, except sometimes before *y* or *ğ*, thus *a e i ı o ö u ü* sound like [ɑ ɛ i ɯ ɔ œ u y]. Because the difference between *ı* and *i* is distinctive, it must be maintained for capitals also, i.e., *I* and *İ*.

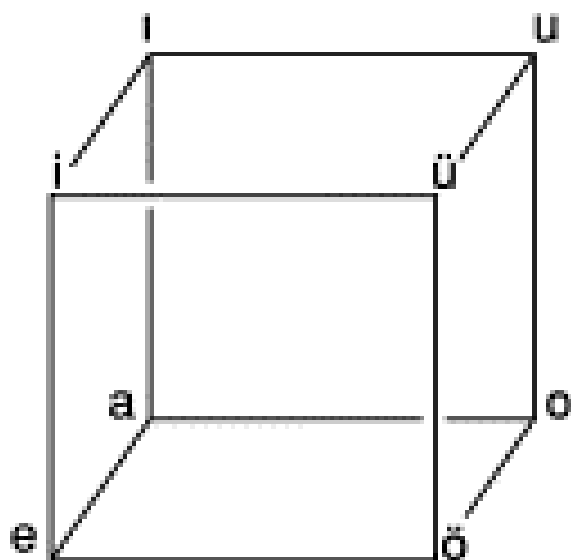


Figure 1. Turkish vowels. Front vowels are represented at the front of the cube, high vowels are at the top, and rounded vowels are to the right. Reproduced with permission from MIT Press.

Stress

Stress in Turkish consists of higher pitch, rather than greater loudness on the accented syllable. Stress is normally on the last syllable of the word; as affixes are added, stress moves rightward.

Vowel Harmony

Vowel harmony involves the two features front/back and rounded/unrounded. It is a syllable-to-syllable process by which each vowel conditions the following vowel, according to the following rules:

1. Any of the vowels can occur in the first syllable of a word.
2. A noninitial vowel assimilates to the previous vowel in frontness.
3. A noninitial high vowel assimilates to the previous vowel in rounding. A noninitial low vowel is unrounded. Thus /o ö/ do not appear in harmonic suffixes.

Turkish Consonants

The International Phonetic Association (IPA) representations of the Turkish consonant system are shown in [Table 1](#). Turkish uses 21 letters for consonants: b c ç d f g ğ h j k l m n p r s ş t v y z. These represent the expected sounds, except as follows:

Letter Sound

c [dʒ]

ç [tʃ]

j [ʒ]

ş [ʃ]

In the following discussions, [tʃ] and [dʒ] will henceforth be written /ç/ and /ğ/, since they function in all phonological respects as members of the natural class of stops, not as clusters. The letters *k g l* each stand for two sounds: a plain velar or lateral [k ɡl] and a front velar or palatal [c ɟ]. In words of Turkish origin, the front velar variant occurs with front vowels and the plain velar occurs with back vowels. In words of Arabic origin, however, /c ɟ/ can occur with back vowels, giving rise to pairs and thus distinctive contrasts, as in *kar* ‘snow’ [kɑr] and *kâr* ‘profit’ [cɑr].

| | Bilabial | | Labio-dental | | Dental | | Alveolar | | Post-alveolar | | Palatal | | Velar | | Glottal | |
|-------------|----------|---|--------------|---|--------|---|----------|----|---------------|---|---------|---|-------|---|---------|--|
| Plosives | p | b | | | t | ɖ | | | | | c | ɟ | k | g | | |
| Nasal | m | | | | n | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fricative | | | f | v | s | z | | | ʃ | ʒ | | | | ɣ | h | |
| Affricate | | | | | | | tʃ | dʒ | | | | | | | | |
| Tap | | | | | | | r | | | | | | | | | |
| Approximant | | | | | | | | | | | j | | | | | |
| Lateral | | | | | ɬ | | | | ɭ | | | | | | | |

Table 1. International Phonetic Association symbols for Turkish consonants

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/referenceworks/0080448542>

Morphology

Turkish is an agglutinating language in which suffixes, in some cases a large number of them (the lists of suffixes in the following sections are not exhaustive), are added fairly transparently to stems:

- (2) ev 'house'
 evler 'houses'
 evlerim 'my houses'
 evlerimiz 'our houses'
 evlerimizde 'in our houses'
 evlerimizdeki 'which is in our houses'

The Noun Paradigm

Noun stems may have the following inflectional suffixes, in order:

1. Plural *-lar* (as in *baba* 'father', *babalar* 'fathers' and *deve* 'camel', *develer* camels).
2. Possessive (possessed agreement).
3. Case (as in *oda* 'room').

- (3) Nominative: Oda
 Genitive *-(n)in*: odanın
 Dative *-(y)a*: odaya
 Objective *-(y)i*: Odayı
 Locative *-(D)a*: odada
 Ablative *-(D)an*: odadan
 Instrumental/comitative *-(y)la*: odayla

The Verb Paradigm

Starting with the verb root, a number of derivational suffixes can be added to build up the verb stem. These include reflexive, reciprocal, causative, passive, impossibility, negative, and abilitative forms. At this point, from the verb stem, it is possible to go in a number of directions. For a finite ('tensed') verb, the next step is a tense suffix, followed normally by a personal ending:

- (4) General present: gelirim 'I come', 'I'll come'
 Progressive: geliyorum 'I am coming'
 (Definite) past: geldim 'I came'
 Unwitnessed past: gelmişim 'I (supposedly) came'
 Future: geleceğim 'I will come'
 Necessitative: gelmeliyim 'I ought to come'
 Optative: geleyim 'let me come'
 Conditional: gelsem 'if I come'

There is also a wide range of nonfinite suffixes possible at this point for the formation of subordinate clauses. These include verbal nouns or nominalizations, participles, and adverbial clause suffixes (traditional ‘converbs’).

Auxiliary Suffixes

Finally, there is a group of suffixes that can be categorized under the heading of ‘auxiliary’. They can be added both to verbal and nonverbal predicates, hence a separate auxiliary category. They include most prominently the personal endings, but also some morphemes that can be called ‘aspects’, although they are not all aspects any more than the tenses are all tenses (abbreviations: sg, singular; prog, progressive):

(5) Yorgun-du -m.

tired -past-1sg

‘I was tired’.

(6) Gel -iyor -du -m.

come-prog -past-1sg

‘I was coming’.

The aspects are past *-y-DI*, dubitative *-y-mİş*, and conditional *-y-sA*. Furthermore, there is an adverbial aspect *-y-ken*. These look very similar to some tenses, i.e., definite past *-DI*, unwitnessed past *-mİş*, and conditional *-sA*, but they differ in morphology, meaning, and prosody (all auxiliary suffixes are prestressing).

The inferential/quotative, sometimes called dubitative (dub), *-y-mİş*, deserves special discussion. This aspect, and to some extent the corresponding tense, *-mİş*, are used when the speaker wishes to be disassociated from the truth of the utterance – for example, when the speaker has information that has only been heard or recently found out (vb, verb):

(7) Sen tembel -miş -sin.

you lazy -dub -2sg

‘They say you are lazy’.

(8) Geçen sene hasta -lan-mış-sın.

past year sick -vb-dub-2sg

‘(I heard) you got sick last year’.

The dubitative can also be used for statements for which the speaker does have personal knowledge of the fact, but is expressing something unexpected or surprising – for example, after trying a food that the speaker had expected to dislike:

(9) Bu yemek iyi -miş!

this food good -dub

‘This food is good!’

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/referenceworks/0080448542>

Syntax

Unmarked (normal) word order is subject-object-verb, as shown in the following example (obj, objective; dat, dative):

(10) Hasan mektub -u

Hasan letter -obj
Ayşe- gönder -di.
ye
Ayşe- send -past
dat
'Hasan sent the letter to Ayşe'.

However, this is complicated by the fact that Turkish has pragmatically conditioned word order, by which the information status of noun phrases, rather than their grammatical function, determines their placement in the sentence. Many of the basic principles were worked out by Erguvanlı (1984). The topic is sentence initial; thus, any of the terms of Example (10) could be initial, depending on whether Hasan, the letter, or Ayşe is the topic. New information comes in the preverbal position, thus any of the terms of Example:

(10), if indefinite, would move preverbally:

(11) Mektub-u Ayşe-ye bir

letter-obj Ayşe-dat a
arkadaş gönder -di.
friend send-past
'A friend sent the letter to Ayşe'.

In fact, preverbal position is focus position; thus, *wh*-words are found here, as well as words questioned contrastively, the focused words in the answers to *wh*-questions, or any focused argument. Though the canonical sentence pattern for English might be written as subject-verb-object-X, where X is everything else, the pattern for Turkish would be topic-X-focus verb, and is thus determined by pragmatic rather than by grammatical conditions. Furthermore, sentences are not necessarily verb final. Backgrounded or unstressed information can move to the right of the verb, producing what is traditionally called a *devrik cümle (tümce)*, or 'inverted sentence' (neg, negative; pl, plural):

(12) Ver-me çocuğ-a kibrit-ler-i.

give-neg child-dat match-pl-obj
'Don't give the child the matches'.

The focus in Example (12) is 'don't give,' and the child and the matches will have been previously mentioned or are clear in the context, i.e., are 'given' in the sense of functional syntax.

Turkish is a left-branching and head-final language in which nouns follow adjectives (Example (13)), possessives (Example (14)), and relative clauses (Example (15)); postpositions follow noun phrases (Example (16)), and verbs follow direct objects, even subordinate clauses (Example (17)) (gen, genitive; poss, possessive; loc, locative; part, participle; abl, ablative; vn, verbal noun; fut, future):

(13) Çok küçük bir çocuk.

very small a child
'A very small child'.

(14) Enver-in şapka-sı.

Enver-gen hat-poss

(15) Köşe-de otur-an kız.
corner-loc sit-part Girl
'The girl who is sitting in the corner'.

(16) Bu haber-den dolayı.
This news-abl because
'Because of this news'.

(17) Hasan-ın yarın
Hasan-gen tomorrow
gel-eceğ-in-i duy-du-m.
come-vn.fut-3sg-obj hear-past-1sg
'I heard that Hasan will come tomorrow'.

Notice from Example (17) that Turkish is a pro-drop language ('pronoun dropping'; i.e., subject pronouns normally are not used, as in Latin or Spanish). Overt pronouns appear in cases of focus or contrast, including topic change. Because relative clauses precede head nouns, and direct objects (including noun complement clauses) precede the main verb, Turkish sentences sometimes give the impression of having the reverse word order from English. English speakers reading Turkish sometimes find it easier to start at the end of a sentence and read toward the front, and Turkish speakers report that they do the same in reading English.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/referenceworks/0080448542>

Pragmatics

There are a number of social interactions that are similar and different in the Turkish culture. The following is a list of Do's and Don'ts when interacting with a Turkish client:

- DON'T use your left hand when dining. The left hand is considered unclean.
- DON'T stand with your hands on your hips or in your pockets.
- DO be aware that in more rural areas where people are more conservative, men and women are expected not to touch. Even shaking hands can be taboo.
- Do understand that "yes" is a nod of the head going down and "no" is the nod of the head going up, alongside with a sucking sound made between your two front teeth.
- DON'T point at someone with your figure.
- DO keep your feet flat on the ground when sitting. Showing the bottom of your feet is considered insulting in Turkey.
- DON'T make the "okay" sign with your hand. It's a rude gesture in Turkey.
- Don't put your thumb between your index and middle figure. It's a vulgar gesture.
- DO shake hands when appropriate. Include children, and shake hands with elders first.
- DO exchange two kisses on the cheek with friends and relatives.
- DO be punctual to scheduling.

- DON'T discuss business right off the bat. First appointments are often just to get to know each other. Engage in small talk about things such as soccer, families, and Turkish history. Avoid bringing up politics.
- DO have your information printed in both English and Turkish.
- DO maintain eye contact during meetings. Turks take eye contact while speaking as a sign of honesty.
- Do remain patient, as decision-making can be slow in Turkey.

<http://www.vayama.com/turkey-etiquette?s=97728403>

Common English Pronunciation Errors made by Turkish Speakers

Turkish speakers who acquire English as a second language often make similar errors when speaking English. These dialectal and accent differences are summarized in the chart below:

<http://www.btinternet.com/~ted.power/11turkish.html>

| FIX PROBLEM | ENGLISH SOUND | - | COMMON ERROR | - |
|---|----------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Tongue low central. Lips relaxed. | /ʌ/ | "cup" | | |
| Tongue central. Then tightly round lips. | /əʊ/ | "bone" | /ɔ:/ | "born" |
| Tongue central. Then tightly round lips. | /əʊ/ | "note" | /ɒ/ | "not" |
| Start with tongue low & back. | /ɔɪ/ | "boy" | | |
| Start with tongue low front. | /aɪ/ | "buy" | | |
| Voiced. Vibration. Trap air with lips. | /b/ | "rib" | /p/ | "rip" |
| Tongue more central. Lips relaxed. | /ʌ/ | "cup" | /æ/ | "cap" |
| Back of tongue high. Keep lips tightly rounded. | /u:/ | "tool" | /ʊə/ | "tour" |
| Back of tongue high. Lips rounded but relaxed. Short. | /ʊ/ | "full" | /u:/ | "fool" |
| Tongue low, back & fixed. Jaws together. | /ɔ:/ | "bought" | /əʊ/ | "boat" |
| Mouth more open. Make sound longer. | /ɑ:/ | "cart" | /ʌ/ | "cut" |

| FIX PROBLEM | ENGLISH SOUND | - | COMMON ERROR | - |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Move front of tongue a little higher. | /e/ | "set" | /æ/ | "sat" |
| Weak endings: e.g. "London" "England" | /ə/ | "the" (schwa) | | |
| Unvoiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate. | /tʃ/ | "watch" | /ʃ/ | "wash" |
| Start with lips tightly rounded. Unround & glide. | /w/ | "west" | /v/ | "vest" |
| Back of tongue to back roof. Nasal. | /ŋ/ + /k/ | "think" | /ŋ/ + /g/ | "thin" + k or g |
| British /r/ is weaker & sometimes silent. | /r/ | "sir" | | "sirrrr" |
| Contact. Brief "schwa" after release. | /ɫ/ | "tall" (dark l) | | |
| Tongue touches alveolar ridge. Nasal. | /n/ | "sun" | | |
| Tongue from centre front. Draw back to centre. | /eə/ | "bear" | /eɪ/ | "bay" |
| Voiced stop: back of tongue to back roof. | /ŋ/ + /g/ | "thing" | /ŋ/ + /k/ | "think" |
| Voiceless: tip of tongue behind top teeth. Friction. | /s/ | "rice" | /z/ | "rise" |
| Voiced: tip of tongue behind top teeth. Friction. | /z/ | "rise" | /s/ | "rice" |
| Quickly push air from throat out of mouth. | /h/ | "hot" | | "ch" in "loch" |
| Voiceless. Friction. Tongue between teeth. | /θ/ | "thin" | | |
| Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth. | /ð/ | "clothe" | /θ/ | "cloth" |
| Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth. | /ð/ | "they" | /d/ | "day" |
| Tip of tongue behind top teeth. | /d/ | "made" | /t/ | "mate" |
| Voiced. Friction with top teeth & bottom lip. | /v/ | "vet" | /w/ | "wet" |
| Lips tightly together. Nasal. | /m/ | "home" | | |

Child Language Acquisition

For information on the pattern of language acquisition of Turkish in children, please go to the following reference:

Aksu- Koç, A. A. & Slobin D. I. (1986). The Acquisition of Turkish. In Slobin D. I. (Ed.), *The Crosslinguistic Study of Language Acquisition: Volume One: the Data* (pp 839-878). Hillsdale, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Language Differences: English and Turkish

The following information describes further the language differences in the English and Turkish languages.

Turkish is an *agglutinative* language. This means that endings are added one by one to the root of a word to produce the desired meaning. So an English verb phrase such as *You should not have to go* would be expressed in Turkish as a single word with *go* as the root.

Alphabet

The Turkish alphabet consists of 29 letters. It lacks the *Q*, *W* and *X* of English, but includes letters with a diacritic, such as Ç. There are 8 vowels and 21 consonants. The English alphabet and writing system cause Turkish students no particular problems.

Phonology

A feature of Turkish is vowel harmony. This means that all the vowels in a word have to be of the same general type (vowels produced at the front of the mouth or vowels produced at the back of the mouth). English does not have this feature, and the randomness of vowel sounds in polysyllabic words can be a problem for Turkish speakers. Common specific difficulties include: the inclusion of an extra vowel in words like *sport* (> *siport*) or the omission in words like *support* (> *sport*) and confusion of minimal pairs such as *law/low*, *man / men* or *kip / keep*.

As far as consonants are concerned, Turkish students, like most others, have problems with the (/θ/ /ð/) sounds in the words such as *then*, *think* and *clothes*. They struggle also with words or syllables beginning with the /w/ and /v/ sounds, pronouncing *vine* as *wine*, or vice versa. Consonant clusters (3 or more consonants together) are rare in Turkish, so learners often stumble over words such as *strength* or *split*. The nature of oral English, in which fully-stressed single syllables are given the same duration as two or more unstressed syllables is difficult for Turkish learners. Turkish words are generally stressed on the final or penultimate syllable. They need practice, therefore, in producing the expected intonation patterns of everyday spoken English.

Grammar - Verb/Tense

Most aspects of the English verb system have their counterparts in Turkish, so there will be nothing fundamentally unfamiliar to Turkish learners. However, there are differences that may result in

interference mistakes. The absence of a separate verb *to be* leads to mistakes such as *My sister doctor*. Learners often misuse the continuous tense when in English the simple form is required: *I am believing him* or *I am playing tennis every day*.

Grammar – Other

In contrast to English, written Turkish follows a Subject-Object-Verb pattern. There are some other word order differences such as 'prepositions' following the noun in Turkish, modal verbs following main verbs, relative clauses preceding the noun they modify. These variations often result in students having difficulty with the placement of elements in longer, more complex English sentences.

Turkish has no definite article, and use of the indefinite article does not always coincide with its use in English. So interference mistakes are predictable in this area. Similarly, personal pronouns in Turkish are used much less frequently than in English. Sentences such as *John has sold car* may be heard.

Vocabulary

There are few English-Turkish cognates, and those are mainly words that share French roots.

<http://esl.fis.edu/grammar/langdiff/turkish.htm>.

Tests & Assessment Materials

There is a lack of testing and assessment materials for Turkish speakers available for SLPs. The Bilingual Verbal Ability Tests (BVAT) by Ana F. Munoz-Sandoval, Jim Cummins, Criselda G. Alvarado, and Mary L. Ruef is one of the only standardized tests recommended by ASHA to assess overall verbal ability that is norm-referenced in Turkish. Published in 1998, this test is standardized for ages 5; 0-adult and is available in 17 languages.

[http://www.asha.org/SLP/assessment/Bilingual-Verbal-Ability-Tests-\(BVAT\).htm](http://www.asha.org/SLP/assessment/Bilingual-Verbal-Ability-Tests-(BVAT).htm)

Languages sample analysis can be used normatively to evaluate the extent and nature of children's language disorders. This is particularly valuable in the absences of standardized testing. A number of computer programs have been created to streamline the analysis process. One of these computer programs is SALT (Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts). This information is from Computer based analysis of *Turkish child language: Clinical and research application*. (See Resources: Research articles)

The following materials may be helpful in becoming more knowledgeable about the Turkish language and bilingual assessment:

- Bilingual Communication Assessment Resource by Larry J. Mattes and Cristina Saldana-Illingworth.
- Communication Disorders in Turkish by Seyhun Topbas and Mehmet S. Yavas.

For more information and resources contact the Turkish Hearing and Speech Rehabilitation Foundation at P.K. 876; Karakoy-Istanbul, Turkey.

Therapy Materials

It is important that a clinician be sensitive of the client's culture when planning appropriate therapy approaches. Investigation of therapy materials for Turkish clients is scarce, although there are some books that can be used as references (e.g. Communication Disorders in Turkish by Seyhun Topbas). Furthermore, there are other websites that claim to sell workbooks that contain worksheets and therapy materials that can be used with culturally diverse clients such as: "Working with Dysphagia" and "Semantic Workbooks" available on the website below.

However, as a result of the lack of appropriate therapy materials the clinician can take other measure such as using an interpreter or translators when needed, having cultural humility, and being familiar with cross linguistic effects.

<http://www.thebrainary.com/shop/home.php?cat=1403>

Presentation: Ana K. Fox at the Austin Area of Speech and Language Pathologists

Common Phrases in Turkish

Knowing basic phrases in Turkish may help a clinician build better rapport with their client. Some common phrases include:

Merhaba —Hello

Gun aylin — Good Morning;

Iyi aksamlar —Good Evening

Nasilsiniz —How are you?

Iyiyim —I'm fine

Tessekkur ederim —Thank you;

Saatler olsun !—May it last for hours! (said to one after a bath, shave, or haircut);

Gecmis olsun !—May it be in the past! (said in case of illness).

Culture of Turkey/ Social Aspects

Food

A typical Turkish meal begins with soup or meze (hors d'oeuvres), followed in succession by the main course (usually red meat, chicken, or fish), vegetables cooked in olive oil, dessert, and fresh fruit. Turkish coffee completes the feast and is served in small cups.

Favorite soups include wedding soup, which combines chicken and beef broth, eggs, lemon, and vegetables; lentil soup, which flavors the basic bean with beef broth, flour, butter, and paprika; and tarhana soup, which is made with a dried preparation of flour, yogurt, tomato, and red pepper flakes.

Although most meals begin with soup, tripe soup—featuring a sauce of vinegar and garlic—is served after a complete dinner and is usually accompanied by alcoholic drinks.

Borek, which is a pastry roll, filled with cheese or ground meat, and dolma, made from stuffed grape leaves, green pepper or eggplant are most often served prior to the meal. The meze tray features salads and purees, but may also include eggplant, caviar, lamb or veal, fried vegetables with yogurt sauce, and a wide variety of seafood.

The main course sometimes consists of seafood, which may be grilled, fried, or stewed. Kofte (meatballs) are another specialty, served grilled, fried, or stewed with vegetables. Fresh vegetables are widely used, served either hot or cold. Vegetables cooked with olive oil are essential to Turkish cuisine. Eggplant, peppers, green beans, and peas are the primary vegetables cooked with olive oil, which is also used as a main ingredient in salads. Rice pilaf, which sometimes contains currants and pine nuts, is served as a side dish. Buttermilk, made of yogurt and water, is preferred with meat dishes. Rakl, a drink similar to anisette, is often consumed as an alternative to wine.

The final touch to a meal is a tray of fresh fruits, including peaches, apples, pears, raisins, figs, oranges, and melons. Dessert treats include: baklava, a flaky pastry dipped in syrup; bulbul yuvasi, thin pastry leaves with walnut filling and lemon peel syrup; sekerpare, sweet cookies; and lokma, Turkish fritters. Puddings are also popular, including muhallebi, milk pudding, and sutlac, rice pudding.

At the beginning or end of a meal, it is customary to hear "Afıyet Olsun," which means, "May what you eat bring you well-being." To praise the chef, one says "Elinize saglik," or "Bless your hands."



<http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Sr-Z/Turkish-Americans.html>

pictures: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_cuisine

Family Dynamics

Families are divided into several types according to social, economic and local conditions. The *traditional extended* and *nuclear* families are the two common types of families in Turkey. The traditional extended family, generally means that three generations live together: grandfather, adult sons and sons' sons, their wives and their unmarried daughters a married daughter becomes a member of her husband's family and lives there. There is a unity of production and consumption together with common property. This type of family is becoming more and more rare today. The nuclear family, parallel to industrialization and

urbanization, replaces traditional families. The nuclear family consists of a husband, wife and unmarried children and is more suitable to modern Turkish social life today.

There are some economic, traditional and emotional conditions that form the duties and responsibilities of the modern nuclear family member. As for the economic conditions, each individual is supposed to play a part in supporting the continuation of the family. The father is usually responsible for making the basic income, the mother may perhaps contribute by working and if not, will assume full-time take care of the home. Grandparents may also supply help with incomes from their pension or returns from owned property and rents. Younger children help with the housework (re-pairing, painting, cleaning) and when older contribute by usually covering at least their own expenses. Tradition places the father as the head of the family, but the mother has equal rights. The father is the representative and protector of the family whereas the mother takes care of all the day to day things.

http://www.enjoyturkey.com/info/culture/Life_Style.htm

Clothing

Although most Turkish individuals are Muslim, Turkish society is modern and predominantly secular, so European dress styles prevail. Many observant Turkish Muslim women (perhaps 30% of the female population) dress in *tesettür*, a headscarf and light cover-all topcoat, when going out in public. This satisfies the Islamic admonition to modest dress without infringing Turkish law which prohibits religious dress in public places. You may see women in burka (full-body covering, with veil), but they will most likely be visitors from other countries with a stricter interpretation of Islamic dress traditions. Actually, the veil is outlawed in Turkey (but the law is little enforced), and even the wearing of headscarves in secular contexts (universities, government offices, etc.) is controversial

http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/details/WomenTravelers/women_wear.html

Customs and Traditions

Evil Eye

May be seen in a restaurant, hotel or even a taxi you will see the boncuk nazar, or charm, to ward off the evil eye. They can be blue glass beads or pottery with a black eye painted in the center. Mothers pin small beads on their children's back or hang them over a crib. They are also found at the entrances to homes. According to folklore, when something is praised it risks attracting the evil eye of jealousy. The charm deflects this.

Coffee House Culture

Coffee houses are another mainstay of Turkish life. When coffee was introduced to the Ottomans in the 16th century, it became an instant hit and coffee houses and stores were opened everywhere to grind the beans. For generations men have gathered in the coffee house to talk over matters of the day, smoke

hubble-bubble pipes and play backgammon, or tavlâ, another traditional pastime. The coffee house is the preserve of the Turkish male.

Turkish hospitality

When visiting a client at their home, you should take off your shoes when entering the house. Turks pride themselves on the cleanliness of their home and do not appreciate having the dirt from the street taken inside. Often, your host will have a pair of indoor shoes or slippers for guests to wear. A meal in a Turkish house is an elaborate affair. The table will be teeming with home-cooked food. It is customary to try everything, even if you are on the brink of bursting.

<http://www.guideturkey.co.cc/2009/03/customs-traditions.html>

History of Turkey

The region occupied by Turkey was permanently inhabited at least as early as 7000 B.C. The Byzantine Empire, the great Christian empire that dominated the region for almost 1,000 years, fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 A.D. The Ottomans established an empire that lasted until the early 20th century. The Ottoman Empire was dissolved after World War I. The breakup of the empire and the harsh provisions of the Treaty of Sevres rallied the people to a nationalist movement led by Mustafa Kemal, a Turkish army commander. In 1920 he called for the election of a new National Assembly. Elections were held; Sultan Mohammed VI was declared deposed; and a provisional government was formed, with Kemal as president. The assembly conferred on him the surname Atatürk, “father of the Turks.”

The new government at Ankara rejected the Treaty of Sèvres, and fighting broke out. During the Greco-Turkish War, or War for Turkish Independence (1920–22), the Turks drove out the Greek army. When hostilities ceased, Sultan Mohammed VI, who had continued to head a rival government at Constantinople (Istanbul), was exiled. The Treaty of Lausanne (1923) was negotiated with the European powers. Under its provisions, Turkey was recognized as a fully independent state, and the ceded areas of Thrace and Anatolia were restored.

The Republic of Turkey was proclaimed in 1923, with Kemal Atatürk as its first president. Far-reaching political, social, and economic reforms were put into effect. Atatürk abolished the sultanate and later exiled all Ottoman heirs. He did away with old traditions associated with the empire—men could no longer wear the fez (a hat), nor women the veil. Women were given political and civil rights equal to those of men. Church and state were separated, and the property of the mosques nationalized. Universal education and a new law code were introduced. When many of these changes were not accepted by the people, Atatürk assumed unlimited dictatorial powers. After his death in 1938, the premier, İsmet İnönü, was elected president.

By the Montreux Convention of 1936, Turkey was given the right to fortify the Dardanelles and Bosphorus straits. Treaties of alliance were signed with Great Britain and France in 1939. During World War II, Turkey remained neutral until 1944, when it broke relations with Germany. The following year, it declared war on Germany and Japan.

After World War II

In the cold war that followed World War II, Turkey became an ally of the West. The United States granted it military and economic assistance in accordance with the Truman Doctrine. In the election of 1950, the Republican People's party (founded by Atatürk) was defeated by the Democratic party, founded in 1945 and led by Celâl Bayar. Under President Bayar, Turkey, a charter member of the United Nations, sent a brigade to fight with UN troops in Korea in 1950. In 1952 the country became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Because its strategic location made it vulnerable, Turkey entered into a series of military alliances with its neighbors to bolster its defenses. A treaty of friendship was signed with Greece and Yugoslavia in 1953, and a 20-year mutual-aid pact the following year. Turkey completed an economic and political collaboration agreement with Pakistan in 1954. In 1955 it joined the alliance that became the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in 1959. (CENTO became defunct in 1979.)

Throughout the 1970's, Turkey suffered from unstable and ineffective government, in which no political party could sustain a working majority in parliament. Martial law was declared in 1971, 1972, and 1978 to quell violence between political factions. Mounting economic difficulties, and the government's inability to solve them, produced increased discontent.

In 1980, after renewed violence between political factions, the armed forces seized control of the government, disbanded the parliament, banned all political parties, suspended the constitution, declared martial law, and established a ruling junta of military officers. Within two years, the junta achieved political stability and in 1982 a new constitution was adopted restoring civilian rule. In 1983 the ban on most political parties was lifted. Martial law was phased out during 1984–87. In 1984 Kurdish separatists began a terrorist campaign against the government. The Turkish military launched reprisal raids throughout Kurdish regions in Turkey and, during the early 1990's, also attacked Kurdish settlements in northern Iraq. Approximately 30,000 people died as a result. Most of the fighting ceased after the capture of the Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan by the Turkish government in 1999.

Turkey's first woman prime minister, Tansu Ciller, served during 1993–95. In 1995 an Islamic party (the Welfare Party) won a plurality of votes in national elections and in the following year Necmettin Erbakan became prime minister. He was the first prime minister from an Islamic party in the history of the Turkish Republic. About a year later he resigned under pressure from the military.

Former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit became Turkey's head of the government in 1999. Ahmet Necdet Sezer won the presidential post in 2000. The Justice and Development Party won a majority of the seats in the legislature in November, 2002, election, and Abdullah Gul became prime minister. Recep Tayyip Erdogan replaced Gul in March, 2003, following a special election.

<http://history.howstuffworks.com/asian-history/history-of-turkey2.htm>

Interpreter Services in the Austin area:

Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association: <http://www.aatia.org>

Interview with a Turkish- American

1. Tell me about yourself, in regard to where you grew up and when you moved to the U.S.

I was born in Boston MA while my father was doing a graduate degree there at the time. For this reason, I was born a US citizen. Because I had dual citizenship, I had the option of going to International School in Istanbul, and my parents decided me to send me there beginning in Pre-Kindergarten. So I was introduced to instruction to the English language at a very early age. I actually have not taken a formal Turkish class in my life. My written Turkish is virtually self-taught through newspaper, and leisurely reading. I have also been in the US for the past 8 years starting with Boarding School in New England.

2. What is your first language? How many and what languages do you speak? What do you think is your strongest language?

My first language is Turkish, although I have a stronger grasp of the English language now probably. (My SAT Verbal was higher than my Math.) But if we're speaking in terms of chronology my first language in Turkish: I have a memory of asking my Mother what "yes" and "no" means in English.

3. Do feel like you connect more to American or Turkish culture?

This is an interesting question and very hard to answer. In some respects, I think I am more American than Turkish, while in others I am more Turkish than American. Lots of my friends are American for example, and socially I think I have adapted to this culture over the past ten years socially. More than anything I would like to say that I am "international;" as I went to an international school in Istanbul, and grew up with children whose parents were from all around the world; some of my best friends were from Korea, Israel, Italy and the UK for example. At the same time though, I think I am pretty Turkish in certain respects, as this is the culture that I was raised in.

4. What is a holiday like at your house?

I wouldn't say that there is the sense of holiday that there traditionally in the US in my house. I am not saying that there isn't holiday-like traditions in Turkey overall, just not in my house. This goes into deeper territory; but I would classify my family as part of the "secular class" in Turkey. They were raised in a culture where the division between religion and government (and other public areas of life) were really emphasized. Being secular does by definition make you non-religious, but it is often the case secular people in Turkey are not as observant in their religious activities: for example they do not fast as seriously during Ramadan, and they do not do the traditional visits to relatives during Eid. They used to do so more in past generations, but especially in my generation, these traditions died out among the secular (and usually relatively wealthy) classes. This isn't a good thing.

If it interests you I could try to explain this to you in greater detail over phone or in person, but short hand answer to your question is that, we basically do not celebrate traditional religious holidays in my house. My parents occasionally fast for one or two days during Ramadan, but there is no serious observance of Islamic holiday traditions. It is also fair to say that we have no secular holiday "traditions" in Turkey; like we have no Thanksgiving-like holiday.

5. Do you embrace your accent or wish that you had a more generic English accent?

Also a good question. I embrace my accent, and I am lucky that it is not that much of a heavy Turkish accent, as say of my parents and of many of my Turkish friends when speaking English. I do notice however that it is approached differently in different circles. When I enter more backwards settings in the US; say my barbershop in Austin for example, I feel like I have a harder time communicating, and can sometimes even feel like an outsider to an extent, just because they're not used to different accents. However, in more cosmopolitan settings, like the university I went to in NY or the GLG office, quite to the contrary, I feel like having an accent and coming from an international background is an asset, and an edge I have over my American peers. So it changes really. Another thing is that when I hear a recording of myself, I often ask myself, who is this Turkish guy? When I hear myself speaking in the moment, my accent sounds very neutral and normal; like the way English should be spoken. When I hear a recording of myself, I notice that some of my enunciations are characteristically Turkish, and my accent shares the same characteristics of those of a lot of Turkish people around me.

6. How do you think you would be different if you had not moved to the U.S. and were still in Turkey?

I think the more important question for me is if I had not went to International school. I would definitely be a very different person than I am now. Turkish would solidly be my first language, I would be thinking in Turkish, and my cultural sensibilities would be much more Turkish. Right now I'm in much more of a hybrid cultural state, because I have been a part of both worlds.

7. When you are greeting someone or talking to someone in Turkey compared to the US, would you change things like how close you stand, eye contact, touching, or the amount of slang used?

I definitely do. It is not only the words that change when I speak language, but my manner of speech and the hand and facial gestures that accompany them. I would say that English slang comes easier to me just because I have been speaking English with most of my friends for so long. But Turkish slang is an art form, more so than English slang, there is potential to be really creative and intelligent.

8. What is your religious background? Do you feel like it follows with mainstream Turkish or American culture?

This relates to the holiday question above. I am Muslim, but not a devout one by any means. I would say that I am only nominally a Muslim, I am not even sure if I believe in God. In the case of my parents, they would both say that they believe in God and Muslim, but I think that they are more "culturally" Muslim than ideological/theological Muslims. God or "Allah" may come up quite a bit in language, but this seems to be a characteristic of the Turkish language more than anything else. My mother is quite superstitious and will pray to God sometimes, but not in a strictly Islamic way: not by reciting Arabic prayers or praying five times a day, but in a more universal secularized fashion.

This is characteristic of many Turks with similar backgrounds to me, whereas this won't hold for many Arabs or Muslims from anywhere else in the world really: we Turks will fervently say that we are Muslim when we are asked what our religion is, but at the same time we will drink (not allowed in the Qu'ran), not pray, don't make the pilgrimage to Mecca, and really fill none of the requirements to be a Muslim. So as I said before it is just really a title.

9. How would Austin compare to your hometown?

My hometown is Istanbul which is an insanely large megapolis, one of the top five largest cities in the world, with about 15 million population. Istanbul is a chaotic jungle, you have to know the city pretty well to be able to navigate it, and even then traffic is notoriously bad, public transportation is undependable etc.. So life is much more stressful and challenging in many respects compared to Austin. Trying to get from one corner of the city to another through public transportation is like making a pilgrimage.

Disadvantages aside though, it is an effortlessly beautiful city with thousands of years of history (compared to Austin's hundreds? not even). It is characterized by the Bosphorous which is the strait that separates the continent of Asia from Europe. There is also a lot to do culturally; countless bars, clubs, cafes, concerts, restaurants. However, in order to maintain your sanity, and make use of these resources, I feel like you really have to carve a niche out for yourself in the city; whereas in Austin everything is easily accessible and friendly.

10. What is your favorite Turkish food?

There are many dishes that I like. One of my favorites is Manti which is basically Turkish ravioli. It is served with yoghurt and a tomato sauce on top.

Web Resources

➤ **Turkish Cuisine:**

Website Name: Turkish Cuisine and Recipe

Web Address: <http://turkish.homestead.com/>

Website Name: Turkish Cuisine

Web Address: <http://www.turkish-cuisine.org/english/index.php>

Website Name: Binnur's Turkish Cookbook

Web Address: <http://english.turkishcookbook.com/>

➤ **Turkish Language:**

Website Name: 100 Most Useful Words in Turkish

Web Address: http://www.turkeytravelpinner.com/details/LanguageGuide/100words_lessons/

Website Name: A mini Turkish language lesson

Web Address: <http://www.turizm.net/turkey/info/lesson.html>

Website Name: Manisa Turkish- About the Turkish Language

Web Address: <http://www.turkishlanguage.co.uk/about.htm>

➤ **Turkish History**

Website Name: All about Turkey

Website Address: <http://www.allaboutturkey.com/history.htm>

Website Name: Turizm

Website Address: <http://www.turizm.net/turkey/history/ottoman.html>

Website Name: iexplore

Website Address: <http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/Turkey/History>

➤ **Turkish Traditions:**

Website Name: Peter Sommer Travels: Turkish folk traditions

Web Address: <http://www.petersommer.com/turkey-travel-country/turkey-traditions/>

Website Name: Turkish Traditions

Web Address: <http://www.travels.com/travel-tips/advice/turkish-traditions/>

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