

TURKISH

SOME USEFUL PHRASES IN TURKISH

Merhaba!

[mɛ:raba]

/merabah!/
Hello!

Sizin adınız ne(dir)? Benim adım Sam(dir).

[sizin adınız ne(dir) benim adım səm(dir)]

/Sizin ahdiniz ne(dir)? Benim ahdim Sam(dir)/

What is your name? My name is Sam.

Nasılsın(ız)? Çok iyiyim.

[nasilsin(iz) tʃok^h ijijim]

/Nasilsineez? Chok iyiyim/

How are you? I am (doing) very good.

Siz neredensiniz? Ben Amerika'danım.

[siz neredənsiniz bən amerik^hadanım]

/Siz neredaensiniz? Ben Amerikadahnim./

Where are you from? I am from America.

Bu kitap ne kadar? On beş dolar.

[bu k^hitap ne k^hadar on beş dolar]

/Bu kitap ne kadaar? Ohn besh dohlar./

How much is this book? Fifteen dollars.

Zahmet olmazsa!

[za:met olmazsa]

/Zamat ohlmahzsah./

Please, if it is not too much trouble.

Hilton Otel'i nerede(dir)?

[hilton ot^heli nerede(dir)]

/Hiltohn Oteli neredeh(dir)?/

Where is Hilton Hotel?

Sağ olun or Teşekkür ederim.

[sa: olun] or [t^hɛʃekk^hyr ederim]

/Saa ohloon/ or /teshekkuer edehrim/

Thank you.

İyi günler or güle güle.

[iji gynler] or [gyle gyle]

/iyi guenler/ or /guele guele/

Good-bye.

Special thanks goes to Dr. Öner Özçelik
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FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN MORE ABOUT TURKS AND THEIR LANGUAGE

1. Turkish is the most widely spoken of all Turkic languages, with over 80 million native speakers. Most speakers live in Turkey; however, there is a substantial population of Turkish speakers living in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Once you speak Turkish, you can easily learn other Turkic languages in a very small amount of time and boast speaking about 20-30 languages, and reach a population of 200 million people across Eurasia.
2. Turkish shares many linguistic features with other Turkic languages, such as agglutination, SOV word order, vowel harmony, and a lack of grammatical gender. Turkish is mutually understandable with many of these languages, such as Azerbaijani, Uzbek and Turkmen.
3. Modern Turkish is written using a modified Latin alphabet, so you only have to learn 6 new letters, ğ, ğ, i, ö, ş, ü, in order to write it/type it.
4. Istanbul, Turkey is the only city in the world that is located on two continents: Europe and Asia. Throughout history, this Turkish city has been the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires.
5. Turkish cuisine has become increasingly popular across the United States in the last few decades. Learn Turkish, so you can impress your friends by ordering your *pide*, *kebab*, and *pilav* in the target language!

ABOUT US

The Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region (CeLCAR) at Indiana University develops materials for learning and teaching a wide variety of Central Asian languages.

For more information, go to www.iub.edu/~celcar.



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Center for Languages of the
Central Asian Region (CeLCAR)

WHO ARE THE TURKS AND WHERE DO THEY LIVE?



Turkish is the most widely spoken of all Turkic languages, with over 80 million native speakers worldwide. In addition, once you speak Turkish, it is very easy to learn other Turkic languages (such as Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen,

Uyghur, Uzbek, etc.), letting you communicate with over 200 million speakers worldwide! The largest concentration of native Turkish speakers is found in Turkey, which is located in southern Eurasia, i.e. between Bulgaria, Greece and the Aegean Seas to the West; Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to the East; the Black Sea to the North; the Mediterranean Sea to the South and Syria, Iran and Iraq to the Southeast. However, there are smaller, yet still significant populations of Turkish speakers throughout Eastern and Western Europe (most notably in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, and Turkey), Central Asia (Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan), and the Middle East (Iran and Iraq). Many of these speakers are descendants of the Turkish Ottoman Empire (1299-1923), which extended from Central, Eastern and Northern Europe to North Africa and the entire Middle East.

Turkish is the official language of Turkey and one of the official languages in Cyprus, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Romania.

WHAT KIND OF LANGUAGE IS TURKISH?

Turkish is an Altaic language, and more specifically, it is a member of the Oghuz branch of the Turkic language family along with other Central Asian Turkic languages such as Azerbaijani, Kazakh and Turkmen. Like many Turkic languages, Turkish is an agglutinative language (uses a set system of adding

suffixes to word stems for indicating grammatical meaning) that uses a subject-object-verb word order, features vowel harmony (vowels of the suffixes change to match the other vowels in the stem), and lacks grammatical gender. Turkish stress is word final, and lacks the prosodic constituent Foot. Turkish lacks onset clusters, but allows coda clusters when they fall in Sonority (i.e. liquid + stop, nasal + stop). These make it a relatively simple language, structure wise.

Due to the geographical region in which it is mainly spoken (Europe and Central Asia), modern Turkish lexicon has been influenced by Germanic, Romance, and Persian languages.

Like most languages, Turkey has many dialects. Some of the main regional dialects include: Güneydoğu (Southeast), Doğu (Eastern), Orta Anadolu (Central Anatolia region), Karadeniz (Eastern Black Sea region), Kastamonu (Kastamonu region), and Karamanlidika (or Karamanli Turkish) spoken in Greece.

WHAT ALPHABET DO TURKS USE?



The earliest known Turkic inscriptions, discovered in Modern day Mongolia, were written using the Orkhon, or Old Turkic, alphabet. Through the Turkish conquests, Turks came in contact with people to the West of Central Asia, and due to the Persian and Arabic influences there, Ottoman Empire adopted a version of the Perso-Arabic script known as the Ottoman Turkish script.

Modern Turkey (founded from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire in 1923), however, adopted a version of the Latin alphabet in 1928, which is what Turkish speakers use today.

WHAT IS TURKISH CULTURE LIKE?

Because over their history Turkish speakers have become so spread out across Eastern and Western Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East, it is hard to define one distinct Turkish culture. However, Central Asian Turks are almost all Sunni Muslim, with a very small percentage of Christians and Jews. They are a family oriented

community and it is not uncommon to find several generations of families living under one roof.

Again, much of Turkish cuisine is heavily influenced by the region in which the population exists,

for many Turkish speakers in Turkey eat a lot of seafood (particularly anchovies) because of the country being surrounded by the Aegean, Black, and Caspian seas, and an inland sea, called the Marmara, which connects Europe to Asia. Turkish cuisine all over Central Eurasia includes lots of meat, rice or bulgur, and fresh vegetables. Because, western Turkey is well known for their abundant olive trees and olive oil production, many Turkish dishes include these ingredients as well. Some popular Turkish dishes include kebab, keşkek (meat and barley stew), mantı (meat dumping), and pide (a flat bread with cheese and meat and/or vegetable toppings). And some popular Turkish drinks are ayran (a salt yogurt drink – “yogurt” by the way is a word borrowed from Turkish), salgam suyu (hot turnip juice), and of course, lots of different kinds of teas, as well as Turkish coffee.

The Turkish people are famous for their handmade carpets and rugs. Either hand knotted or flat woven, these rugs are known for being durable and beautiful, designed with intricate distinct styles according to the region from where they come. Historically, these rugs have had significant cultural meaning and religious application. And while in some places they still do, generally the rugs are popular worldwide just because of their fine craftsmanship.



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

