

## **Verbs Part 1 – Turkish Grammar**

### **Grammar – Verbs in Turkish Language**

*I think we will all agree that the concept of the verb “to be” is a little bit different in Turkish than the other occidental languages. However, As you get used to using this pattern, you will see that it will take little effort to form verbs and consequently long sentences.*

*Olmak ya da olmamak, işte bütün mesele bu.*

*William Shakespeare*

### **Olmak “to be” in the Turkish Language**

Commonly-used “to be” exists in Turkish as suffix. “-dir”, “-dır”, “-dur”, “-dür” all means “to be” when at the end of the words.

e.g. Kalem yeşildir. (eng. The pen is green.)

However, this suffix has been disappearing through the current evolution of the Turkish language. At the beginning, this may sound like incomplete for new learners like “me Tarzan, you Jane” but it perfectly gives the meaning of “to be” without “-dir” as well.

### **Common uses:**

e.g. Kalem yeşil. (eng. The pen is green.)

Benim adım Selim. (eng. My name is Selim)

The verbs that you see in the dictionaries are always in the form of infinitive. If you eliminate the suffix, (-mek and -mak) the form of the verb changes to imperative. So simple to form imperative!

e.g. Sev! (eng. love!); Sevmek (eng. to love)

Kal! (eng. stay!); Kalmak (eng. to stay)

e.g. Kalmak ister misin? (eng. Do you want to stay?)

The following table shows you the suffixes meaning “to be” in the present for each personal pronouns.

<b>Ben</b>	<b>Sen</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>Biz</b>	<b>Siz</b>	<b>Onlar</b>
<b>-im</b>	-sin	-(dir)	-iz	-sınız	(dir)ler
<b>-üm</b>	-sün	-(dür)	-üz	-sünüz	-(dür)ler
<b>-ım</b>	-sın	-(dır)	-ız	-sınız	-(dır)lar
<b>-uz</b>	-sun	-(dur)	-uz	-sunuz	-(dur)lar

*Hayatta en hakiki mürşit ilimdir.*

*Translation: Only true mentor in life is science.*

*Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938)*

### **Examples:**

Kampüste-y-im. \* (eng. I am at the campus.)

Kampüste-sin (eng. You are at the campus.)

Kampüste-(dir) (eng. s/he at the campus.)

***Plural:***

Kampüste-yiz (eng. We are at the campus.)

Kampüste-siniz (eng. You -formal- are at the campus.)

Kampüste-(dir)-ler (eng. They are at the campus.)

\* “Y” is the buffer letter here. Recall that in Turkish two vowels do not come consecutively. There has to be a buffer letter between.

**Examples:**

Sürücü (eng. driver)

Sürücü-yüm (eng. I am driver)

Sürücü-sün

Sürücü-(dür)

***Plural:***

Sürücü-yüz

Sürücü-sünüz

Sürücü-(dür)-ler

**More examples:**

e.g. Bunu ona söyleyen sensin. (eng. You are the one who told him this.)

Başarının nedeni biziz. (eng. We are the reason for this success.)

Evin sahibi benim. (eng. I am the one who owns this house. or “I” own this house)

## The past tense of “to be” in Turkish

When describing an action that happened in the past, preterite (past) tense is used. Also in Turkish, the meaning is given by the suffix “-idi-“. The same rule also applies for the verb “to be”.

Ben	Sen	O	Biz	Siz	Onlar
-idim**	-idin**	-idi**	-idik**	-idiniz**	-idiler**
-ydim	-ydin	-ydi	-ydik	-ydiniz	-ydiler
-ydüm	-ydün	-ydü	-ydük	-ydünüz	-ydüler
-ydım	-ydın	-ydı	-ydık	-ydınız	-ydılar
-ydum	-ydun	-ydu	-yduk	-ydunuz	-ydular

### *Examples:*

Kampüste-ydim. \* (eng. I was at the campus.)

Kampüste-ydin (eng. You were at the campus.)

Kampüste-ydi (eng. S/he was the campus.)

### *Plural:*

Kampüste-ydik (eng. We were at the campus.)

Kampüste-ydiniz (eng. You -formal- were at the campus.)

Kampüste-ydiler (eng. They were at the campus.)

**NOTE:** \*\* Suffixes in the first row can be separately used as well.

### **Examples:**

Sürücü-ydüm (eng. I was driver)

Sürücü-ydün

Sürücü-ydü

***Plural:***

Sürücü-ydük

Sürücü-ydünüz

Sürücü-ydüler

**NOTE:** For the words ending with a consonant, these suffixes slightly change. “y” disappears and “d” becomes “t” because of consonant alternation. However, the sound is almost **the same!** When writing Turkish, even natives confuse about “d” and “t”.

So, the good thing is:

Do **NOT** memorize excessively! As you spend more time reading in Turkish, you will unwittingly figure out which sound should follow.

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*fluentinturkish.com*

*Original link: <http://fluentinturkish.com/grammar/to-be-in-turkish>*

