



# Turkish

**PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY**

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# acknowledgments

Arzu Kürklü was born in Turkey, completed her teaching degree at Dokuz Eylül University (DEÜ) in İzmir, and went on to teach English at the Turkish Air Force Language School, and Turkish-American Association. She now lives in Melbourne, Australia, with her husband and daughter, and teaches English as a Second Language at AMES (Adult Multicultural Education Services) and Turkish at CAE (Centre for Adult Education).

Arzu would like to thank her husband Yücel Kürklü for contributing his knowledge of the Turkish language and culture, and for all his support and patience. She would also like to thank everybody on the team who put this phrasebook together.

## **make the most of this phrasebook ...**

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Anyone can speak another language! It's all about confidence. Don't worry if you can't remember your school language lessons or if you've never learnt a language before. Even if you learn the very basics (on the inside covers of this book), your travel experience will be the better for it. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort.

### **finding things in this book**

For easy navigation, this book is in sections. The Basics chapters are the ones you'll thumb through time and again. The Practical section covers basic travel situations like catching transport and finding a bed. The Social section gives you conversational phrases, pick-up lines, the ability to express opinions – so you can get to know people. Food has a section all of its own: gourmets and vegetarians are covered and local dishes feature. Safe Travel equips you with health and police phrases, just in case. Remember the colours of each section and you'll find everything easily; or use the comprehensive Index. Otherwise, check the two-way traveller's Dictionary for the word you need.

### **being understood**

Throughout this book you'll see coloured phrases on each page. They're phonetic guides to help you pronounce the language. You don't even need to look at the language itself, but you'll get used to the way we've represented particular sounds. The pronunciation chapter in Basics will explain more, but you can feel confident that if you read the coloured phrase slowly, you'll be understood.

### **communication tips**

Body language, ways of doing things, sense of humour – all have a role to play in every culture. 'Local talk' boxes show you common ways of saying things, or everyday language to drop into conversation. 'Listen for ...' boxes supply the phrases you may hear. They start with the language (so local people can point out what they want to say to you) and then lead in to the pronunciation guide and the English translation.

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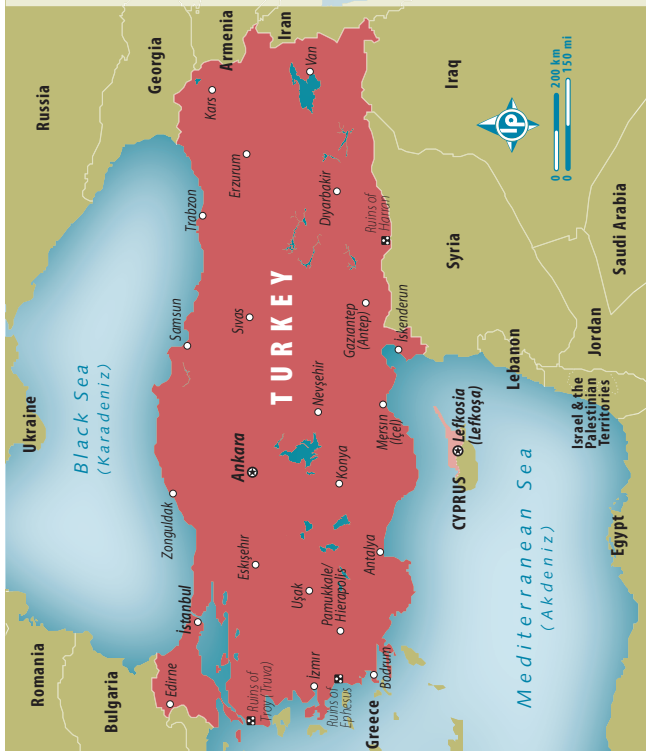
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# turkish



- official language
- widely understood

For more details, see the **introduction**.





For a language which traces its roots as far back as 3500BC, has travelled through Central Asia, Persia, North Africa and Europe and been written in both Arabic and Latin script, you'll be surprised that Turkish is a highly regular language with no genders, one irregular noun and only one irregular verb. So how did it transform itself from a nomad's tongue spoken in Mongolia into the language of modern Turkey, with a prestigious interlude as the diplomatic language of the Ottoman Empire?

The first evidence of the Turkish language was found on stone monuments, dating back to the 8th century BC, in what's now Outer Mongolia. When their Mongol neighbours took control of the Turks' pasturage in the 8th century AD, the tribe migrated to the south and west. By the 11th century, most Turks in the Middle East had become Muslims. Among

them was the Seljuq clan, which invaded large tracts of Asia Minor (Anatolia) and imposed their language on the peoples they ruled. Over time, Arabic and Persian vocabulary was adopted to express artistic and philosophical concepts and Arabic script began to be used. By the 14th century, another clan – the Ottomans – was Turkey's dominant power, and was busy establishing the empire that was to control Eurasia for centuries. In their wake, they left the Turkish language. There were then two levels of

## at a glance ...

**language name:** Turkish

**name in language:**

*Türkçe, Osmanlı*

*tewrk-che, os-man-luh*

**language family:** Ural-Altaic

**approximate number**

**of speakers:** 70 million  
worldwide

**close relatives:** Azeri,

Gagauz, Qashqay, Turkmen

**donations to English:**

baklava, bridge (the game),  
caviar, horde, kaftan,  
kismet, khan, sequin,  
shish kebab, yoghurt

Turkish – ornate Ottoman Turkish, with flowery Persian phrases and Arabic honorifics (words showing respect), used for diplomacy, business and art, and the language of the common Turks, which still used ‘native’ Turkish vocabulary and structures.

The Ottoman Empire fell in 1922; the military hero, amateur linguist and historian Kemal Atatürk came to power and led the new Republic of Turkey. With the backing of a strong language reform movement, he devised a phonetic Latin script that reflected Turkish sounds more accurately than Arabic script. On 1 November 1928, the new writing system was unveiled: within two months, it was illegal to write Turkish in the old script.

In 1932 Atatürk created the Türk Dil Kurumu (Turkish Language Society) and gave it the brief of simplifying the Turkish language to its ‘pure’ form of centuries before. The vocabulary and structure was completely overhauled. As a consequence, Turkish has changed so drastically that even Atatürk’s own speeches (he died in 1938) are barely comprehensible to today’s speakers of *öztürkçe* (‘pure Turkish’).

Turkish is now the official language of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (an area recognised as a nation only by itself and the Turkish government). Elsewhere, the language is also called *Osmanlı*, and is spoken by large populations in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Germany and the ‘-stans’ of Central Asia.

This book gives you the practical phrases you need to get by in Turkish, as well as all the fun, spontaneous phrases that can lead to a better understanding of Turkey and its people. Once you’ve got the hang of how to pronounce Turkish words, the rest is just a matter of confidence. Local knowledge, new relationships and a sense of satisfaction are on the tip of your tongue. So don’t just stand there, say something!

## abbreviations used in this book

<b>a</b>	adjective	<b>gen</b>	genitive	<b>nom</b>	nominative
<b>abl</b>	ablative	<b>inf</b>	informal	<b>pl</b>	plural
<b>acc</b>	accusative	<b>lit</b>	literal translation	<b>pol</b>	polite
<b>adv</b>	adverb	<b>loc</b>	locative	<b>sg</b>	singular
<b>dat</b>	dative	<b>m</b>	masculine	<b>v</b>	verb
<b>f</b>	feminine	<b>n</b>	noun		

### getting around

#### gezerken

You'll often use a *dolmuş* **dol-moosh** or *midibüs* **mee-dee-bews** while travelling in the cities and busier regions of Turkey. The *dolmuş* was originally a shared taxi (nowadays often minibuses), and a *midibus* is a small bus which operates on routes that aren't busy enough for a bus or coach. To let the driver know you want to get off, say *inecek var* **ee-ne-jek var** (someone wants to get off) or *sağda* **sa-da** ('on the right', meaning 'pull over here').

Which ... goes to (Sirkeci)?	Hangi ... (Sirkeci'ye) gider?	han-gee ... (seer-ke-jee-ye) gee-der
Is this the ... (Sirkeci)?	(Sirkeci'ye) giden	(seer-ke-jee-ye) gee-den
to (Sirkeci)?	... bu mu?	... boo moo
boat	vapur	va-poor
bus	otobüs	o-to-bews
<i>dolmuş</i>	<i>dolmuş</i>	<b>dol-moosh</b>
midibus	midibüs	<b>mee-dee-bews</b>
minibus	minibüs	<b>mee-nee-bews</b>
shuttle bus	<i>servis otobüsü</i>	<b>ser-vees o-to-bew-sew</b>
train	tren	tren

When's the ... (bus)?	... (otobüs) ne zaman?	... (o-to-bews) ne za-man
first	ilk	eelk
last	Son	son
next	Sonraki	son-ra-kee

#### Where's the bus terminal?

*Otobüs terminali nerede?* **o-to-bews ter-mee-na-lee ne-re-de**

#### How do I get to the bus terminal?

*Otobüs terminaline nasıl gidebilirim?* **o-to-bews ter-mee-na-lee-ne na-suhl gee-de-bee-lee-reem**

**What time does it leave?**

*Ne zaman kalkacak?*      *ne za-man kal-ka-jak*

**What time does it get to (Beşiktaş)?**

*(Beşiktaş'a) ne zaman varır?*      *(be-sheek-ta-sha) ne za-man va-ruhr*

**How long will it be delayed?**

*Ne kadar gecikecek?*      *ne ka-dar ge-jee-ke-jek*

**Please tell me when we get to (Beşiktaş).**

*(Beşiktaş'a)*      *(be-sheek-ta-sha)*  
*vardığımızda*      *var-duh-uh-muhz-da*  
*lütfen bana söyleyin.*      *lewt-fen ba-na say-le-yeen*

**Please stop here.**

*Lütfen burada durun.*      *lewt-fen boo-ra-da doo-roon*

**How long do we stop here?**

*Burada ne kadar*      *boo-ra-da ne ka-dar*  
*duracağız?*      *doo-ra-ja-uhz*

**Are you waiting for more people?**

*Daha fazla yolcu*      *da-ha faz-la yol-joo*  
*mu bekliyorsunuz?*      *moo bek-lee-yor-soo-nooz*

