### Turkish Motion Toward (dative) Suffix *-e -a*

The motion toward suffix -(y)e/-(y)a to, towards

Buffer letter -y is used between vowels.

* adama to the man  
  [adam-a]
* adamlara to the men   
  [adamlar-a]
* kediye to the cat  
  [kedi-ye]
* kedilere to the cats  
  [kediler-e]
* eve to home  
  [ev-e]
* evlere to the houses  
  [evler-e]
* kapıya to the door  
  [kapı-ya]
* kapılara to the doors  
  [kapılar-a]
* köprüye to the bridge  
  [köprü-ye]
* köprülere to the bridges  
  [köprü-ler-e]
* odaya to the room  
  [oda-ya]
* odalara to the rooms   
  [oda-lar-a]

### Turkish Vowel Harmony I ↔ İ U ↔ Ü

There are two different forms of I (İ) and U (Ü) in Turkish.

* The UnDotted Forms of  I or U follow the **A-UnDotted group A I O U**
* The Dotted Forms of  İ or Ü follow the **E-Dotted group E İ Ö Ü**

Suffixes containing a can have two forms: a or e.  
The the suffix -den -dan from was shown as an example.

Suffixes containg the generic letter -I has four forms -i -ı -u -ü.

The suffix -im my harmonizes its own vowel to any of -i, -ı, -u, ü to mirror the last vowel of the word it is suffixed to.

All suffixes with an internal -i- vowel follow this vowel harmony.

##### Suffıx -im

The suffix -im follows words whose last vowel is -e or -i.

ev house  
evim [ev-im] my house  
evlerim [ev-ler-im] my houses

çit hedge  
çiti [çit-i] his hedge  
çitleri [çit-ler-i] his hedges

##### Suffıx -ım

The suffix -ım follows words whose last vowel is -a or -ı.

raf shelf  
rafın [raf-ın] your shelf  
rafların [raf-lar-ın] your shelves

kız girl / daughter  
kızım [kız-ım] my girl  
kızlarım [kız-lar-ım] my girls

##### Suffix -üm

The suffix -üm follows words whose last vowel is -ö or -ü.

göz eye  
gözüm [göz-üm] my eye  
gözlerim [gözler-im] my eyes

gül rose  
gülüm [gül-üm] my rose  
güllerim [güller-im] my roses

The plurals gözlerim [göz-ler-im] and güllerim take the -im suffix.  
[NOT the -üm suffix as in the singular]

They immediately follow the final vowel -e of the plural -ler.

##### Suffix -um

The suffix-um follows words whose last vowel is -o or -u.

yol road  
yolunuz [yol-unuz] your road  
yollarınız [yol-lar-ınız] your roads

jeton token, jeton  
jetonum [jeton-um] my token, my jeton  
jetonlarım [jetonlar-ım] my tokens, my jetons

okul school  
okulları [okul-ları] their school(s)  
okulları [okul-lar-ı] his schools

oyun game  
oyunum [oyun-um] my game  
oyunlarım [oyun-lar-ım] my games

The plurals jetonlarım and oyunlarım take the -ım suffix.  
[not the -um suffix as in the singular]

They immediately follow the final vowel -a of the plural -lar.

#### The Rule for Words ending in a Vowel

The Vowel of the Suffix -im -ım -um -üm my is dropped to prevent two vowels occurring together.  
[the root word itself is preserved.]

* baba father → babam my father  
  [NOT: babaım]
* baban your father   
  [NOT: babaın]
* kedi cat → kedim my cat  
  [NOT: kediim]
* kedimiz our cat   
  [NOT: kediimiz]
* palto overcoat → paltom my overcoat   
  [NOT: paltoum]
* paltonuz your (pl.) overcoat   
  [NOT: paltonuz]

When adding -im my (or the other Possessive Adjectives) to a word which ends in a vowel:  
Only the shortened suffix -m, -n, -miz, -niz is added.  
This prevents two vowels occurring together.

The third person singular suffix a bare vowel -i

It uses buffer letter -s- in order to keep two vowels apart.

It preseves the original root word and decomes ‑is ‑sı‑sü ‑su :

şapka hat  
şapkam my hat  
şapkası his/her hat  
[not: şapka-ı]

soru question  
sorum my question  
sorusu his/her question  
[not: soru-u]

##### **The Complete Rules of Turkish Vowel Harmony**

* A - E Harmony
* UnDotted A I O U   
  are followed by   
  A UnDotted suffix
* Dotted E İ Ö Ü   
  are followed by   
  E Dotted suffix
* I - İ Harmony
* UnDotted A or I   
  are followed by   
  I UnDotted suffix
* Dotted E or İ   
  are followed by   
  İ Dotted suffix
* U - Ü Harmony
* UnDotted O or U   
  are followed by   
  U UnDotted suffix
* Dotted Ö or Ü   
  are followed by   
  Ü Dotted suffix

## Consonant Harmony

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Besides the vowel harmony rules, there are other basic rules that affect the way suffixes are used. A vowel following another is never allowed in Turkish, and there are rules to avoid these situations when they occur as a result of other rules. There are also rules about consonant harmony, that make some consonants change in certain cases.   2. Consonant Harmony Vowel harmony rules cause the vowels of suffixes to be modified when they are added to some words. There are similar rules about consonants. However, you may feel that all these rules are too many just for a simple start. Then, I advice you to omit the consonant harmony rules when you want to say or write something, just for the beginning. You will still be understood. Consonant harmony is mainly for making speech more fluent, it does not have a major effect on understandability. You will eventually learn these if you decide to continue learning Turkish, as you read sentences or listen to Turkish speakers.     |  | | --- | | **Tip**  *Consonant harmony is mainly for making speech more fluent, it does not have a major effect on understandability.* |     There are two different cases of consonant harmony - either the last consonant of the main word changes, or the first consonant of the suffix changes. The trouble making consonants in this case are *p, ç, t and k*. Let´s call the words that end with one of *p, ç, t or k* the trouble words.   CASE A - Word mutation. Two conditions must be satisfied for word mutation to occur:   1. You have a word ending with one of ´*p, ç, t, k*´. 2. You want to add this word a suffix that starts with a vowel.   If the word has only one syllable, like saç, you are safe. The word *usually* does not change.  saç-ı --> sa**çı** (his/her/its hair)  sap-a --> sa**pa** (to the handle)    However, if the word has more than one syllable, than the consonant at the end *usually* changes.   * p becomes b * ç becomes c * t becomes d * k becomes ğ     And here are some examples to this:  ağaç-a --> ağa**ca** (to the tree)  şarap-ın --> şara**bın** (of the wine)  kağıt-a --> kağı**da** (to the paper)  geyik-e --> geyi**ğe** (to the deer)     |  | | --- | | **Tip**  There are exceptions to both the single syllable and multiple syllable cases mentioned above. For example:  kap-a --> ka**ba** (to the container)  saat-in --> saa**tin** (the clock´s)    You should still learn and apply the rules though, there are not too many of these exceptions. |    CASE B - Suffix mutation. Two conditions must be satisfied for suffix mutation to occur:   1. You have a word ending with one of *p, ç, t, k, f, h, s, ş*. 2. You want to add this word a suffix that starts with *c* or *d*.   In this case, the first letter of the consonant changes.   * c becomes ç * d becomes t     Examples:  Leh --> Polish (people)  Leh-ce --> Lehçe --> Polish (language)  Türk --> Turkish (people)  Türk-ce --> Türkçe --> Turkish (lanuage)  yap --> do  yap-di --> yaptı --> he did |