

# Turkish Language Recipe Cards

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## Compound Nouns

A compound noun is when two nouns are used together: *The Izmir Hotel*.

This should not be confused with two other word arrangements. (1) An adjective describing a noun: *The Blue House*. (2) A noun object owned (possessed) by someone: *Mehmet's House*.

In English, there is an ending 's for owning something (*Mehmet's*), but nothing special about being owned. In Turkish, there is one ending for owning, and another for being owned.

Comparison:

Compound noun	<i>İzmir Otel-i</i>	<i>The Izmir Hotel</i>
Adjective noun	<i>Mavi Ev</i>	<i>The Blue House</i>
Ownership	<i>Mehmet'in Ev-i</i>	<i>Mehmet's House</i>

When using a compound noun, the second noun requires a possessed (being owned) suffix. In the example *İzmir Otel-i* it's as if we say *Izmir its-Hotel*.

In the page about Personal Endings for nouns, there is a list of endings for mine, yours, ours, theirs etc. With a compound noun, we only need the ending for his/hers/its, and always we mean *its*.

The ending for *its* is *-i* and its i-type vowel harmony variants *-i, -ü, -u*.

If there would be a double vowel with the noun, then a consonant separator is needed, and that is *-s-*.

Examples:

<i>Topkapı Saray-ı</i>	<i>Topkapı its-Palace</i>
<i>Turizm Büro-s-u</i>	<i>Tourism its-Office</i>
<i>Şehir Merkez-i</i>	<i>Town its-Centre</i>
<i>El Bagaj-ı</i>	<i>Hand its-Baggage</i>
<i>Kaya Köy-ü</i>	<i>Kaya its-Village</i>
<i>Divan Yol-u</i>	<i>Divan its-Road</i>
<i>İstiklal Cadde-s-i</i>	<i>Independence its-Street</i>

But take care. Turkish is extremely literal. You might think that *cheese pie* is a compound noun, but really the cheese is an adjective because it's describing a type of pie. *Peynir-li börek* A containing-cheese pie is the correct form.