

Turkish Language Recipe Cards

E-Type Vowel Harmony

Many Turkish words use fragments placed end to end to make the whole word. When a new fragment is added, the last vowel in the prefix determines the first vowel in the suffix. This is called vowel harmony.

There are eight vowels in the Turkish alphabet. In E-type vowel harmony, they are divided into two groups of four make the rule for harmony.

Last vowel in the prefix	First vowel in the suffix
<i>i, e, ö, ü</i>	<i>e</i>
<i>ı, a, o, u</i>	<i>a</i>

Example:

The suffix *-ler (-lar)* is used to make the plural

Prefix	Meaning	Last vowel	Therefore	Meaning
<i>araba</i>	<i>car</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>araba-lar</i>	<i>cars</i>
<i>gün</i>	<i>day</i>	<i>ü</i>	<i>gün-ler</i>	<i>days</i>
<i>elma</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>elma-lar</i>	<i>apples</i>
<i>gece</i>	<i>night</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>gece-ler</i>	<i>nights</i>

Example:

The suffix *-de (-da)* is used to mean *at/in/on*

Prefix	Meaning	Last vowel	Example	Meaning
<i>ev</i>	<i>house/home</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>ev-de</i>	<i>at home</i>
<i>deniz</i>	<i>sea</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>deniz-de</i>	<i>in the sea</i>
<i>İstanbul</i>	<i>Istanbul</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>İstanbul'-da</i>	<i>in Istanbul</i>

Suffixes on proper names, like Istanbul, are written with an apostrophe after the name.

Double vowels:

If the prefix ends in a vowel AND the suffix starts with a vowel, then the double vowel is not allowed. This is solved either with a separator consonant, or by dropping one of the vowels. Here is an example.

- The suffix *-e (-a)* means *to/towards*. It requires a separator consonant.
 - *Ankara Ankara, Ankara'-y-a To Ankara.*
 - *Bahçe Garden, Bahçe-y-e To the garden.*