

Turkish Language Recipe Cards

Passive Verbs

Verbs may be active (*to find*) or passive (*to be found*). A very common word on shop signs and adverts is *Bulunur*, which is a simple present tense passive verb.

A base verb root can have a passive suffix to make a new root.

The passive suffix is *-il*, which uses i-type vowel harmony and so has variants *-il*, *-ul*, *-iil*.

Examples:

Verb	Active	Verb	Passive
<i>To open</i>	<i>Aç-mak</i>	<i>To be opened</i>	<i>Aç-il-mak</i>
<i>To pull</i>	<i>Çek-mek</i>	<i>To be pulled</i>	<i>Çek-il-mek</i>

Two problems arise.

- When the verb root ends in an 'l', the usual passive suffix is changed to *-in*, and its variants *-in*, *-un*, *-iün*.
- When the verb root ends in a vowel, there would be a double vowel. The usual passive suffix is changed to a simple *-n* (which is rather minimal!)

Examples:

Verb	Active	Verb	Passive
<i>To find</i>	<i>Bul-mak</i>	<i>To be found</i>	<i>Bul-un-mak</i>
<i>To eat</i>	<i>Ye-mek</i>	<i>To be eaten</i>	<i>Ye-n-mek</i>
<i>To close</i>	<i>Kapa-mak</i>	<i>To be closed</i>	<i>Kapa-n-mak</i>

Kapı-y-ı kapa-dı *He closed the door.* (the door is the object of the sentence)

Kapı kapan-dı *The door closed.* (the door, subject, closed. Perhaps by itself)

Ne zaman aç-il-ir *When is it (to be) open.* (simple present passive)

Ne zaman kapa-n-ir *When is it (to be) closed.* (simple present passive)

Bugün sebze-ler ye-n-ecek *The vegetables will be eaten today.*

Now translate: BUL-UN-UR (the word has been split into parts to help)

You want to buy some pink paint. Would you go into a shop with this sign, and why?

Burada Her Renk Boya-lar Bul-un-ur

Why would you be worried about this street sign?

Araba-nız Çek-il-ecek