

Turkish Language Recipe Cards

Possessive Suffixes

Where English uses personal pronouns (a word in front of the noun), Turkish uses possessive suffixes (a fragment attached after the noun). The English possessive pronouns include *my, your, our, their*. The Turkish possessive suffixes also change according to the ownership.

Example using *Ev House*.

Case	English	Turkish	other vowel harmony	Example	Meaning
1 st singular	<i>my</i>	<i>-im</i>	<i>-im, -üm, -um</i>	<i>ev-im</i>	<i>my house</i>
2 nd singular	<i>your</i>	<i>-in</i>	<i>-in, -ün, -un</i>	<i>ev-in</i>	<i>your house</i>
3 rd singular	<i>his/her/its</i>	<i>-i</i>	<i>-i, -ü, -u</i>	<i>ev-i</i>	<i>his/her/its house</i>
1 st plural	<i>our</i>	<i>-imiz</i>	<i>-imiz, -ümüz, -umuz</i>	<i>ev-imiz</i>	<i>our house</i>
2 nd plural	<i>your</i>	<i>-iniz</i>	<i>-iniz, -ünüz, -unuz</i>	<i>ev-iniz</i>	<i>your house</i>
3 rd plural	<i>their</i>	<i>-ler-i</i>	<i>-lar-ı</i>	<i>ev-ler-i</i>	<i>their house</i>

At first sight, these personal ending for nouns look quite like the personal endings for verbs, but only one is exactly the same. Compare these two series using i and e for vowel harmony.

On nouns:	<i>-im</i>	<i>-in</i>	<i>-i</i>	<i>-imiz</i>	<i>-iniz</i>	<i>-ler-i</i>
On verbs:	<i>-im</i>	<i>-sin</i>	(nothing)	<i>-iz</i>	<i>-siniz</i>	<i>-ler</i>

Double vowels can arise with these endings, except for *-ler-i (-lar-ı)*. When the noun ends in a vowel, then the first vowel of the ending is dropped. But, that's impossible for the 3rd person singular as there would be nothing left. For the 3rd person singular, a separator consonant must be used, and that is *-s-*.

Example using *Araba Car*.

1 st singular	<i>araba-m</i>	<i>my car</i>
2 nd singular	<i>araba-n</i>	<i>your car</i>
3 rd singular	<i>araba-s-ı</i>	<i>his/her/its car</i>
1 st plural	<i>araba-mız</i>	<i>our car</i>
2 nd plural	<i>araba-nız</i>	<i>your car</i>
3 rd plural	<i>araba-lar-ı</i>	<i>their car</i>

There is no real Turkish word for *I have*. The English sentence *I have a car* is changed to the equivalent of *My car there is*. This means using a possessive suffix and the verbs *var there is*; its special negative *yok there isn't*; and their past tenses and question forms.

Examples:

<i>Bilet-im var</i>	<i>My-ticket there-is</i>	<i>I have a ticket</i>
<i>Bilet-im vardı</i>	<i>My-ticket there-was</i>	<i>I had a ticket</i>
<i>Bilet-iniz var mı</i>	<i>Your-ticket is there?</i>	<i>Do you have a ticket?</i>
<i>Bilet-iniz var mı-y-dı</i>	<i>Your-ticket was-there?</i>	<i>Did you have a ticket</i>
<i>Araba-mız yok</i>	<i>Our-car there-isn't</i>	<i>We do not have a car</i>
<i>Araba-nız yoktu</i>	<i>Your-car there-wasn't</i>	<i>You didn't have a car</i>