

Turkish Language Recipe Cards

Verbs - The Continuous Present Tense

The continuous present is used when an action has happened, is happening, and is ongoing. Even better, you can get away with using this all the time in spoken Turkish and you will probably be understood.

To make a complete verb word, follow these rules in general:

- Take the verb in its dictionary/infinite form eg, *Gelmek To come*.
- Remove the *-mek (-mak)* infinitive ending, leaving the 'root' eg, *Gel- Come*.
- Add the required tense fragment
- Add the required personal ending
- (this list does not include how to make negatives or questions)

The tense fragment for the continuous present tense is *-iyor*. This follows i-type vowel harmony, so there is also *-iyor, üyor, uyor*.

The continuous present tense of *Gelmek To come* is:

- *Gel-* *Come*
 - *-iyor-* *Coming*
 - *-um* *Gel-iyor-um* *I am coming.*
 - *-sun* *Gel-iyor-sun* *You are coming.*
 - *-(no ending)* *Gel-iyor-* *He/She/It is coming.*
 - *-uz* *Gel-iyor-uz* *We are coming.*
 - *-sunuz* *Gel-iyor-sunuz* *You are coming.*
 - *-lar* *Gel-iyor-lar* *They are coming.*
- The last vowel in *-iyor* is 'o'. Except for the *-lar* ending, which follows e-type harmony, all the personal endings follow i-type harmony, requiring 'u'.

Examples of verbs with the other forms of *-iyor*

- *Bakmak To look. Bak-ıyor He is looking.*
- *Görmek To see. Gör-üyor He is seeing.*
- *Bulmak To find. Bul-uyor He is finding.*

Double vowels are not allowed when fragments are added together. As *-iyor* starts with a vowel, any verb root ending in a vowel would cause a double vowel.

A verb root ending *e-* or *a-* has its end vowel removed.

- *Beklemek To wait. Bekl-iyor He is waiting.* [NOT 'Bekle-yor']

A verb root ending *u-* or *ü-* drops the first vowel of the ending, except you would never know as both vowels in the double are the same (*u-u* or *ü-ü*)

- *Okumak To read. Oku-yor He is reading.* [the same as *Ok-uyor*]

Exercise: What about verb roots ending with *i, ı, o, ö* ? There are few, but if *Acımak To have pain* gives *Acıyor He is having pain*, can we tell which vowel is dropped? Does it matter?