

Turkish Language Recipe Cards

To Be ...

In English, the verb *to be* is irregular and is frequently abbreviated.

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>I am</i> | <i>You are</i> | <i>He is, It is</i> | <i>We are</i> | <i>You are</i> | <i>They are</i> |
| <i>I'm</i> | <i>You're</i> | <i>He's, It's</i> | <i>We're</i> | <i>You're</i> | <i>They're</i> |
| <i>I was</i> | <i>You were</i> | <i>He was, It was</i> | <i>We were</i> | <i>You were</i> | <i>They were</i> |
| <i>I will</i> | <i>You will</i> | <i>He will</i> | <i>We will</i> | <i>You will</i> | <i>They will</i> |
| <i>I'll</i> | <i>You'll</i> | <i>He'll</i> | <i>We'll</i> | <i>You'll</i> | <i>They'll</i> |

In Turkish, the equivalent of *to be* is *olmak*. This can be considered regular except that it is nearly always abbreviated, especially in the present and past tenses.

The regular forms are:

| | Present | Past | Future |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 st singular | <i>ol-uyor-um</i> | <i>ol-d-um</i> | <i>ol-acağ-ım</i> |
| 2 nd singular | <i>ol-uyor-sun</i> | <i>ol-d-un</i> | <i>ol-acak-sın</i> |
| 3 rd singular | <i>ol-uyor-</i> | <i>ol-d-u</i> | <i>ol-acak-</i> |
| 1 st plural | <i>ol-uyor-uz</i> | <i>ol-d-uk</i> | <i>ol-acağ-ız</i> |
| 2 nd plural | <i>ol-uyor-sunuz</i> | <i>ol-d-unuz</i> | <i>ol-acak-sınız</i> |
| 3 rd plural | <i>ol-uyor-lar</i> | <i>ol-d-u-lar</i> | <i>ol-acak-lar</i> |

In abbreviating the present tense, the entire *ol-uyor* part is omitted, and only the personal ending is retained and placed as a suffix on the relevant adjective.

Example: *Yorgun-um I am tired* [abbreviated from *Yorgun oluyorum*].

Particularly note that there is a null personal ending for the 3rd person singular.

Example: *Yorgun- He is tired* [abbreviated from *Yorgun oluyor*].

The past tense may also be abbreviated.

Example: *Yorgun-d-um I was tired* [abbreviated from *Yorgun oldum*].

The future, and other tenses of *olmak*, are not abbreviated and are used in full.

The use of abbreviated personal endings for present and past tense of *olmak* requires i-type vowel harmony following from the root word.

Examples: *Güzel-im I am beautiful. Büyük-d-ü-ler They were big.*

Zayıf-sınız You are thin. Also *Iyi-y-im* which has a separator -y- for pronunciation.

Abbreviated forms of *olmak* are also available with questions.

Example: *Türk-müsünüz Are you Turkish?*

The negative present tense of *to be* (*I am not, you are not, he is not* etc) looks completely different from *olmak* in Turkish (*değil-im, değil-sin, değil* etc), and there is a past tense of this (*değil-d-im, değil-d-in, değil-d-i* etc).

In English, 'be' 'is' 'are', which look like parts of the verb *to be*, are used in some quite different senses which, in Turkish, do not involve *olmak*. Examples:

- *To be found (bul-un-mak)* is a passive verb, related to its active verb *to find (bul-mak)*. *It was found* is not related to *it was* (as in the past tense of *to be*). Many verbs have both active and passive forms, which are distinguished in Turkish by a suffix for the passive form (see separate card).
- *There is, there are* and *there is not* refer to something existing (or not). Turkish uses *var* and *yok* for these, with their own negatives and questions.