

Turkish Language Recipe Cards

Verbal Adjectives

In English, a *who / which* adjectival clause describes a person or object using a verb and it follows the noun. Turkish uses a verbal adjective which, like any other adjective, comes before the noun.

In English, *who* in a clause is different from the question *who?*. In Turkish *kim?*

A verb root is used to make a verbal adjective. The addition to the verb root is *-en* (variant *-an*) and the vowel separator consonant is *-y-*.

The noun described by the verbal adjective can take case endings as usual.

Examples:

The man who is running away has taken my telephone
Kaç-an adam ben-im telefon-um-u çaldı (man is subject, telephone is object)

The colour of the elephant which is sitting in the field is grey
Tarla-da otur-an fil-in reng-i gri-dir (elephant's (its) colour)

Geçen hafta The week which passed / Last week
Bir hafta önce One week ago (not quite the same)

In Turkish, the verb *olmak to be* is often abbreviated or omitted especially in the present tense. When an adjectival clause would only have *olan is* as the verbal adjective, then that is omitted and a pronoun/noun adjective is used instead. This applies particularly to positional or possessive statements.

Oda-da olan fil replaced by *Oda-da-ki fil* *The elephant (which is) in the room*
Benim-ki kahve *The coffee (which is) mine*