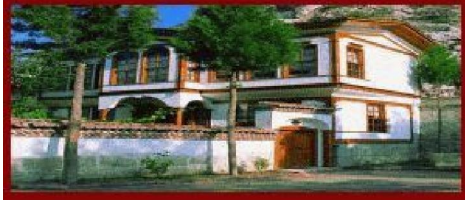


A Konak  
(Mansion) in  
rural Turkey



The Compliment - "To be.." - in Turkish - is used in verbless sentences as - "The colour is blue." - "I am ill." - "The road is long."

## Manisa Turkish

*Double Click anywhere to return to Top of Page.*

### About the Compliment - to be

#### The Positive Form - "to be"

Although - **to be** - appears to be a Verb it is not. It is used in verbless sentences to describe a - **state of being**

The house **is blue**

Mehmet **was ill.**

It **will be a quick** journey

For this reason the Grammarians call it the Compliment. However many grammar books still refer to it as the verb - **to be**

### Present Tense Suffixes - The Compliment - to be

The Verb to be takes the form of a suffix in Turkish. It is subject to Vowel Harmony Rules and also Consonant Mutation when added to words ending in a Hard Consonant.

#### Personal Present Tense Suffixes

-im/-ım/-um/-üm or -yim/-yım/-yum/-yüm (after vowels) - I am

-sin/-sın/-sun/-sün - you are

-dir/-dır/-dur/-dür or -tir. etc.. (consonant mutation) - he/she/it is

-iz/-ız/-uz/-üz or -yiz. etc.. (after vowels) - we are

-sınız/-sınız/-sunuz/-sünüz - you are

-dir(ler)/-dır(lar)/-dur(lar)/-dür(ler) or -tirler. etc.. (consonant mutation) - they are



NOTE THAT THE THIRD PERSON PLURAL ENDINGS SHOWN IN BRACKETS ABOVE **-LAR** OR **-LER** ARE VERY OFTEN OMITTED IN CONVERSATION.

### Past Tense Suffixes - The Compliment - to be

Buffer letter **-y-** is used in All Persons when suffixing to a word ending in a vowel.



NOTE THE USE OF THE BUFFER LETTER **-Y-** IN THE FORMATION OF THE PAST TENSE FOR VERB STEMS WHICH END IN A VOWEL. THIS IS TO KEEP THE FINAL VOWEL OF THE VERB STEM SEPERATED BY MUTATING THE FIRST VOWEL OF THE PAST TENSE ENDINGS **-IDIM ETC** TO **-YDIM ETC.**

### Personal Past Tense Suffixes

#### Normal Forms

-dim/-dım/-dum/-düm or (After Vowels) **-ydim .etc..** - I was

-din . etc.. or **-ydin** - you were

-di. etc.. or **-ydi** - he/she/it was

-dik. etc.. or **-ydik** - we were

-diniz. etc.. or **-ydiniz** - you were

-diler. etc.. or **-ydiler** - they were

#### Consonant Mutation

**-tim. etc..** - I was

**-tin** - you were

**-ti** - he/she/it was

**-tik** - we were

**-tiniz** - you were

**-tiler** - they were

## Vowel Harmony - the Compliment - to be

Both the present and past obey the rules of vowel harmony, which are summed up as follows:

### The A - Undotted Group

Last vowel **-a** or **-ı** is followed by **-ı** in suffix.

**ya lıyız** - we are old

**hastaydık** - we were ill

Last vowel **-o** or **-u** is followed by **u** in suffix.

**bir vazodur** - it is a vase.

**yorgundum** - I was tired.

### The E - Dotted Group

Last vowel **-e** or **-i** is followed by **i** in suffix.

**bir i nedir** - it is a needle

**zengindin** - you were rich

Last vowel **-ö** or **-ü** is followed by **ü** in suffix.

**bir gözdür** - it is an eye.

**Türk'tüler** - they were Turkish.

## Consonant Mutation - the Compliment - to be

The present and past tense suffixes which begin in **-d-** undergo consonant mutation **-dir** becomes **-tir** and all the past tense suffixes beginning in **-di** become **-ti** after a final hard (unvoiced) consonant the letters **ç f h k p s t**

### Examples of Consonant Mutation

#### Present Tense and Past Tense

**büyüktür** - it is large

**büyüktü** - it was large

**gençtirler** - they are young

**gençtik** - we were young

**yava tın** - you were slow

**çabuktunuz** - you were quick

**sabahtır** - it is morning

**sabahtı** - it was morning

**bir mektuptur** - it is a letter

**bir mektuptu** - it was a letter

**Mehmet' tir** - It is Mehmet

**Mehmet' ti** - It was Mehmet

**bir sepettir** - it is a basket

**bir sepetti** - it was a basket

**bir virüstür** - it is a virus

**bir virüstü** - it was a virus

**felakettir** - it is a disaster

**felaketti** - it was a disaster



NOTE: SUFFIXES ARE NOT FIXED DIRECTLY TO PROPER NAMES (WORDS WHICH BEGIN WITH A CAPITAL LETTER), AN APOSTROPHE COMMA IS USED INSTEAD:

**Mehmet' tir** - It is Mehmet

**istanbul' da** - In Istanbul

**Hükümet' ten** - From the Government

### Present Tense Reference Summary - The Compliment - to be

In the present tense only 3rd person singular has consonant mutation. It follows that for vowel harmony and consonant mutation the following forms are used:

#### Singular Forms - Present

I am **-im, -ım, -üm, -um**

I am (After Vowels) -yim, -yım, -yüm, -yum

you are -sin, -sın, -sün, -sun

he/she/it is -dir, -dır, -dür, -dur

he/she/it is (Consonant Mutation) -tir, -tır, -tür, -tur

#### Plural Forms - Present

we are -iz, -ız, -üz, -uz

we are (After Vowels) -yiz, -yız, -yüz, -yuz

you are -sınız, -sınız, -sünüz, -sunuz

they are -dirler, -dırlar, -dürler, -durlar

they are (Consonant Mutation) -tirler, -tırlar, -türler, -turlar

#### Past Tense Reference Summary - the Compliment - to be

As every person suffix in the past tense begins with a **-d** then it follows that every person can be subject to consonant mutation to **-t** when added to a word ending in a hard consonant.

#### Singular Forms - Past

I was -dim, -dım, -düm, -dum

I was (Consonant Mutation) -tim, -tım, -tüm, -tum

I was (After Vowels) -ydim, -ydım, -ydüm, -ydum

you were -din, -dın, -dün, -dun

you were (Consonant Mutation) -tin, -tın, -tün, -tun

you were (After Vowels) -ydin, -ydın, -ydün, -ydu

he/she/it was -di, -dı, -dü, -du

he/she/it was (Consonant Mutation) -ti, -tı, -tü, -tu

he/she/it was (After Vowels) -ydi, -ydı, -ydü, -ydu

#### Plural Forms - Past

we were -dik, -dık, -dük, -duk

we were (Consonant Mutation) -tik, -tık, -tük, -tuk

we were (After Vowels) -ydik, -ydık, -ydük, -yduk

you were -diniz, -dınız, -dünüz, -dunuz

you were (Consonant Mutation) -tiniz, -tınız, -tünüz, tunuz

you were (After Vowels) -ydiniz, -ydınız, -ydünüz, -ydu

they were -diler, -dılar, -düler, -dular

they were (Consonant Mutation) -tiler, -tılar, -tüler, -tular

they were (After Vowels) -ydiler, -ydılar, -ydüler, -ydular

#### Some Examples in the Present and Past Tenses

zengin - rich

zenginim - I am rich

zengindim - I was rich

yorgun - tired

yorgunum - I am tired

yorgundun - you were tired

pahalı - dear, expensive

pahalıdır - it is dear

pahalıydı - it was dear

küçük - small

küçüktür - it is small

küçüktü - it was small

hasta - ill

hastayız - we are ill

hastaydık - we were ill

ya lı - aged/old

ya lısın - you are old

ya lıydı - he was old

yoksul - poor

yoksuldurlar - they are poor

yoksuldular - they were poor

**genç** - young

**gençtirler** - they are young

**gençtiler** - they were young

### **The Future of The Compliment - will be**

The Future of the Compliment is lacking in Turkish. Its place is taken by the Future Tense of the Verb **olmak** - **to be, to become**

**Yarın hazır olacağım** - I will be ready tomorrow

**Er geç zengin olacaksın** - You will become rich soon

**Bu gece parti çok güzel olacak** - It will be a great party tonight

All these are Verbless Sentences but they use the Verb - **olmak** - **to become** - to convey the Future of the Compliment - **to be**