

1- Turkish Alphabet

The Turkish alphabet has twenty nine letters, including eight vowels and twenty one consonants. Since each letter in the alphabet represents only one sound, letters are always read as they are written. Therefore anyone who knows the sounds of the letters properly, can easily start reading Turkish in a short time. Here is the Turkish alphabet in capital and small letters.

A B C Ç D E F G Ğ H I İ J K L M N O Ö P R S Ş T U Ü V Y Z
a b c ç d e f g ğ h ı i j k l m n o ö p r s ş t u ü v y z

1.1- Turkish Letter sounds with English equivalents

LETTER	PRONUNCIATION	EXAMPLE	LETTER	PRONUNCIATION	EXAMPLE
A	a	u as in cup	M	m	m as in milk
B	b	b as in bit	N	n	n as in no
C	c	j as in jam	O	o	o as in off
Ç	ç	ch as in chip	Ö	ö	u as in urge
D	d	d as in deep	P	p	p as in pin
E	e	e as in ten	R	r	r as in rent
F	f	f as in fit or full	S	s	s as in sit
G	g	g as in get or girl	Ş	ş	sh as in shape
Ğ	ğ	Has No Sound	T	t	t as in time
H	h	h as in hope	U	u	u as in put
I	ı	i as in cousin	Ü	ü	u as in nude
İ	i	ee as in keen	V	v	v as in very
J	j	s as in leisure	Y	y	y as in you
K	k	k as in kept	Z	z	z as in zoom
L	l	l as in lamp			

1.2- Yumuşak G (Soft G "Ğ,ğ")

1-) If there is a consonant after soft g or it is at the end of the word.

Soft g simply doubles the sound of the vowel before it by creating a second softer voice. For instance while the word " Öğretmen " is being pronounced, soft g creates another softer sound of the letter ö after it. In this case the word is heard like " Ööretmen ". This special letter is never used at the beginning of a word.

2-) If there is a vowel after soft g.

Soft g has almost no sound when it is between two vowels. At the beginning of Turkish language learning process, it may be appropriate to think that it only serves in order to visually separate two vowels. On the other hand, it will be seen that soft g combines the sounds of two vowels when the words are listened to carefully . For instance while the word " Bağır " is being pronounced, soft g combines the sounds of the two vowels and it is heard like " Bair " .