

## 2.9- Consonant harmony rules in Turkish language

In addition to the vowel harmony rules that have been mentioned before, there exist other fundamental **Consonant Harmony Rules** that can both change the letters in the suffixes added and the last letters of the words which take the suffixes.

These harmony rules are applied to the words that end with certain unvoiced consonants which are “Ç, F, H, K, P, S, Ş, T”. The reason that these consonants are separated as unvoiced is that vocal cords are not vibrated when a speaker produces one of these sounds. You can recognize any unvoiced consonant checking if your vocal cords vibrate. There exist two different **Consonant Harmony Rules** that are decided to be used according to the last consonants of the words and the certain suffixes that are added to the words.

**2.10- First Rule - Word mutation:** Three conditions must be verified to apply the first consonant harmony rules.

- 1-) There must be a word that ends with the letters “P, Ç, T, K”.
- 2-) The word must take a suffix that starts with a vowel.
- 3-) The word must consist of **more than one syllable**, in other words it must have **more than one vowel**. For instance first rule cannot be applied to the word “top” in the compound noun “Futbol topu” since the word has only one syllable and includes only one vowel.

In such cases the last letters “P, Ç, T, K” are changed with “B, C, D, Ğ”.

For instance when we need to create a compound noun using the words okul and kitap, we are going to need to add the vowel “-I” to the word kitap after its last letter “-P”. In that case, since the three conditions are satisfied we will not only add the letter “-I” to the word kitap, but also exchange its last letter with the letter “-B” and the correct compound noun will be “Okul kitabı”. Now let’s study the examples in table below and try to internalize this process filling in the blanks applying the rules that we have just learned.

Last Letter is P (Changed with B)		Last Letter is Ç (Changed with C)	
İSİMLER/NOUNS	COMPOUND NOUNS	İSİMLER/NOUNS	COMPOUND NOUNS
Türk/şarap	Türk şarabı	Elma/ağaç	Elma ağacı
Test/kitap		Sınav/sonuç	
Ders/talep		Yaşama/sevinç	
Banka/hesap		Faiz/kazanç	
Okuma/kitap		Çam/ağaç	
Çocuk/çorap		Bayram/sevinç	
Elbise/dolap		İnsan/güç	
Last Letter is T (Changed with D)		Last Letter is K (Changed with Ğ)	
İSİMLER/NOUNS	COMPOUND NOUNS	İSİMLER/NOUNS	COMPOUND NOUNS
Kapı/kilit	Kapı kilidi	Köpek/balık	Köpek balığı
Kandil/simit		Anahtar/delik	
Yaya/geçit		Bahar/şenlik	
Hizmet/çeşit		Su/kıtlık	
Can/simit		Av/köpek	
Alman/kurt		Saksı/çiçek	
Araç/kilit		Dağ/çilek	