

## 2- Nouns

There are **no different genders** of nouns in Turkish language. Therefore learners do not have to struggle with remembering if a noun is masculine or feminine. Turkish language is a very **systematic and organized** after learning its fundamental building stones. Turkish, at the same time takes advantage of using different suffixes instead of using prepositions, conjunctions etc. like in English.

### 2.1- Indefinite article "Bir"

The word "Bir" both means **One** and **a/an**. It can be used as an **indefinite article** (a/an) that precedes a noun and as a **cardinal number** in Turkish language. An indefinite article may be used before a singular noun unless a definite article is used just like in a grammatical English sentence. However it can not be considered as an imperative grammar rule that has to be applied all the time.

Although we should learn how to use the indefinite article "bir" in order to make grammatically correct sentences, the necessity and usage of indefinite article may differ in daily life and conversations.

Now, please have a look at the examples in the table below and practice pronouncing them.

TURKISH	SYLLABLES	MEANING	TURKISH	SYLLABLES	MEANING
Bir ev	Bir ev	A house	Bir çocuk	Bir ço-cuk	A child
Bir soru	Bir so-ru	A question	Bir insan	Bir in-san	A person
Bir araba	Bir a-ra-ba	A car	Bir cevap	Bir ce-vap	An answer
Bir oda	Bir o-da	A room	Bir elma	Bir el-ma	An apple
Bir gün	Bir gün	A day	Bir kadın	Bir ka-dın	A woman

### 2.2- Singular Demonstrative Pronouns "Bu, Şu, O"

Demonstrative pronouns represent or stand in for a person, place or thing that must be pointed to. They may function as subjects, objects or objects of the preposition. They are widely used when referring to places, people or expressions. Demonstratives often accompany our gestures. There are **three demonstrative** pronouns that are used **according to the distances that they point** in Turkish language.

"**Bu**" (this) is generally used to point or refer the things that are close to you. "Bu" can be also used for the things that has just been mentioned in a conversation or a text.

"**Şu**" (that) must be used for the things at a considerable distance. Şu can be used to direct the listener's attention towards a thing not previously mentioned during the conversation. But as soon as the listener notices the thing referred to, both of the speakers have to begin to use the demonstrative pronoun "**Bu**".

**Please be careful** with using the demonstrative pronoun "**Şu**", because sometimes "**Şu**" may have a slightly derogatory meaning in daily life. Thus, we should be careful when we put it in a sentence to point the people that we do not know. But the demonstrative pronoun "**Şunlar**" can be used for the things in any situation.

"**O**" (that) must be used for the things that are far away. This demonstrative pronoun is also used as a personal pronoun to say he, she, it in Turkish. The difference between "şu" and "o" can be hard to understand for the foreign people. Our suggestion is to use "o". Native speakers use "şu" seldom. "O" can replace "şu" in every situation, but do not try the reverse because "şu" cannot always replace "o".