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Introduction

The Turkmen Language belongs to the greater family of Turkic languages. The Turkic languages, together with the Mongolian and Manchu-Tungus languages, form the Ural-Altaic language group. Specifically, Turkmen is included in the sub-group of Southern Turkic (Oguz) languages, along with Turkish, Crimean Tatar, and Azeri. Southern Turkic is a sub-group of Common Turkic, which also includes Kazakh, Uzbek, Uigur, Kyrgyz, and others.

Among all the Turkic languages, there are similar grammatical structures, similar phonetics, some shared vocabulary, and high mutual intelligibility. Some experts also consider Japanese and Korean part of this phylum, or family, although evidence of this is debated.

Turkmen is agglutinative, meaning its grammatical functions are indicated by adding various suffixes to fixed stems. Suffixes on nouns indicate number. In general, Turkmen employs a Subject-Object-Verb word order, as is typical for Turkic languages, but other orders are possible in certain discourse situations. As such, Turkmen makes use of postpositions rather than prepositions, and unique relative clauses that precede the verb. In some ways Turkmen is an easy language to learn. Unlike Russian or Spanish, Turkmen has no genders. There are no irregular verbs. For the most parts, words are written exactly as they are pronounced. Finally, Turkmen’s grammatical case system is remarkably simple once understood, and has almost no exceptions.

The greatest difficulty for beginning Turkmen speakers will probably be adapting to Turkmen’s elaborate system of grammatical suffixes, or “tag words” and learning to re-order their speech so that the predicate (verb) is the last thing spoken. Also, many simple English grammatical structures (such as “to have,” “to need,” “to want,” and “to be able to”) are handled differently in Turkmen.

Turkmen Language History

The entrance of Turkic-speaking groups into the southwestern region of Central Asia by the fifth and sixth centuries gradually changed the area from Persian-speaking to Turkic-speaking. The decisive influx came when Oguz tribes migrated into the area between the Ural Mountains and the Aral Sea around the 8th and 9th centuries. During this same period the term Turkmen was first used to refer to these people. By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the Oguz tribes in Turkmenistan had coalesced to the point that they could be regarded as a single people. Although they shared common traditions and the same language, they had strong divisions among them. Subnational and clan consciousness still predominates in Turkmenistan where Turkmen people tend to divide themselves by origin and clan. The newly independent Turkmenistan state gained independence from the Soviet Union on October 27, 1991.

The oldest monuments of Turkic languages—inscribed on stones and datable to the early 8th century CE—were discovered in the late 19th century in southern Siberia around the Yenisey River and in northern Mongolia near the capital of Urga (modern Ulaan-Baatar). Deciphered in 1893 by the Danish scholar Vilhelm Thomsen, they provide valuable insights into the history of Central Asia around the seventh century CE. These records of the Turk dynasty (Chinese Tu-chüeh) include texts found at Kosho-Tsaidam on the Orhon River, as well as several Chinese
texts. These texts throw light on the nomadic culture of the tribal empire controlled by the Turk dynasty (Gokturks), including shamanism, the calendar, customs, and social structure, with strong Chinese influence detectable in the latter.

**The Five Branches of Turkic Languages**

1. Oguz, also known as Southern or Southwestern Turkic (includes the Turkish language, or Osmanli, the most widely used Turkic language, spoken in Turkey and the Balkan Peninsula; Azeri, spoken in Azerbaijan and northwestern Iran; and Turkmen, spoken in Turkmenistan and other parts of Central Asia;)
2. Kipchak, or Western Turkic (includes the Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages, spoken in Central Asia; Tatar, spoken around the middle Volga, and in Turkey, the Balkans, Central Asia, and China; Bashkort or Bashkir language, which is very similar to Tatar);
3. Karluk or Eastern Turkic (includes Uzbek, spoken in Uzbekistan and other parts of Central Asia and Uigur, spoken in the Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region of China, and parts of Central Asia);
4. Northern Turkic, also known as Eastern Hunnic (consists of a number of languages spoken in Siberia, such as Yakut and Altay);
5. And the single-language branch consisting of the Chuvash language, spoken along the middle Volga River.

**Language Variation and Dialects**

Turkmen has numerous dialects, which differ phonologically and morphologically. They can be broken into two general groups: the major or central dialects and others on the periphery. The following dialects, generally regarded as major, also denote tribal distinctions: Yomut, Teke, Salir, Sarik, Goklen, Arsari, and Chowdur. No consensus exists, however, on exactly how many major dialects should be recognized within Turkmen.

Some scholars claim that the standard language is based on just one dialect—Yomut. Most linguists, however, acknowledge that Yomut and Teke are the two dialects whose contributions to the formation of the standard language since 1920 surpass those of any other dialect.
The Turkmen Alphabet

Türkmen Elipbiýi

Evolution of the Alphabet

Elipbiýiň taryhy

The Turkmen alphabet was first written in the Arabic script, until about 1929, when the “Unified Turkish Latin Alphabet” (UTLA), which was based on the Roman alphabet, was introduced. This alphabet was very similar to the Roman alphabet currently used for the Turkish language. The UTLA script was replaced in 1940 when all Turkic people in the Soviet Union were required to adopt the Cyrillic script. Finally, in 1995, the “Täze Türkmen Elipbiýi,” or New Alphabet, was formally introduced by President Niyazov to re-align Turkmenistan with the non-Soviet world. Similar new alphabets have been introduced in Uzbekistan and other republics.

The New Alphabet is currently used for street signs and political slogans, but there is a shortage of other reading materials. Most Turkmen books in print are older and use the Cyrillic alphabet. The new alphabet is used for new Turkmen texts, instruction in schools, and for all official documents. Despite this, there has been no push for the older generation to learn the new alphabet and therefore newspapers, information, and other resources are often available in both alphabets.

The new alphabet (Täze Elipbiý), containing nine vowels and twenty-one consonants, is much easier for native English speakers to read and understand than the Cyrillic, and also seems better suited to the Turkmen language. For this reason we have used it in the grammar discussions of this text. Most letters are pronounced more or less like their English counterparts.

The Alphabet

Täze Elipbiý

The following is a list of the letters of the new Turkmen alphabet and English approximations of how to pronounce their Turkmen names:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aa</td>
<td>“ah”</td>
<td>Ää</td>
<td>“a”*</td>
<td>Jj</td>
<td>“jeh”</td>
<td>Nn</td>
<td>“en”</td>
<td>Rr</td>
<td>“er”*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb</td>
<td>“beh”</td>
<td>Ff</td>
<td>“eff”</td>
<td>Žž</td>
<td>“zheh”</td>
<td>Nň</td>
<td>“eng”</td>
<td>Ss</td>
<td>“eth”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Çç</td>
<td>“cheh”</td>
<td>Gg</td>
<td>“geh”</td>
<td>Kk</td>
<td>“ka”</td>
<td>Oo</td>
<td>“o”</td>
<td>Şş</td>
<td>“sheh”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dd</td>
<td>“deh”</td>
<td>Hh</td>
<td>“heh”*</td>
<td>Li</td>
<td>“ell”</td>
<td>Öö</td>
<td>“ö”*</td>
<td>Tt</td>
<td>“teh”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ee</td>
<td>“eh”</td>
<td>Êe</td>
<td>“ee”</td>
<td>Mm</td>
<td>“em”</td>
<td>Pp</td>
<td>“peh”</td>
<td>Uu</td>
<td>“ooh”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For these letters it is impossible to approximate a phonetical spelling using English letters. “Ä” is pronounced like the “a” in “apple.” The first “h” in “heh” should be pronounced as a fricative in the throat like the “ch” in “Bach.” “R” is not pronounced like the “er” in the English word “writer.” There should be a slight roll of the tongue on the “r,” as in Spanish or Russian. “Ö,” “ü,” and “y” are vowels that do not appear in English. For their pronunciations, see below. It should be noted that different dialects have different pronunciations for some consonants. For example, s’s and z’s are not always lisped.
Like in all languages the Turkmen alphabet can be divided into two groups: **vowels** (çekimli sesler) and **consonants** (çekimsiz sesler).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>vowels (çekimli sesler)</strong></th>
<th>a, e, ä, i, o, ö, u, ü, y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>consonants (çekimsiz sesler)</strong></td>
<td>b, ç, d, f, g, h, ž, k, l, m, n, ň, p, r, s, ş, t, w, ý, z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vowels
*Çekimliler*

Short vowels are approximately like simple vowels in standard American English. English has no true equivalents of long vowels because it has “diphthongs” or double vowels that are different from each other. For example, in pronouncing the word “wrote,” English speakers actually make o into two different vowels (oh--oooh). The sound of long vowels can be approximated by extending the pronunciation of a short vowel for the duration of two vowels.

The nine vowels of Turkmen are represented by the following letters or letter-groups:

- **a** When short, pronounced as the English a in the word “father.” In words with a long a, it is pronounced as a drawn-out English aa, as in “bah (humble).”
- **ä** When short, pronounced as the English a in “ant.” In words with a long a, it is pronounced as a drawn-out a as in “man” or “lamp.”
- **e** When short, pronounced as the English e in “pet.” There is no long e in Turkmen.
- **y** When short, pronounced similar to the English i in “possible.” In words with a long y, it is pronounced approximately as a drawn-out hée in “wheel,” but deep in the throat.
- **i** When short, pronounced as the English i in “middle.” In words with a long i, it is pronounced approximately like ea in “easy.”
- **o** When short, pronounced as the English a in “all.” In words with a long o, it is pronounced approximately as a drawn-out English o in “board.”
- **u** When short, pronounced as English u in “truth.” In words with a long u, this sound is pronounced approximately as a drawn-out English ou in “through.”
- **ö** Pronounced short, is close to ir in “girl” but with rounding the lips. In words with a long o, it is pronounced with a longer duration than short o, as in the word learn.
- **ü** Similar to u as English “prune,” but with more tightly rounded lips.

### Consonants
*Çekimsizler*

The 21 Turkmen consonants are represented by the following letters:

- **p** Pronounced as English p in “pen.”
- **t** Pronounced as English t in “ten.”
- **k** Pronounced as English k in “keep” when in words with the vowels ä, e, i, ö, ý but as English c in “call” when in words with the vowels a, y, o, u.
- **b** Pronounced as English b in “boy” at the beginning of a word and similar to v or w in other positions.
- **d** Pronounced as English d in “deep.”
- **g** Pronounced as English g in “geese” when in words with the vowels ä, e, i, ö, ý, but as a sound like the soft English gh in “yogurt” in words with a, y, o, u.
m Pronounced as English m in “meat.”

n Pronounced as English n in the word “nice.”

ñ Pronounced as English ng in “sing.”

l Pronounced as English l in “look.”

r Pronounced the same way as English r in “rice”, but with a trill.

s Pronounced as a hard English th in “thing” in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English s in “sun” in words coming from Russian.

z Pronounced as a soft English th in “the” in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English z in “zoo” in words coming from Russian.

ş Pronounced as English sh in “share.”

c Pronounced as English ch in “check.”

ž Pronounced as English s in “treasure” in words from Russian.

j Pronounced as English j in “juice.”

h Pronounced as English h in “hall” in some words, but as a gutteral ch in English-German “Bach” in other Turkmen words.

f Pronounced as English f in “four.”

w Pronounced as English w in “wagon” in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English v in “very” in words from Russian.

ý Pronounced as English y in “yes.”

Short and Long Vowels
Gysga we uzyn çekimliler
Vowels are divided into two groups: short (gysga) and long (uzyn) vowels.

| short vowels (gysga çekimliler) | a , e , - , i , o , ö , u , ü , y |
| long vowels (uzyn çekimliler) | a:, - , ä:, i:,o:, ö:, u:, ü:, y: |

In Turkmen the sound e has no long variant and ä has no short variant. For example:

e
ene grandmother
esik clothes
gelin daughter-in-law
semal wind

ten grandfather
tesik clothes
telin daughter-in-law
temal wind

e
This difference often is all that distinguishes the meanings of two words.

| at horse | a:t name |
| bil know! (imperative) | bil: waist |
| ot grass | ot: fire |
| pil elephant | pil: shovel |
| das far | das: stone |
| yaz write! | yaz: spring |
| tut catch! (imperative) | tut: mulberry |
| ol die! (imperative) | ol: wet |
Vowel Harmony
Çekimlileriň sazlaşygy

One very interesting feature of Turkmen is that all vowels can be divided into two groups: the front vowels (inçe çekimli sesler) and the back vowels (ýogyn çekimli sesler). Front vowels are pronounced higher in the throat and are more nasal, while back vowels are pronounced lower in the throat and are more guttural.

| front vowels (inçe çekimli sesler) | ä, ö, ü, i, e |
| back vowels (ýogyn çekimli sesler) | a, o, u, y |

In Turkmen, if the first vowel in a word is a front vowel, the rest of the vowels in the word and in suffixes added to the word must also be front vowels.

eşiğ + ler + īmiz = eşiklerimiz
gelneje + meyletinči = gelnejelerimiz

Similarly, if the first vowel in a word is a back vowel, then any subsequent vowels must also be back vowels.

talyp + lär + ymyz = talyplarymyz
okuwçy + meryyz = okuwçylarymyz
baýramçylyk + bärlyyz = baýramçylyklarymyz

In short, front vowels go with front vowels and back vowels go with back vowels. However, this vowel harmony can be broken within international, borrowed and compound words. For example: telewizor, radio, ofis (international); magnitofon (Russian); kitap, dükan, serdar (Persian-Arabic); älemgoşar, Gülşat (compound).

In these cases, consistent with the general rule for vowel harmony in Turkmen, the final vowel of the word determines the vowel harmony for suffixation.

Verbs in Turkmen adhere consistently to vowel harmony. All verbs belong to one of two groups determined by their infinitive forms: those ending in “-mak,” and those ending in “-mek.” The suffixes for all “-mak” verbs have only back vowels, whereas only front vowels will be found in the suffixes of “-mek” verbs. Examples of this will follow in the explanations of verb tenses.

In addition to being divided into front and back, vowels can also be divided into rounded and open vowels. Rounded vowels (dodak cekimliler) are pronounced using the lips: o, ö, u, ü. Unrounded vowels (dodaklanmaýan cekimliler) are pronounced further back in the mouth: a, ä, e, i, y. If a word has a rounded vowel in the first syllable, its second syllable (and therefore any ending you affix to a one syllable word) usually also contains a rounded vowel. Thus if the first vowel is an “a” (almak), the vowel in the ending will be another open vowel – “y” (aldym). But if the first vowel is an “o” (bolmak), the vowel in the ending will be rounded (boldum).
Examples of standard verb endings are below:

almak → aldym, alsyn, alyň, alyp, alyndy
cekmek → çektäm, çekşin, çekň, çekp, çekldi
gitmek → gitäk, gitsin, gidiň, gيدp, gidldi
cykmak → çykdyň, çykşyn, çykýň, çykyp, çykldy

Examples of the exceptions that follow the rounded-vowel rule are below:

bolmak → boldum, bolsun, boluň, bolup, bolundy
bökmem → bökäk, böksün, böküň, böküp, böküldi
uçmak → uçduňyz, uçsunlar, uçun, uçup, uçuldy
düşmek → düşdüm, düşşun, düşşň, düşüp, düşüldi

düşündü, düşşün, düşşň, düşüldi

These exceptions apply only to verb forms such as the ones listed above, and do not affect present tense or definite or indefinite future tense endings. They do, however, affect genitive case endings: topuň, otuň, özüm, unuň, gülň.

Also note that if adding an ending puts two “e”s together, or an “e” followed by “i,” the vowel will become “ä”:

işle- + emok = išlämok
işle + ip = išläp

In addition, words whose spellings do not follow the rounded vowel rule (üçin, müdär, olar, çörek) are often pronounced in a way that follows the rule (“üçün”, “müdür”, “olor”, “çörök”). However, a rounded vowel never appears in the third syllable of a word (düşündüm, ýuwundym), although it may be pronounced as though it did.

Voiced and Unvoiced Consonants

** Açyk we dymyk çekimsizler**

In Turkmen all consonants can be divided into two groups as well.

| voiced ( açyk çekimsizler ) | b, w, g, d, z, j, ž, y, l, m, n, ň, r |
| unvoiced ( dymyk çekimsizler ) | k, p, s, t, f, h, ç, ş |

Sound Assimilation/Letter Transformation

**Dymyk çekimsizleriň açyga öwrülmegi**

Sound assimilation occurs due to certain letter combinations. Although sound assimilation occurs in English, we do not change the spelling of words. In Turkmen however, when certain letter combinations occur, the spelling of a word is changed to reflect its pronunciation.

In Turkmen, therefore, when a suffix starting with a vowel is added to a word stem that ends with one of the following letters: “k, p, t, ç,” the letter must be changed as follows:

K → G  P → B  T → D  Ç → J
Vocal Transformations
Çekimsiz sesleriň meňzeleşmegi

Certain consonant combinations are spoken differently in Turkmen than their written forms would indicate. For example, the "nd" of "mende" (on my person) is pronounced "nn" when spoken (menne). The following chart illustrates these combinations and examples with the spoken transformations rendered in the new alphabet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written</th>
<th>Spoken</th>
<th>Written</th>
<th>Spoken</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n + d</td>
<td>nn</td>
<td>sende</td>
<td>senne</td>
<td>on your person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l + d</td>
<td>ll</td>
<td>aldym</td>
<td>alym</td>
<td>I took</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z + d</td>
<td>zz</td>
<td>agyzda</td>
<td>agyzza</td>
<td>in the mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s + d</td>
<td>ss</td>
<td>bäseş</td>
<td>bässé</td>
<td>rival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s + t</td>
<td>ss</td>
<td>üsti</td>
<td>üssì</td>
<td>top, surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ş + j</td>
<td>şş</td>
<td>goşjak</td>
<td>goşşak</td>
<td>will add</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z + s</td>
<td>ss</td>
<td>ýazsyn</td>
<td>ýassyn</td>
<td>let him write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t + s</td>
<td>ss</td>
<td>gitse</td>
<td>gisse</td>
<td>if she goes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t + ç</td>
<td>çç</td>
<td>parahatçylyk</td>
<td>parahaççylyk</td>
<td>peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ç + s</td>
<td>şş</td>
<td>aşsa</td>
<td>aşsa</td>
<td>if it opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ç + l</td>
<td>şl</td>
<td>açlyk</td>
<td>aşlyk</td>
<td>hunger, famine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ç + d</td>
<td>şd</td>
<td>geçdik</td>
<td>geçdik</td>
<td>we passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ç + j</td>
<td>şş</td>
<td>iççek</td>
<td>işşek</td>
<td>will drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g + b</td>
<td>gw</td>
<td>bagban</td>
<td>bagwan</td>
<td>gardener</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Case System

Düşümler

Like Russian or German, Turkic languages have a system of grammatical cases. Cases change words depending on their grammatical context. English has cases for personal pronouns. For example: “I see him,” “He sees me,” not: “Me sees he,” or “Him sees I.” Turkmen has six cases, and these cases are used for all nouns, not just personal pronouns. The six Turkmen cases are: the nominative, used for the subject of the sentence; the genitive, similar to English possessives; the dative, used to show directed action; the accusative, which is similar to the English “direct object” the locative, which shows locality; and the instrumental, which is used to show origin.

While six cases might seem a bit overwhelming at first, it should be noted that the case suffixes often simply replace our English prepositions such as “from,” “at,” “with,” “in,” “on,” and “to.” Also, the rules for their use are remarkably simple and inflexible, unlike those of the Russian cases.

Cases and Their Suffixes

Düşümler we olaryň goşulmalary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Vowel Endings</th>
<th>Consonant Endings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>--- (no change) pagta - cotton</td>
<td>--- (no change) gazan - pot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pagta - cotton Gökdepe - Gokdepe (a town)</td>
<td>küşir - carrot(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive</td>
<td>-nyň, -niň (-nuň, -nüň) pagtanyň- cotton's</td>
<td>-yň, -iň (-uň, -üň) gazanyň- pot's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gökdepäniň- Gokdepe's</td>
<td>küşiriň- carrots’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>-a, -ä or -na, -ne pagta- to cotton</td>
<td>-a, -e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pagta- to cotton Gökdepä- to Gokdepe</td>
<td>gazana- to the pot küşire- to the carrots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accusative</td>
<td>-ny, -ni pagtany- the cotton (direct ob.)</td>
<td>-y, -i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gökdepäni- Gokdepe (d.o.)</td>
<td>gazany- the pot (d.o.) küşiri- the carrot(s) (d.o.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locative</td>
<td>-da, -de or -nda, -nde pagtada- in the cotton (field)</td>
<td>-da, -de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pagtada- in the cotton Gökdepe- in Gokdepe</td>
<td>gazanda- in the pot küşirde- in carrots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>-dan, -den or -ndan, -nden pagtadan- from cotton</td>
<td>-dan, -den</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pagtadan- from cotton Gökdepeden- from Gokdepe</td>
<td>gazandan- from the pot küşirden- from carrots</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Nominative Case

**Baş düşüm**

This case answers **Kim?** (Who?), **Näme?** (What?), **Nire?** (Where?).

It is used for the subject of the sentence and sometimes for non-specific direct objects (see discussion of the Accusative Case below).

- Gökdepe owadan.  
  Gokdepe is beautiful.
- Çyra söndi.  
  The light was turned off.

The Genitive Case

**Eýelik düşüm**

This case answers **Kimiň?** (Whose?), **Nämäniň?** (Of what?), **Niräniň?** (Of where?).

It is usually used to show simple possessive relationships. Note that a suffix is also added to the owned object.

- Gökdepänîň häkimligi  
  Gokdepe's mayor's office
- Gülşadyň maşgalasy  
  Gulshat’s family

However, it is sometimes used in ways unfamiliar to English speakers, most notably in postpositional contexts:

- Gökdepänîň ýanynda  
  by Gokdepe, near Gokdepe
- Stolyň aşagynnda  
  under the table.

The Dative Case

**Ýöneliş düşüm**

This case answers **Kime?** (To whom? For whom?), **Nämä?** (Towards what? To what end?), **Nirä?** (To where?).

It describes an action directed toward something, and is roughly equivalent to “to” in English.

- Bu awtobus Gökdepä gidýär.  
  This bus is going to Gokdepe.
- Men Amana sowgat berdim.  
  I gave a present to Aman.
- Sen nirä gitmeli?  
  Where do you have to go?
- Men mekdebe gitmeli.  
  I have to go to the school.

It can also describe abstract direction.

- Jemalä çaý gerek.  
  Jemal needs tea. (Tea is necessary to Jemal.)

Note how the final vowels change in the following examples:

- Gökdepe  
  Bu awtobus Gökdepä gidýär.
- Mary  
  Bu samolýot Mara gidýär.
- Çüli  
  Bu maşyn Çülıä gidýär.
The dative case may also be used at times when an English speaker would use the word “for”:

Saňa hat ýok.

There is no letter for you.

The Accusative Case

Yeňiş düşüm

This case answers Kimi? (Who?), Nämäni? (What?), Niräni? (Where?). It is used for direct objects – things that are acted upon by the verb of the sentence.

Men käşiri dograýaryn.

I’m cutting the carrots.

It also carries the specificity of an English “the” and is only used when the object is definite. For example:

Sen ýygnagy başlajakmy?

Are you going to start the meeting?

Men şu kitaby okadym.

I read this book.

In the following sentences “ýygnak” and “kitap” are indefinite and refer to “a meeting” and “a book” as compared to the above sentences, which refer to “the meeting” and “this book.” The above sentences use the accusative case while the examples below do not:

Şu gün ýygnak bar.

Today there is a meeting.

Men kitap okadym.

I read a book.

The Locative Case

Wagt-orun düşüm

This case answers Kimde? (Upon whom?), Nämede? (At what?), Nirede? (Where? At what place?). It translates to English in various ways depending on the context, but is roughly the same as the English prepositions “in,” “at,” and “on.”

Men Gökdepe ýaşaýaryn.

I live in Gokdepe.

Mende çaý ýok.

I don’t have any tea. (On me, there is no tea).

Şu gün klasda ýygnak bar.

Today there is a meeting in class.

The Instrumental Case

Çykyş düşüm

This case answers Kimden? (From whom?), Nämeden? (From what?), Nireden? (From where?) Like the English “from,” it can be used to describe origin (physical, material, place).

Bu köýnek Türkiyeden.

This dress is from Turkey.

Men ejemden hat aldym.

I got a letter from my mother.

Bu köýnek pagtadan.

This dress is made from cotton.
Cases of Pronouns
Çalyşmalaryň düşümde üýtgeşi
Turkmen is similar to Romance languages in that there are two second-person pronouns: one is informal and singular, used to address friends and peers, while the second is employed in formal settings or when speaking to more than one person. The third-person pronouns are genderless; the distinction between “he,” “she,” and “it” can only be determined through context. Pronoun cases are similar to regular noun case endings. The main exceptions being the mutation of “ol” to “o,” in the following forms: “ony,” “oňa,” “onuň,” “onda,” and “ondan.” Other variations include the following dative pronouns: “maňa,” “saňa,” and “oňa.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Sen</th>
<th>Ol</th>
<th>Biz</th>
<th>Siz</th>
<th>Olar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>You (sing., informal)</td>
<td>He/she/it</td>
<td>We</td>
<td>You (plural, formal)</td>
<td>They</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive</td>
<td>Meniň</td>
<td>Seniň</td>
<td>Onuň</td>
<td>Biziň</td>
<td>Siziň</td>
<td>Olaryň</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My</td>
<td>Your</td>
<td>His/her/its</td>
<td>Our</td>
<td>Your</td>
<td>Their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>Maňa</td>
<td>Saňa</td>
<td>Oňa</td>
<td>Bize</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Olara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To me</td>
<td>To you</td>
<td>To him/her/it</td>
<td>To us</td>
<td>To you</td>
<td>To them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accusative</td>
<td>Meni</td>
<td>Seni</td>
<td>Ony</td>
<td>Bizi</td>
<td>Sizi</td>
<td>Olary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>Him/her/it</td>
<td>Us</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>Them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locative</td>
<td>Mende</td>
<td>Sende</td>
<td>Onda</td>
<td>Bizde</td>
<td>Sizde</td>
<td>Olarda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upon me</td>
<td>Upon you</td>
<td>Upon him/her/it</td>
<td>Upon us</td>
<td>Upon you</td>
<td>Upon them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>Menden</td>
<td>Senden</td>
<td>Ondan</td>
<td>Bizden</td>
<td>Sizden</td>
<td>Olardan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From me</td>
<td>From you</td>
<td>From him/her/it</td>
<td>From us</td>
<td>From you</td>
<td>From them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Possessive Suffixes
*Degişlilik goşulmasy*

In Turkmen, the suffix “*iň*” is added to indicate possession. However, unlike in English, a suffix is also added to the object of possession.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronouns</th>
<th>Spoken</th>
<th>Vowel ending</th>
<th>Consonant ending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men + iň</td>
<td>Meň</td>
<td>-m</td>
<td>-ym/-im/-um/-üm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kakam, ejem</td>
<td>maşynyn, itim, öyüm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen + iň</td>
<td>Seň</td>
<td>-ň</td>
<td>-yň/-iň/-uň/-üň</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kakaň, ejeň</td>
<td>maşynyň, itiň, öyüň</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol = O + nuň</td>
<td>Oň</td>
<td>-sy/-si</td>
<td>-y/-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His/her/its</td>
<td></td>
<td>kaksy, ejesi</td>
<td>maşyny, iti, öyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz + iň</td>
<td>Biziň</td>
<td>-myz /miz</td>
<td>-myyz/-imiz/-umyz/-ümiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our</td>
<td></td>
<td>kaksamyz, ejemiz</td>
<td>maşnymyz, itimiz, öyümiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz + iň</td>
<td>Siziň</td>
<td>-ňyz/-ňiz</td>
<td>-yňyz/-iňiz/-uňyz/-üňiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your</td>
<td></td>
<td>kakaňyz, ejeňiz</td>
<td>maşunyaňyz, itiňiz, öyüňiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar + yň</td>
<td>Olaň</td>
<td>-sy/-si</td>
<td>-y/-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Their</td>
<td></td>
<td>kaksy, ejesi</td>
<td>maşyny, iti, öyi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The genitive participle is often omitted in speech since the suffix alone indicates possession:

Biziň maşgalamyz uly. = Maşgalamyz uly. Our family is big.

**Possessive Suffixes without a Genitive Case Subject**
*Eýelik Düşümsiz Değişlilik*

When referring to two nouns in direct relation in Turkmen, the possessive suffixes are used on the second noun, while the first noun remains in the nominative case. The first noun acts more as an adjective than a noun. One example is the word “bus stop,” rendered in Turkmen as “awtobus duralgasy.” If the first noun were in the genitive case (“awtobusyň duralgasy”), this would indicate one particular bus’s stop. For more examples, see below:

maşyn ýagy = motor oil
öý işi = home work
ýylan derisi = snakeskin

maşynýň ýagy = the car’s oil
öyüň işi = the home’s work
ýylanyň derisi = the snake’s skin

**The Absolute Possessive:** -ky/-ki
*Üýtgewsiz degişlilik*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kimiňki? Whose?</th>
<th>Spoken</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meniň + ki</td>
<td>Meňki</td>
<td>Bu kitap meniňki.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine</td>
<td></td>
<td>This book is mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniň + ki</td>
<td>Seňki</td>
<td>Kompýuter seniňkimi? Is this computer yours?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onuň + ky</td>
<td>Oňky</td>
<td>Şu suratlar onuňky. These pictures are hers/his.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biziň + ki</td>
<td>Biziňki</td>
<td>Bu çagalar biziňki. These children are ours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siziň + ki</td>
<td>Siziňki</td>
<td>Alyň, şu sowgat siziňki. Here, this present is yours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olaryň + ky</td>
<td>Olaňky</td>
<td>Maşyn olaryňkymy? Is the car theirs?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The absolute possessive -ky/-ki can be added to nouns too:

- Bu palto Kelliniňki. This coat is Kelli’s.
- Bu kitap mekdebiňki. This book is the school’s.

**Referring to groups of people or things**

*Adamlaryň ýa-da zatlaryň toparlarda aňladylyşy*

In Turkmen, the genitive case and its corresponding suffixes are used to talk about groups of people in a way similar to the English “four of us” or “all of us.” The genitive case may be applied either to numbers or words such as “hemme” or absolute negatives with “hiç.” Note that the possessive ending is enough to communicate this idea, so pronouns are often dropped:

- (Biziň) ikimiz (The) two of us
- (Siziň) üçiňiz (The) three of you
- (Olaryň) kyrkysy (The) forty of them
- Itleriň hemmesi All of the dogs
- Çagalaryň hiç biri None of the children
- Süýjileriň barysy All of the candies
- Hiçimiz None of us
Forming Questions: -my?/-mi?
Sorag Goşulmasy

In Turkmen, questions are not indicated by vocal inflection but rather by the use of a suffix: “-my/-mi.” To form a question in Turkmen, simply attach the “-my/-mi” suffix to the final word of a statement:

- Sen Türkmenmi? Are you Turkmen?
- Kakaň geldi? Did your father come?
- Siz nahar ýiýip bolduňyz? Did you all finish eating?
- Sen ýatjak? Are you going to sleep?
- Ulumy? (Is it) big?
- Gyzyklymy? (Is it) interesting?

By removing the “-my/-mi” suffix the question becomes a statement:

- Sen Türkmen. You are Turkmen.
- Kakaň geldi. Your father came.

Note that if a question word is used (who, what, when, etc…), the “-my/-mi” suffix is not used:

- Sen haçan geldiñe? (Sen haçan geldiňmi?) When did you come?
- Sen düýn geldiň? Did you come yesterday?
- Ol nireden? (Ol niredenmi?) Where is he from?
- Ol Amerikadanmy? Is he from the United States?

Multiple-choice questions are constructed slightly differently. The “-my/-mi” suffix can be appended to the first choice, or to both:

- Sen hytaýmy, ýa-dan türkmen? Are you Chinese, or Turkmen?
- Çaý gyzgynmy, ýa sowukmy? Is the tea hot or cold?
Forming Plurals: -lar/-ler

Küplük San Göşulmasy

To pluralize nouns and verbs, Turkmen uses the “-lar/-ler” suffix endings, according to the vowel harmony rule.

köçe + ler  streets
myhman + lar  guests

Some examples:

Pişikler jüýjeleri iýýärler.  Cats eat chicks.
Ýaz paslynda güller açylýarlar.  Flowers open in spring.
Kakamyň işdeşleri Türkiýä gitdiler.  My father’s co-workers went to Turkey.

Some variations in the usage of plurals are distinct from English. Notice that in the examples below the nouns are in the singular form although they refer to many.

Men köp kino gördim.  I saw (have seen) many movies.
Okuwçylar alma iýýärler.  Students are eating apples.

Additionally, when making a statement or asking a question about quantity, the noun remains in the singular form, although it refers to many:

Bizde üç maşyn bar.  We have three cars.
Olarda näçe jay bar?  How many houses do they have?
Seniň doganyň barmy?  Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Also, when specifying quantity with a number, verb endings remain in the singular form, although the verb refers to many:

Geçen hepde biziň öýümize on sany myhman geldi.  Last week ten guests came to our house.
Verb Overview

Işlikler Barada Umumy Maglumat

All verbs in the Turkmen language are conjugated the same, depending on their infinitive form. The infinitive form of a verb in Turkmen ends in either “-mak” or “-mek.” For example, “okamak” (to read/to study), “ýazmak” (to write), or “iýmek” (to eat). In theory, the conjugations of “-mak/-mek” verbs are similar to verbs in a language such as Spanish, where verb infinitives have “ar,” “er,” or “ir” endings. However, there are no irregular verbs in Turkmen. These two endings and their corresponding conjugations are relatively identical, yet they differ slightly as a result of the vowel-harmony rule. For more information, see the above section on vowel harmony.

Like English, Turkmen has a great variety of verb tenses. Verbs in Turkmen are conjugated in plural and singular for first, second, and third persons. As in Romance languages and Russian, the subject of a sentence is often not spoken if it is obvious. Below is an overview of the main verb tenses. All examples are given for both “-mak” and “-mek” verbs. Note that the negative structures, usually formed by adding “-ma” or “-me” after the stem, are also included. Given the challenges of direct translation, we have tried to translate the meaning of verbs and sentences as closely as possible. Please note that many of the sentences in this book are examples of spoken, informal Turkmen, and that throughout the different sections of this book the targeted grammatical structure is in bold.
Present Tense
Häzirki Zaman

(This form is also commonly used as an equivalent to the English present continuous tense.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spoken</th>
<th>To write/to eat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ýazmak/iymek</td>
<td>yazýaryn/iýärin</td>
<td>I write/eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yazýan/iýaän</td>
<td>I am writing/eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ýazýarsyň/iýärşiň</td>
<td>yazýaň/iýaän</td>
<td>You write/eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td></td>
<td>You are writing/eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>Yazýar/iýýär</td>
<td>yazýa/iýýä</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>He is writing/eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>ýazýarys/iýýäris</td>
<td>yazýas/iýýäs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>We are writing/eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>ýazýarsyňyz/iýýärsiňiz</td>
<td>yazýaňyz/iýýäňiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>You are writing/eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>ýazýár lar/iýýärlar or ýazýar/iýýär</td>
<td>ýazýalar/iýýäler or ýazýar/iýýär</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>They are writing/eating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men her gün mekdebe gidýärin. I go to school everyday.
Meniň kakam keselhanada işleýär. My father works at the hospital.
Sen her başinji gün metjide barýarsyňmy? Do you go to mosque every Friday?
Siz her gün namaz okaýarsyňyzmy? Do you pray everyday?
Obaň gyzlary haly dokaýarlар. The village’s girls weave carpets.

The present simple tense is also used in Turkmen to speak of events in the future. It is somewhat similar to English use of the “present” continuous in statements such as, “I’m going to school tomorrow.” For example:

Biz ertir toýa gidýäris. We are going to the party tomorrow.
Meniň jigim indiki ýyl uniwersitete girýär. My little brother is entering the university next year.

To form the negative of the present tense, add “-ma/-me” after the stem:

Men ejeme hat ýazmaýaryn. I don’t write my mother letters. (I am not writing my mother a letter.)
Sen köp et iýmeýärşiň. You don’t eat a lot of meat.
Ol kitap okamaýar. He doesn’t read books. (He is not reading a book.)
Biz şähere gitmeýärís. We don’t go to the city. (We are not going to the city.)
Siz çaý içmeýärşiňizmi? You don’t drink tea? (You aren’t drinking tea?)
Olar alma ýygmaýär lar. They don’t pick apples. (They are not picking apples.)
In everyday speech, however, the suffix “-ok” is more commonly used to negate sentences. Note that the verb tense indicated is fairly flexible, indicating present tense or recent past, or even occasionally used to talk about things in the more distant past. The chart below shows the conjugations of this form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>almak/bermek</th>
<th>to take/to give</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>alamok/beremok</td>
<td>I do not take/give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I have not taken/given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>alaňok/bereňok</td>
<td>You do not take/give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>You have not taken/given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>alanok/berenok</td>
<td>He does not take/give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>He has not taken/given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>alamyzok/beremizok</td>
<td>We do not take/give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>We have not taken/given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>alaňyzok/bereňizok</td>
<td>You do not take/give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>They do not take/give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>They have not taken/given</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men söýgülime hat ýazamok.                              I have not written a letter to my sweetheart.
Myrat berilen soraga jogap berenok.                      Myrat isn’t answering the given question.
Çagyrylan myhmanlar entek gelenoklar.                      The invited guests still haven’t arrived.
Men bir hepdeden bäri işlämok sebabi keselledim.        I haven’t worked for a week because I have been ill.
Men mekdepde işlämok.                                      I don’t work at the school.
Siz Aşgabatda ýaşaňyzokmy?                                  You don’t live in Ashgabat?
Sen geçen aý okadyňmy? Öكامok.                             Did you study last month? No, I didn’t.

These forms can also indicate that a certain activity is generally not performed or that something is generally not true:

Men kömelek iýemok.                                         I don’t eat mushrooms (as a habit).
Men çilim çekemok.                                           I don’t smoke (as a habit).
Jerenler melleginde işlänoklar.                               Jeren and her family do not work in the field.
Gyşda-da howa sowuk bolanok.                                  Even in winter the weather is not cold!

**Simple Present, Emphatic Statement: -dyr/-dir**

*Habarlyk goşulma*

Adding the “-dyr/-dir” suffixes to a verb or noun gives emphasis to a statement in the present tense.

Arassaclyk – saglykdyr.                                      Cleanliness is health.
“Talantsyz ýazyjy—agsak esger ýalydyr.”                     The talentless writer is like a lame soldier.
Past Tense
Öten Zaman

(This form is also used and understood as an equivalent to the English Present Perfect)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ylgamak/yöremek</td>
<td>to run/to walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men ylgadym/yöredim</td>
<td>I ran/walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen ylgadyñ/yörediñ</td>
<td>You ran/walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol ylgady/yöredi</td>
<td>He ran/walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz ylgadyk/yöredik</td>
<td>We ran/walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz ylgadyñyz/yörediñiz</td>
<td>You ran/walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar ylgadylar/yörediler</td>
<td>They ran/walked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men bu sözügi bazardan satyn aldym.
Ol goňşusyna kömek etdi.
Orazyň kakasy jaýy saldy.
Sag-aman geldiňizmi?
Sen mekdepde nàçe sagat okadyň?
Okuwdan soň Rahat ýanyma geldi.
Sen şu kinony gördüňmi?

To form the negative, add “-ma/-me” after the stem.

Men ýazmadym.
Sen gitmediň.
Biz düşn işlemedik.
Ahmet mekdepde ispan dilini öwrenmedi.
Biz ot ýygdyk, ýöne öýe getirmedik.

Sen näme üçin öý ishiňi etmediň?
Sen näme üçin iýmediň? Halamadyňmy?

Action in the Distant Past: -yp/-ip
Daşlaşdyrylan Öten Zaman

Sometimes, the speaker wishes to emphasize that, from their perspective, something happened a long time ago. For this, “-ip/-yp” is inserted between the verb stem and the past-tense suffix. This form can also mean that the speaker is sure he or she did something in the past:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ýatmak/biširmek</td>
<td>to sleep/to cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men ýatyypdym/biširipdim</td>
<td>I slept/cooked (a long time ago)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen ýatyypdyñ/biširipdiñ</td>
<td>You slept/cooked (a long time ago)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol ýatywdyp/biširipdi</td>
<td>He slept/cooked (a long time ago)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz ýatyypdyk/biširipdik</td>
<td>We slept/cooked (a long time ago)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kakam baş ýyllap direktor bolup ışläpdi.  
Bayramalyda uły kitaphana bolupdy.
Biz geçen ýyl Köytendagá gidipdik.  
Sayatda bayramçylyk üçin okuwy ýapypdylar.  
Men rutçkamy bärde goýupdym.

Father worked as a director for 5 years.  
In Bairamali there was a big library (a long time ago).  
Last year, we went to Koytendag.  
In Sayat, school closed for a holiday (a while ago).  
I know I put my pencil here (but now it’s gone).

To form the negative, insert “-man/-män” in place of the “-yp/-ip” after the stem in the above endings. The difference between this and the negative simple past is that “-man/-män” implies a more distant past. Sometimes the meaning can also be similar to past perfect:

| Men     | ýazmandym.  
| Biz     | garasypdyk, ýöne siz gelmändiňiz.  
| Myrat   | öý işini ýerine ýetirmändi.  
| Biz     | seniň hatyňa jogap ýazmandyk.  
| Ol      | şu kinony görändiňil.  
| Biz     | şol günge çenli, möjekleriň eýmenç sesini eşitmändik.  
| Men     | ýazmandym.  
| Biz     | garasypdyk, ýöne siz gelmändiňiz.  
| Myrat   | öý işini ýerine ýetirmändi.  
| Biz     | seniň hatyňa jogap ýazmandyk.  
| Ol      | şu kinony görändiňil.  
| Biz     | şol günge çenli, möjekleriň eýmenç sesini eşitmändik.  

I did not write.  
We waited, but you didn’t come.  
Myrat hadn’t done his homework.  
We did not answer your letter.  
They did not see this movie.  
Until that day, we had never heard the horrible sound of wolves.

Expressing Unwitnessed Actions: -ypdyr/-ipdir  
Habarlyk Goşulmasynyň Hal İşlik Goşulmasy bilen Öten Zaman Añladyşy

The following grammar is used when the speaker knows something happened, but they were not physically present at the event, or they didn’t realize it until after the fact. This is also the form used when storytelling in the third person. To form the negative, replace “-yp/-ip” with “-man/-män”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>açmak/geýmek</th>
<th>to open/to put on (clothing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men açypdyryn/geýipdirin</td>
<td>I opened/put on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen açypsyň/geýipsiň</td>
<td>You opened/put on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol açypdyr/geýipdir</td>
<td>He opened/put on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz açypdyrys/geýipdiris</td>
<td>We opened/put on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz açypsyňyz/geýipsiňiz</td>
<td>You opened/put on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol açypdyrlar/geýipdirler</td>
<td>They opened/put on</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Olar bir ýere gidipdirler.  
Daýym täze maşyn alypdyr.  

(I found out later) they went somewhere.  
My uncle bought a new car (but I found out later).  
You’ve lost weight (and I didn’t notice before).  
I slept more than I thought I would!  
We drank more than we thought we
The teachers apparently didn’t come to work today.

Expressing surprise: “Eken”

“Eken” Kem İşliği

The word “eken” expresses a meaning somewhat similar to the -ypdyr/-ipdir form, but usually emphasizes that what was found out later was unexpected. It is also possible to add endings similar to the possessive endings, the exception being “-ik” in place of “-imiz” on the third person plural. These endings do not change the meaning:

Ýygnak gyzykly eken.
Gutyda nahar bar ekeni.
Özüň bilýän ekeniň.
Keselhandada adam ýok eken.
Biz çägakak köp uruşýan ekenik.

The meeting turned out to be interesting.
Oh, so there was food in the box. (I expected something else.)
Oh, so you knew!
There aren’t any people in the hospital. (I thought there would be).
We fought a lot when we were kids (and someone else told us about it later).

In combination with a verb, the relative clause endings are added and the verb is followed by the word “eken”:

Ol türkmençe gowy gepleýän eken. (It turns out) he speaks Turkmen well.
Ol düýn Aşgabada gitjek eken. (I found out later) he was going to go to Ashgabat yesterday.
Olar bu gün gelen eken! Men olar ertir geler öýtdim. Oh, they came today! I thought they would come tomorrow.

Also note that this word is used in third-person storytelling along with the -ypdyr/-ipdir form, in which case it does not necessarily indicate surprise.

Past Conditions

Öten zamanyñ “-dy/-di” goşumlasynyň beýleki söz toparlary bilen ulanylyşy

Because there is no true equivalent for the verb “to be” in Turkmen, the appropriate simple past-tense suffix is simply added to the end of the noun, adjective, or place to indicate a past situation.

Men öň okuwçydym. I was a student.
Sen geçen ýyl okuwçydyňmy? Were you a pupil last year?
Biz öň çagadyk. We were children before.
Ol 2001-nji ýylda firmanyň başlygydy. He was the company’s boss in 2001.
Siz öň tikinçidiňizmi? Were you a seamstress before?
Olar akyllydylar. They were smart.
Meniň tigirim gyzylgy. My bicycle was red.
When referring to a place, “-da/-de” must be added as well:

Zöhre geçen hepde Lebapdady. Zohre was in Lebap last week.
Kakam kuhnýada dâldi. Dad wasn’t in the kitchen.
Düýn ýagyş yagan wagty men bazardedym. Yesterday when it was raining, I was at the bazaar.

Future Tense
Geljek Zaman

Definite Future
Mâlim Geljek Zaman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>okamak/bilmek</th>
<th>to read/to know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>okajak/biljek</td>
<td>I will read/know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>okajak/biljek</td>
<td>You will read/know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>okajak/biljek</td>
<td>He will read/know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>okajak/biljek</td>
<td>We will read/know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>okajak/biljek</td>
<td>You will read/know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>okajak/biljek</td>
<td>They will read/know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This future form is generally only used to make statements about oneself, to make negative statements, to ask questions about wants, or to make statements about things others say. For all other statements about the future, use the indefinite future tense outlined in the next section.

Men indiki aý, nesip bolsa, Ispaniýa gitjek. Next month I will, God willing, go to Spain.
Çaý içekmi? Will you (do you want to) drink tea?
Merjen saňa jaň etjek diýdi. Merjen said she would call you.
Men Çary bilen pökgi oýnajak. I will play ball with Chary.
Oraz maňa: “Hat ýazjak” diýdi. Oraz said he would write me a letter.
Biz size gezmäge geljek. We will come to visit you all.
Siz indiki ýyl Turkiýä gitjekmi? Will you go to Turkey next year?

To form the negative, add “dâl” after the verb:

Men ýazjak dâl. I will not write.
Sen gitjek dâlmi? Won’t you go?
Yok, ol.”Geljek dâl” diýdi. No, he said he will not come.
Biz täze ýyl baýramyny öýde bellejek dâl. We won’t celebrate New Year’s at home.
Biz ýaryşa gitjek dâl. We won’t go to the competition.
Çagalar bizi: “Diňlejek dâl” diýdiler. The children said they will not listen to us.

Indefinite Future
Nâmâlim Geljek Zaman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>durmak/görmek</th>
<th>to stand/to see</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>duraryn/görerin</td>
<td>I will (probably) stand/see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>durarysýn/göresiň</td>
<td>You will (probably) stand/see</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The indefinite future tense is used for speaking in the third person and making statements (as opposed to asking questions) in the second person. It is also used in the first person as frequently as the definite future tense, the difference being that the definite future tense typically implies that it is one’s own desire to do something. Using the indefinite future tense in the first person implies that one will do something for some other reason. Degree of certainty of a statement in the indefinite future tense varies according to context and intonation.

Men täze köýnek almaga giderin.
Biz bazardan gyzyl gulakhalka alarys.
Ol çagalara nahar berer.
Jeren jorap örermi?
Men sen gelersiň düýip, umyt edýärin.
Kakam sagat 5-de işden geler.
 Şu gün ejemiň doglan günü we biz oña sówgat bereris.
Ertir Myrat bilen Gunça meniň ýanýma gelerler.
Indiki 5-nji gün maslahatlaşarys.

To form the negative, add “-ma/-me” after the stem, except in the third person, where “-maz/-mez” is used instead.

Men ýazmaryn.
Sen gitmersiň
Ol nahar bişirmez.
Biz kömek etmeris.
Siz ertir bazara gitmersiňiz.
Olar gelmezler, sebäbi howa sowuk.

Expressing Intended Action in the Past
Hyýallanmagyň Öten Zamanda Aňladylyşy

There are two ways to express intended but unrealized actions in the past. The first is more definite and uses a construction that is equivalent to saying “I was going to do something, but I couldn’t/didn’t.” This construction is formed by adding the personal past-tense ending to the definite future conjugation “-jak/-jek” of the verb, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>I was going to count/to look</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sanajakdym/seretjekdim</td>
<td>to count/to look</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Siz</th>
<th>You will (probably) stand/see</th>
</tr>
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<td>durarlar/görelerler</td>
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Men täze köýnek almaga giderin.
Biz bazardan gyzyl gulakhalka alarys.
Ol çagalara nahar berer.
Jeren jorap örermi?
Men sen gelersiň düýip, umyt edýärin.
Kakam sagat 5-de işden geler.
 Şu gün ejemiň doglan günü we biz oña sówgat bereris.
Ertir Myrat bilen Gunça meniň ýanýma gelerler.
Indiki 5-nji gün maslahatlaşarys.

To form the negative, add “-ma/-me” after the stem, except in the third person, where “-maz/-mez” is used instead.

Men ýazmaryn.
Sen gitmersiň
Ol nahar bişirmez.
Biz kömek etmeris.
Siz ertir bazara gitmersiňiz.
Olar gelmezler, sebäbi howa sowuk.

Expressing Intended Action in the Past
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>durarlar/görelerler</td>
<td>They will (probably) stand/see</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You were going to count/to look
You were going to count/to look
We were going to count/to look
You were going to count/to look
They were going to count/to look

I was going to go to the city, but I didn’t make it.
I was going to read that book, but it turns out it’s in Russian.
We were going to bake a cake, but it seems we’d run out of sugar.
Our teacher was going to give us a test, but he changed his mind.
She was going to cook us a delicious meal, but the gas went out and she had to go somewhere.
If I had gone to the bazaar, I would have bought a bag.

I wasn’t going to go, but my teacher said “You must go.”
He wasn’t going to give it, but I requested.
If you had come on time yesterday, I wouldn’t have scolded you.

The second way to express unrealized action in the past is to form a construction that is similar to the English modal “would.” This construction is generally dependent on a conditional “if” clause. For example, “If …, I would have…” It is formed by adding the third-person singular indefinite future ending “-ar/-er” + the personal past-tense ending to the verb stem, as shown in the following chart. Because this form is generally used with a conditional “if” clause, it might be more useful to study this section in conjunction with the following section on conditionals.
Eger-de men bir käse çay içen bolsam, giİă galardym. If I had drunk one cup of tea, I would have been late.
Eger irräk turan bolsam, ertirilik edinerdim. If I had gotten up earlier, I would have eaten breakfast.
Eger rusça bilen bolsaň, onda şu kitaba düşünerdiň. If you had known Russian, you would have understood this book.
Eger maşyn bolan bolsa, ond a size giderdik. If there had been a car, we would have gone to your house.
Eger compýuter ulanyp bilen bolsadym, Internet öwrenerdim. If I had known how to use computers, I would have learned the Internet.
Eger kompýuter ulanyp bilen bolsadym, Internet öwrenerdim. If I had known how to use computers, I would have learned the Internet.
Men nahar bişirerdim, emma häzir şähere gitjek. I would have cooked, but I am going to the city now.
Biz size kömekleşerdik welin, ýaltanýarys. We would have helped you, but we are lazy.

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense ending to the negative form of the third-person singular, indefinite future tense “-maz/-mez.”

Eger işimiz bolsady, biziň içimiz gysmazdy. If we had had work, we wouldn’t have been bored.
Eger-de uçaryň biledini alyp bilen bolsadyk, onda maşynly gitmezdir. If we had been able to buy a plane ticket, we wouldn’t have gone by car.
Ol Turkmenistana gelmezdi, ýöne ony iberdiler. He wouldn’t have gone to Turkmenistan, but they sent him.

**Anticipated Action: -jak/-jek bolmak**

**Göz Öňünde Tutulýan Hereket**

A structure involving the future tense and “bolmak” is used in a similar way to the English phrase “going to.” The first verb must be in the future definite form (-jak/-jek) and “bolmak” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Sen ýatjak bolýarsyň? Are you going to go to sleep?
Biz saňa jaň etjek bolýars. We’re going to call you.
Garasıň, men nahar iýjek bolýaryn. Wait, I’m going to eat.
Men ol kinony giç bolsa-da görjek bolýaryn. I’m going to watch the movie, even if it’s late.

Merjen saňa bir zat aýtjak bolýar. Merjen is going to tell you something.
Goňsylarymyz deňize gitjek bolýarlar. Our neighbors are going to go to the sea.
Ejem dagy gatlama bişirjek bolýarlar. My mother and the others are going to cook gatlama (sweet oily bread).

A related structure using “-jak/-jek” with “bolmak” and the continuous action verbs otyr, ýatyr, dur and ýör communicates the idea of being about to do something.

Men çörek bişirjek bolup durun. I’m about to bake some bread.
Future Conditions

**Geljek Zaman**

To speak of the future condition of a subject, “bolmak” is used as a helping verb:

- Men suratçy boljak.  
  I will be an artist.
- Ol lukman bolar.  
  She will be a doctor.
- Olar akylly bolar.  
  They will be smart.
- Sen toýda owadan boljakmy?  
  Will you be beautiful at the toy?
- Sen ertir Serdarda bolarsyňmy?  
  Will you be in Serdar tomorrow?
- Ertir bazarda balyk bolarmy?  
  Will there be fish at the bazaar tomorrow?
Relative Clauses

Ortak işlikler

Relative clauses are formed in Turkmen simply by using verb suffixes based on the tense and vowel harmony of the verb. “Who,” “which,” and “that,” commonly used in English to form relative clauses, are not used as such in Turkmen. In the section below, the relative clauses are bolded in both languages, in order to better understand their usage. Unlike in English, relative clauses always proceed the noun being modified.

Present Tense

Häzirki zaman ortak işligi

Relative clauses in the present tense are formed by adding the suffixes “-ýan/-ýän” to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verbs, respectively:

- yazýan dostum
  - my friend who is writing
- gelýän adamlar
  - the people who are coming

Sentence structure is as follows:

Aşgabatdan gelýän adamlar biziň kafemizde naharlanýarlar.
Ashgabat-from coming people our cafe- (they) eat.

Kitap yazýan dostum Türkmenabatda ýaşaýar.
Book writing friend-my Turkmenabat-in lives

Bilim bölümi türkmen dilini okadýan
mugallymlary ýygnady.
Parahatçyllyk Korpusy meýletinçileri okatmak üçin türkmençe oňat bilyän adamlary saylaýar.
Halaçdan getirilyän erikler iň süýji.

Kitap yazýan aýallar örän akyly.
Women who write books are very smart.

Meniň ýatýan krowatym köne.
The bed where I sleep is old.

The negative form of relative clauses in the present tense is formed by adding “-maýan/-meýän” to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verbs, respectively:

- yazmaýan dostum
  - my friend who isn’t writing
- gelmeýän adamlar
  - the people who aren’t coming

Sentence structure is as follows:

Arak içmeýän adam, arak içýän adamlar bilen oturmagy halamaýar.
The man who doesn’t drink vodka doesn’t like to sit with the men who drink vodka.

Dutar çalmaýan bagsy biziň obamyza toýa
The singer who doesn’t play the dutar
geldi.  
Men et iýmeyän meýletinçilere kädili nahar berjek.  
Biz haly dokamaýan gyzlara haly dokamagy öwret dik.

**Past Tense**  
**Öten zaman ortak işligi**

Relative clauses in the past tense are formed by adding “-an/-en/-n” to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verbs, respectively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yazan dostum</td>
<td>my friend who wrote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gelen adamlar</td>
<td>the people who came</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that while this is a past tense form, it often indicates present tense. Sentence structure is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relative Clause</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tejenden gelen adamlar köp iýdiler.</td>
<td>The people who came from Tejen ate a lot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu kitaby okanlar oña gowy diýdiler.</td>
<td>Those who read this book said it’s good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saýlanan okuwçylar bir aý lagere gatnaşarlar.</td>
<td>The students who were chosen will participate in the camp for one month. You can come when you want.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The negative form of relative clauses in the past tense is formed by adding “-madyk/-medik” to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verb, respectively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yazmadyk dostum</td>
<td>my friend who didn’t write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gelmedik adamlar</td>
<td>the people who didn’t come</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sentence structure is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relative Clause</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toýa barmadyk adamlar, şol toý barada soradylar.</td>
<td>The people who didn’t go to the wedding asked about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Düzmäni oñat ýazmadyk okuwçylar, pes baha aldylar.</td>
<td>The students who didn’t write the composition well received low marks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinony gör medik dostum, kinonyň nähili bolandygyny sorady.</td>
<td>My friend who didn’t see the movie asked how it was.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Future Tense**  
**Geljek zaman ortak işligi**

Relative clauses in the future tense are formed by adding the “-jak/-jek” endings to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verbs, respectively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future Tense</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yazjak dostum</td>
<td>my friend who will write</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relative Clauses in the Accusative Case

Relative Clauses in the Accusative Case

Okan kitaplarım my kitapnada goy dém, yöne okalmaryk kitaplar meniň klasymda.

Ulanmajak unuňyz maňa berseňizläň.

Seniň okadýan okwçylaryň ýaman samsykdyr!
Meniň iýen kökäm gaty süýjüdi.

The teacher who will teach our class came from Iran.
The students who will go to Gökdepe are waiting at the village’s stop.
The movies that will come next month will be more expensive.
There will be a lot of candy in the package that will come from my mom.

**Relative Clauses in the Accusative Case**

**Oktar İşlikleriň Aýyklaýy Agza Bolup Gelişi**

Sometimes, the noun being modified is not the subject of the relative clause, but its direct object, as in “the book that I read.” To convey this in Turkmen, the appropriate possessive suffix is added to the noun being modified. The “owner” of the modified noun may also be included, in genitive case, but is not necessary. The passive-voice suffix can also be used when the subject is unimportant or unknown.

I put the books that I read in the library, but the books that weren’t read are in my classroom.
Please, give me the flour that you aren’t going to use.
The students that you teach are so stupid!
The cookie that I ate was delicious.
Relative Clauses without Nouns

**Beýleki Söz Toparlaryň Atlaşmagy (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)**

Turkmen has a looser grammatical structure than English, in that relative clauses do not always require a noun to modify. Usually, the implied subject is a group of people.

**Arassalary** goýmaly, **hapalary** ýuwmaly.

**Ulular** işlesinler, **kiçiler** bolsa olara kömekleşsinler.

**Daşary ýurtdan gelýänler** şäheriň owadan ýerlerine gezelenç edýärler.
*(outside-country-from-come-city’s-beautiful-places-to-take walks.)*

**Türkmenistanda ýaşanlar** onuň taryhyny öwrendiler.

**Uniwersitete girjekler** tomsuda ekzamen tabşyrarlar.

You should put away *(the ones) that are clean,* and wash *(the ones) that are dirty.*

Let *(the ones) who are big* work, and let *(the ones) who are small* help them.

*(The people) who come from foreign countries* take walks to the city’s beautiful places.

*(The people) who lived in Turkmenistan* learned about its history.

*(The people) who will enter the university* will take an exam in the summer.

Relative Clauses with “-ky/-ki”

**“-ky,-ki” bilen Sypat Yasalys (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)**

The suffixes “-ky/-ki” act as adjective clauses do in English. They are similar in meaning to the English “from,” “in,” or “at,” as in the following examples:

**Men şol kinodaky** gyzy halamok.

The teachers from Tejen are coming to our meeting.

**Tejendäki mugalylılar biziň ýyngagyymyzaga gelýärler.**

The bread in Ashgabat is better than ours.

**Aşgabatdaky çörek biziňkiden gowy.**

Say a big hello to those at your home.

**Öýüňizdäkilere köp salam aýt!**

**10-njy “A” synpaky okuwyçylaryň tertibi gowy däl.**

**Eliňdäkiňi aýyr!**

**Parkyn içindäki gazly suw şäherimizň iň gowy suwy.**

The soda inside the park is the best in our city.

**Mekdebiň ýanyndaky howluda toý bar.**

**Men şu köýnekdäki ýakany gowy görýärin.**

**I don't like the girl in that film.**

Get rid of what's in your hand!

**Men şu köýnekdäki ýakany gowy görýärin.**

**I like the embroidered collar of this dress.**

While in the above examples the “-ky/-ki” ending works in combination with the locative case, with some time words in Turkmen, the locative case “-da/-de” suffix is not used. These words include “aỳ,” “ýyl,” “gün,” seasons, times of the day like “agşam” and “irden,” “düýn,” and “ertir.” However “ýyl” and “aỳ” can be used in the locative case if a specific dated year or month is indicated (“2001-nji ýyldaky” or “Nowruz aỳyndaky”). Otherwise, add only the “-ky/-ki” part of the ending.
Last year, the harvest was good. The harvest last year was bigger than this year’s.

Last night a guest came. The guest who came last night didn’t drink tea this morning.

The children went to camps during the summer break.

**Relative Clauses with “-ly/-li”**

“-ly,-li” bilen Sypat Yasalyş (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)

In English, sometimes a preposition such as “with” or “in” is used to form an adjective clause. The equivalent structure in Turkmen uses the adjectival suffix “-ly/-li” instead of a preposition:

- **Eli žurnalı okuwçy ökde.** The student with the magazine in his hand is bright.
- **Gyzyl köýnekli aýal meniň ejem.** The woman in the red dress is my mother.
- **Sumkasy köp kitaplı meýlitinçì her gün mekdembimize gelýär.** The volunteer with a lot of books in his bag comes to our school every day.
- **Bir kostum-balakly adam seni sorady.** Some man in dress pants asked for you.
Expressing Intention
*Işligiň hyýallanma formasy*

These suffixes indicate an intended action. They can be roughly translated to “to intend to.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>horlanmak/semremek</td>
<td>to lose weight/to gain weight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>horlanmakçy/semremekçi</td>
<td>I intend to lose weight/gain weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>horlanmakçy/semremekçi</td>
<td>You intend to lose weight/gain weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>horlanmakçy/semremekçi</td>
<td>He intends to lose weight/gain weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>horlanmakçy/semremekçi</td>
<td>We intend to lose weight/gain weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>horlanmakçy/semremekçi</td>
<td>You intend to lose weight/gain weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>horlanmakçy/semremekçi</td>
<td>They intend to lose weight/gain weight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men ertir şähere *gitmekçi*.  
Biz şu ýyl diñe başlik almakçy.  
Jon ýazyjy *bolmakçy*.  
Kakam öýe telefon *çekdirmekçi*.

I intend to go to the city tomorrow.  
This year we intend to get only fives.  
Jon intends to be a writer.  
My father intends to install a telephone at home.

To form the negative, add “däl” after the verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>ýazmakçy däl.</td>
<td>I don’t intend to write.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>*gitmekçi däl.</td>
<td>I don’t intend to go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Amerika gidenimden soň instituta <em>girmekçi däl.</em></td>
<td>I don’t intend to enter the university after I return to the USA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To express that an action was intended in the past, add the personal past-tense endings to the “-çy/-çi” suffixes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>okamakçydym.</td>
<td>I intended to read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>*iýmekçidim.</td>
<td>I intended to eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>doňdurma *iýmekçidi, ýöne tapmady.</td>
<td>He intended to eat ice cream, but he didn’t find any.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense endings to “däl.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>*iýmekçi däldim.</td>
<td>I did not intend to eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>okamakçy däldi.</td>
<td>He did not intend to read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>wagtymyzy *biderek geçermekçi däldik.</td>
<td>We didn’t intend to waste our time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>*yatmakçy däldi, ýöne ýadap geldiler.</td>
<td>They didn’t intend to sleep, but they came home tired.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Imperative Forms/Commands

Işligiň Buýruk Formasy

Requests  
Haýyş sözler

gayrat etmek  
haýyş  
to do what one can; to do one’s best request; please

Informal Commands  
Resmi däl buýruk

verb stem + no endings

(Sen) Iý!  
Jahan, hatyňy gowy ýaz!  
Oka! Öwren! Döret!  
Myrat, gayrat et, dükana git!  
Dünya, sÖZlemiňi ýalňyşsyz düz!

Umyt, toýdan irräk gel!

Formal or Plural Commands  
Resmi buýruk

verb stem + formal ending (-yň/-iň/-ń)

(Siz) Okaň!  
Çagalar, oý işini ýazyň!  
Çagalar, sapaklaryňyzy gowy okaň!  
Iňlis dilini gowy öwreniň!  
Yzyňyzdan gapyny ýapyň!  
Televizory açmaň!  
Hapa jorap geýmäň!

Read!  
Children, do your homework!  
Children, study your lessons well!  
Learn English well!  
Close the door behind you!  
Don’t turn on the TV!  
Don’t wear dirty socks!

Less Formal, Polite Commands  
Resmi, mylakatly buýruk

verb stem + (-sana/-sene)

Myrada ýazan hatmy okasana!  
Ertir oýe gelsene!  
Maksadyň toýuna taze köýnek alsana!

Öýdäki güllere seretsene!  
Täzelik bosta aýtsana!  
Ony öwmesene!  
Palow iýmesene!

Please read the letter I wrote to Myrat!  
Please come to my home tomorrow!  
Please buy a new dress for Maksat’s wedding.  
Please look after the flowers at home.  
If you have news, please tell me!  
Don’t flatter him!  
Don’t eat the palow!
Formal, Polite Request
*Resmi Haýyş*
verb stem + (-yp/-ip/-p + bersene)

**Okap bersene.**
Aman, bu haty ýazyp bersene.
Tawusy telefona çagyryp bersene.
Tarkanyň aýdymlaryny ýazyp bermesene.

Eje, oňa şol ýaşyl köwüşi alyp bermesene.

**Okap bersene.**
Read for us, please.
Aman, please write this letter for me.
Please call Tawus to the phone for me.
Please don’t record Tarkan’s songs for him.
Mom, please don’t buy those green shoes for him.

Formal, Polite Commands
*Resmi Mylakatly Haýyş*
verb stem + (-saňyzlaň/-seňizläň)

**Okasaňyzlaň!**
Hemmäňiz toýa gelseňizläň!
Gürrüňiňiz goýsaňyzlaň!
Biziň bilen Köýtendaga gitseňizläň!

Eje, meni toýa goýberseňizläň!

**Okaýyn!**
Please read!
All of you, please come to the wedding!
Please stop talking!
Please go with us to the Koytendag mountains.
Mom, please let me go to the wedding!

Encouraging Commands
*Goldaw Beriji Buýruk*
verb stem + (-ber/-beriň/-bersin)

**Okaber. (Okaberiň.)**
Mugallym, siz gepläberiň.
Siz gidiberiň, men yzyňyzdan bararyn.

Sen ejem bilen oturyber men Jemala jaň edeýin.

Sähra iýibersin.

**Sähra iýibersin.**
Go ahead and read.
Teacher, keep speaking.
You go ahead and go, I’ll be right behind you.
Go ahead and sit with my mother while I call Jemal.
Let Sahra keep eating.

Asking For Permission
*Rugsat soramak*
The following forms translate not as commands, but more as requests or expressions of “let me” or “do you want me to” They are formed by adding “-aýyn/-eýin” to the verb stem.

**Men täze sözleri ýazaýyn.**
**Men geçeýin.**
**Okaýyn.**
Rugsat berseňiz men gideýin.
Men tagtada sözlem dürzeýinmi?

Let me write the new words.
Let me pass.
Let me read. (I’ll read)
If you give permission, I’ll go.
Do you want me to write a sentence on the board?
Men öňüne geçeyinmi?
Men bu banany ńuyeýinmi?

Do you want me to move to the front?
Do you want me to eat this banana?

A politer version of this form is made by adding the suffix “-la/-le”:

Çaý guýaýyn-la.
Galam alaýyn-la.
Gepleșeli-le.
Nahar bişireliň-le.

Please, let me pour (you some) tea.
Please, let me take the pencil.
Please, let’s talk.
Please, let’s cook.

The following examples translate as “may I.” They are formed by adding “-aýaýyn/-äyeýin” to the verb stem.

Şu gazeti azajyk okaýaýyn?
Zöhre, men gidäyeýin?
Giräyeýin?

May I read this newspaper a little bit?
Zohra, may I go?
May I come in?

For other means of asking permission, see the sections on simple conditionals and expressing uncertainty.

Making Suggestions
Teklip Etmek

The following examples translate as "let us." They are formed by adding “-aly/-eli” (for two people) and “-alyň/-eliň” (for more than two) to the verb stem.

Bol, kitap okaly!
Boluň goşgy ýazalyň!
Yör nahar iýeli!
Yörüň, gideli!
Okalyň!
Geliň aýdym aýdalyň!
Gel, tans oýnaly!

Let’s read a book! (for two person).
Let’s write a poem! (for more than two).
Let’s eat!
Let’s go!
Let’s read!
Let´s sing a song!
Let’s dance!

To form the negative, add “-ma/-me” after the stem:

Hat ÿazmaly. (The second “a” is long.)
Çay içmäli.
Bazara gitmäliň.
Buz gaymak ifmäli.
Okamalyň!

Let’s not write a letter.
Let’s not drink tea.
Let’s not go to the bazaar.
Let’s not eat ice cream.
Let’s not read!
Expressing Third-Person Desires

Üçünji Yöňkemede Buýruk Bermek

The following forms are in the third person and express urges or wishes. This form is used quite frequently in making toasts. They can be translated roughly as “would that,” “let him/her/it,” or “may he/she/it.” They are formed by adding “-syn/-sin” or “-synlar/-sinler” to the verb stem:

Ol ýazsyn. Let him write.
Ol geçsin. Let him pass.
Merede aşú, manaňa hat ýazsyn. Tell Mered to write me a letter.
Okuwa girişin. May he enter school.
Saglyk bolsun. May there be health.
Şatlyk bolsun. May there be happiness.
Gutly bolsun. Congratulations!
Nesip etsin. Congratulations!
Salam getiren sag bolsun. Thank you for passing on their hello.
Olar ýazsynlar. Let them write.
Olar geçsinler. Let them pass.
Sag-aman barsynlar! May they arrive safely!

To make the negative forms, add “-ma/-me” after the stems, according to vowel harmony:

Ol ýazmasyn. May he not write.
Olar gitmesinler. May they not go.
Ýagyş ýagmasyn! Would that it not rain!
Jeren, myñmanlar gitmesinler. Jeren; let the guests not go.
Uruş bolmasyn. May there not be war.
As a general rule, the "-maly-/meli" ending can be translated as "should," "ought to," "must," "have to," or "need to." However, adding "hökman" to the sentence gives emphasis and indicates that the action is absolutely necessary.

**Men okamaly.** I should read.
**Men hökman okamaly.** I must read.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>soramak/işlemek</th>
<th>to ask/to work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td>soramaly /işlemeli</td>
<td>I must ask/work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sen</strong></td>
<td>soramaly /işlemeli</td>
<td>You must ask/work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ol</strong></td>
<td>soramaly /işlemeli</td>
<td>He must ask/work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biz</strong></td>
<td>soramaly /işlemeli</td>
<td>We must ask/work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Siz</strong></td>
<td>soramaly /işlemeli</td>
<td>You must ask/work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Olar</strong></td>
<td>soramaly /işlemeli</td>
<td>They must ask/work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Olar şu gün biziň öýmize gelmeli. They should be coming to our house tonight.

Men ertirine juýjelerime seretmeli. In the morning, I have to look after my chicks.

Dostlar birek-birege kömek etmeli. Friends should help each other.
Tagta etrabynda köp gülleri ekmeli. In Tagta Etrap, many flowers need to be planted.

Çagalar multfilm görmeli. Children should watch cartoons
Sagat 6-da Göwher jigitini çagalar bagyndan almaly. At 6 o’clock Gowher must pick up her sister from kindergarten.
Mugallymlar ýylda iki gezek açyk sapak bermeli. Teachers must give open lessons twice a year.

Myradyň kakasy maşynyny ýuwmaly. Myrat’s father has to wash his car.
Sen öňünden aýdaýmaly ekeniň. You really should have told me beforehand.
Men ejeme hat yazmaly. I need to write letter to my Mom.

To form the negative, add "däl" after the verb.

**Men ýazmaly däl.** I must (should) not write.
Çagalar köp süýji iýmeli däl. Children shouldn’t eat a lot of sweets.
Okuwçylar sapakdan rugsatsyz galmaly däl. Students mustn’t miss lessons without permission.

Oglanlar çilim çekmeli däl. Boys shouldn’t smoke.
Biz giç turmaly däl. We shouldn’t get up late.
Sapakda hat alyşmaly däl. You mustn’t pass notes in your lessons.
Kompýutoryň öňünde köp oturmaly däl. You shouldn’t sit too long in front of the computer.
Positive Obligatory Actions in the Past
Öten Zamanda Hökmanlyk Aňladylyşy (barlyk)
It is also possible to use the “-maly/-meli” endings in the past-tense, with a resultant meaning similar to “should have.” If the appropriate past-tense ending is added to the “-maly/-meli” form of a verb, the implication is that the action should have been done, but was not actually performed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>oturmak/öwrenişmek</th>
<th>to sit/to get used to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>oturmalydym/öwrenişmelidim</td>
<td>I should have sat/gotten used to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>oturmalydyň/öwrenişmelidiň</td>
<td>You should have sat/gotten used to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>oturmalydy/öwrenişmelidi</td>
<td>He should have sat/gotten used to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>oturmalydyk/öwrenişmelidik</td>
<td>We should have sat/gotten used to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>oturmalydyňyz/öwrenişmelidiňiz</td>
<td>You should have sat/gotten used to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>oturmalydy(lar)/öwrenişmelid(ler)</td>
<td>They should have sat/gotten used to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men ýaňky adam bilen duşuşmalydym, ýöne gidip bilmedim.  
Ol Murgaba gelmelidi, emma Mara gitdi.

Olar şu gün duşşmalydylar.

Negative Obligatory Actions in the Past
Öten Zamanda Hökmanlyk Aňladylyşy (ýokluk)
To form the negative, add the personal past-tense ending to “däl” and place it after the verb. Meaning is similar to “shouldn’t have;” the implication is that something should not have been done, but it was:

Men işlemeli däldim.  
Ol ýazmaly dälidi.  
Biz gitmeli dälidik.

Men işden gijä galmaly däldim, ýöne ýetişmedim.

Sen onuň üstünden gülmeli dälendiň.

Conversely, if the verb “bolmak” is conjugated in the past-tense and placed after the “-maly/-meli” form of a verb, the implication is that the subject did not want to do something, but had to do so.

Men okamaly boldum.  
Ol keselhanada ýatmaly boldy.  
Men şu gün sähere gitmeli boldum.

Serdar kakasynyň maşynyny ýuwmaly boldy.

I should’t have worked (but I did).
He shouldn’t have written (but he did).
We shouldn’t have gone (but we did).
I shouldn’t have been late to work, but I didn’t make it (on time).
You shouldn’t have laughed at him.

Men ýaňky adam bilen duşuşmalydym, ýöne gidip bilmedim.  
Ol Murgaba gelmelidi, emma Mara gitdi.

Olar şu gün duşşmalydylar.

The negation of this form, which is equivalent to the English “didn’t have to,” is constructed by inserting “-ma/-me” after the stem of the verb “bolmak.”
Myhmanlar gelmedi, şonuň üçin köp nahar生物irmeli bolmadym.
Ol Mara bilet satyn almały bolmady.
Biz Rusça öwrenmeli bolmadyk.
Siz terjime etmeli bolmadyňyz.

The guests didn’t come, therefore I didn’t have to cook much food.
She didn’t have to buy a ticket to Mary.
We didn’t have to learn Russian.
You didn’t have to translate it.
Conditionals:
İşligiň Şert Formasy

In English, there are three kinds of conditionals:
1. Conditionals that are true in the present or future:
   If I write a letter to her, she will write back.
2. Conditionals that are untrue in the present or future:
   If I wrote a letter to her, she would write back.
3. Conditionals that are untrue in the past:
   If I had written a letter to her, she would have written back.

However, determining which of the above to use is often less a matter of meaning than of grammatical flow. For instance, the actual difference between the first and second statements is largely contextual; the second statement simply emphasizes the fact that the “if” clause is less likely to be true. In Turkmen, conditionals are more freeform; there is no required association of tense between the “if” and “then” clauses. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult to give exact translations that also preserve the intended meaning of the speaker. In the section below, directly translated parts are thus italicized, while implied meaning is in parentheses.

Note that in the examples below “eger” and “eger-de” are synonymous. “Haçan-da” (similar to the English “when”) may be used almost interchangeably with “eger” and “eger-de.” These words are used in most of the examples here, but are often omitted in speech and writing because the conjugation of the verb is sufficient to indicate conditionality.

Simple Conditionals
Ýönekeý Şert Forma

The simplest conditional form in Turkmen is generally similar in meaning to the first conditional form in English. It can also be used for generalizations, as in, “If I oversleep, my father yells at me,” where the statement addresses not one single incident, but a habitual event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lýuwmaŋ/süpürmek</th>
<th>to wash/to wipe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lýuwserm/süpürsem</td>
<td>If I wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lýuwsaň/süpürseň</td>
<td>If you wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lýuwsaň/süpürseň</td>
<td>If she wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lýuwsak/süpürsek</td>
<td>If we wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lýuwsaňyz/süpürseňiz</td>
<td>If you wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lýuwsalar/süpürseler</td>
<td>If they wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eger-de meniň wagtym bolsa, men ağşam televizor görerin.
Eger biri jaň etse, maňa aytşana.
Eger bizniň pulumyz ýeterlik bolsa, biz Aşgabada göçeris.
Haçan-da ol gelse, biz ýygnagy başlamaly.
Eger biz kitabyňy tapsak, saňa bereris.
Eger-de men Jerene köwüş alsam, oňa If I have enough time, I watch TV in the evenings.
If anyone calls, please tell me.
If we have enough money, we will move to Ashgabat.
If she comes, we should start the meeting.
If we find your book, we’ll give it to you.
If I buy shoes for Jeren, I wonder if she’ll
ýararmyka?
To form the negative, add “-ma/-me” after the verb stem:

Eger-de men ýazmasam...
Men gitmesem...
Eger-de men ertirlik nahar iýmesem, ajygaryn.
Eger-de myhmançylyga baranyında nahar iýmesen, gaty görerler.
Eger Gözel okuwa gelmese, mugallym käýär.

If I do not write...
If I do not go...
If I don’t eat breakfast, I will get hungry.
If you don’t eat when you go guesting, they will be offended.
If Gozel doesn’t come to school, the teacher scolds her.

The above structure can also be used in conjunction with the verb “bolmak” to ask for permission to do something, similar to the English, “is it ok if…”:

Okasam bolýarmy?
Iýsem bolýarmy?
Men öňüne geçsem bolýarmy?
Biz ertir şähere gitse bolýarmy?
Olar toýa gitse bolýarmy?

Is it okay if I read?
Is it okay if I eat?
Is it okay if I move to the front?
Is it okay if we go to the city tomorrow?
Is it okay if he goes to the toy?

Conditionals in the Present Tense
Şert Formasynyň Häzirki Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy
The meaning implied by the following grammar is similar to that above. The structure is as follows: verb stem + “-yan/-yän” + present-future conditional form of the verb “bolmak.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ýuw/mak/süpürmek</th>
<th>to wash/to wipe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men ýuwýan bolsam/süpürýän bolsam</td>
<td>If I wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen ýuwýan bolsaň/süpürýän bolsaň</td>
<td>If you wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol ýuwýan bolsa/süpürýän bolsa</td>
<td>If she washes/wipes...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz ýuwýan bolsak/süpürýän bolsak</td>
<td>If we wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz ýuwýan bolsaňyz/süpürýän bolsaňyz</td>
<td>If you wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar ýuwýan bolsalar/süpürýän bolsalar</td>
<td>If they wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ol kitap ýazýan bolsa, köp okaýandyr.
Biz Lebaba gidýan bolsak, onda Köytendagy görjek.
Siz öýde galýan bolsaňyz, nahar bişirmeli.
Bilýän bolsalar gelerdiler.
Bilýan bolsam, senden soramazdym.
Sen Aşgabada gidýan bolsaň, jorama salam aýtsana.

If he is writing a book, he must read a lot.
If we go to Lebap, then we will see Koytendag.
If you stay at home, you should cook.
If they had known, they would have come.
If I knew, I wouldn’t ask you.
If you are going to Ashgabat, please say hello to my friend.

To form the negative, add “-maýan/-meýän” after the verb stem:

Bilmeýän bolsam sorardym.
Haly dokamaýan bolsalar, stanog getirsinler.

If I hadn’t known, I would have asked.
If they are not weaving a carpet let them
Bring the loom.

If you aren’t working, help me.

**Conditionals in the Past Tense**

**Şert Formasyñyň Öten Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy**

The following structure appears similar to the second and third conditional forms in English, but differs in that the associated “then” clause can take any tense. Construction is as follows: verb stem + “-an/-en” + present-future conditional form of the verb “bolmak.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Stem</th>
<th>Future Conditional Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ýuwmak</td>
<td>-an/ek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>süpürmek</td>
<td>-ajak/ek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Conditional Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>ýuwan bolsan</td>
<td>If I washed/wiped...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>ýuwan bolsan</td>
<td>If you washed/wiped...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>ýuwan bolsan</td>
<td>If she washed/wiped...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>ýuwan bolsan</td>
<td>If we washed/wiped...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>ýuwan bolsan</td>
<td>If you washed/wiped...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>ýuwan bolsan</td>
<td>If they washed/wiped...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men ony tanan bolsam, salam bererdim. If I had known her, I would have said hello.

Nahar ýen bolsan, çay içiber. If you’ve eaten, go ahead and drink tea.

Ol gelen bolsa, biz ÿynagy başlaly. If he’s come, let’s start the meeting.

Eger biz baran bolsak, siziñ bilen bazara giderdik. If we had gone, we would have gone to the bazaar with you.

Telewizor gören bolsaňyz, täzelikleri eşidensiňiz. If you had watched tv, you would have heard the news.

Myhmanlar gelen bolsalar, nahar äberiñ. If the guests have come, serve them food.

Ejem çörek bişiren bolsa, men saňa bererin. If my mother has made bread, I’ll give it to you.

To form the negative, add “-madyk/-medik” after the verb stem:

Eger men ertirlik nahar iýmedik bolsam, salam bererdim. If I hadn’t eaten breakfast, I would be hungry.

Eger Gözel okuwa gelmedik bolsa, mugallym oña gygyrardy. If Gozel hadn’t come to school, the teacher would have yelled at her.

Ýagyş ýagmadyk bolsa, gezelenje giderdik. If it hadn’t rained, we would have gone for a walk.

**Conditionals in the Future**

**Şert Formasyñyň Geljek Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy**

Future conditionals in Turkmen are similar to the statement, “if I am going to” in English. Structure is as follows: verb stem + “-jak/-jek” + present-future conditional form of the verb “bolmak.” Note that Turkmen speakers use this future form frequently when English speakers would use a present tense conditional phrase.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ýuwmak/süpürmek</strong></th>
<th><strong>to wash/to wipe</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men ýuwjak bolsam/süpürjek bolsam</td>
<td>If I(‘m going to) wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen ýuwjak bolsaň/süpürjek bolsaň</td>
<td>If you(‘re going to) wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol ýuwjak bolsa/süpürjek bolsa</td>
<td>If she(‘s going to) wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz ýuwjak bolsak/süpürjek bolsak</td>
<td>If we(‘re going to) wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz ýuwjak bolsaňyz/süpürjek bolsaňyz</td>
<td>If you(‘re going to) wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar ýuwjak bolsalar/süpürjek bolsalar</td>
<td>If they(‘re going to) wash/wipe...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eger men ertir işlejek bolsam, ir turmaly bolaryn. If I am going to go to work tomorrow, I have to get up early.

İñlisçe öwrenjek bolsaň, kõp praktika gerek. If you are going to learn English, much practice is necessary.

Ejem çäy içjek bolsa, men demläp berjek. If my mother is going to drink tea, I will make it for her.

Biz kitap ýazjak bolsak, kompýuter bilmeli. If we are going to write a book, we should know how to use a computer.

Siz tans etjek bolsaňyz, daşaryk çykyň. If you are going to dance, go outside.

Gepleşjek bolsalar, jaň etsinler. If they are going to talk, let them call.

To form the negative, add “-majak/-mejek” after the verb stem:

Aýlyk tolemejek bolsaňyz, men işlejek däl. If you are not going to pay salaries, I will not work.

Görmejek bolsaň, telewizory ölçür. If you are not going to watch it, turn off the TV.

Sumkany satyn almajak bolsaň, bahalatma. If you are not going to buy the bag, don’t ask for the price.

Merjen nahar bişirmejek bolsa, men restorana gitjek. If Merjen is not going to cook, I will go to a restaurant.

Toğa gitmejek bolsam, eşiklerimi çalşyrjak. If I am not going to go to the party, I will change clothes.
Double Verbs
_Hal işlikler_

In English, we put the word “and” between two conjugated verbs to express that two actions are performed at once or at relatively the same time. It can also mean one action was performed, and a second immediately followed. Turkmen employs a structure that puts the two verbs together. The first verb is reduced to its stem and the participial ending “-_yp/-ip/-p_” is added according to vowel harmony. The ending of the second verb determines the performer of the actions, as in the following examples:

Men düynn nahar _iýip ýatdyrm_.
-Yesterday I ate and went to sleep.-
Biz radio _diňläp, hat ýazyérys_.
-We are listening to the radio and writing a letter.-
Ol şähere _gidip geldi_.
-He went to and came from the city.-
Sag boluň, biz _iýip geldik_.
-Thank you, we ate before we came.-
Çyrany _öçürip gel_.
-Turn off the light and come.-
_Sowadyp içiň!_
-Chill before drinking!-

The participial “-_yp/-ip/-p_” endings have negative counterparts, “-_man/-män_,” also added to the stem of the first verb. Note that only the first action is negated.

Çagalar okuwa _iýmän gitdiler_.
-The children went to school without eating.-
Okuwçylar sapaga _okaman gelýärler_.
-The pupils come to the lesson without studying.-
Sen myhmançylyga _sowgat alman barmaly däl_.
-You shouldn’t go as a guest to someone’s house without taking a gift.-
Bagyşlaň, men _bilmän etdim_.
-I’m sorry, I did it without knowing.-

Expressing Ability: _-yp/-ip/-p bilmek_
_Başarňuryň Aňladylyşy_

A structure involving the main verb and “bilmek” is used to express the ability to do something, similar to use of “can” or “able to.” According to vowel harmony, the main verb’s stem is followed by the participial ending “-_yp/-ip/-p_,” and “bilmek” is conjugated according to the performer of the action and the tense.

Men Türkmençe _okap bilyärin_.
-I can read Turkmen.-
Ol rusça _ýazyp bilenok_.
-He can’t write Russian.-
Seniň ejeň süýji nahar _bişirip bilyär_.
-Your mother can cook delicious food.-
Biz ýerde _ýatyp bilemiizok_.
-We can’t sleep on the floor.-
Olar Özbegistana _gidip bilenoklar_.
-They can’t go to Uzbekistan.-
Sen ony _görüp bildiňmi?_
-Were you able to see him?- Men maşgalam bilen _geleşip bildim_.
-I was able to speak with my family.-
Sen puluňy _calsyp bildiňmi?_
-Were you able to change your money?- Ol dynç _alyp bilmedi_.
-He wasn’t able to have a rest.-
Biz bazara _gidip bileris_.
-We can go to the bazaar.-
Doing an Action for Someone: -yp/-ip/-p bermek

This is a structure involving “bermek” that is used to express the doing of an action for someone. According to vowel harmony, the main verb’s stem is followed by the participial ending “-yp/-ip/-p,” and “bermek” is conjugated according to the performer of the action and the tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Kyrgyz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please close that door for me.</td>
<td>Şol gapyny [ýapyp] bersene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you want me to buy those shoes for you?</td>
<td>Şaňa şol köwşi [alyp] bereýinmi?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The doctor repaired the patient’s tooth.</td>
<td>Lukman näsagyň dişini [bejerip] berdi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The grandmother told a story for her grandchildren.</td>
<td>Enesi agtyklaryna rowaýat [aýdyp] berdi.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beginning an Action: -yp/-ip/-p başlaman

A structure involving “başlaman” is used to express the beginning of an action. The first verb must be in the “-yp/-ip/-p” participial form and “başlaman” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Kyrgyz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you started eating?</td>
<td>Nahar [iýip] başladýñyzmy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The guests began to arrive.</td>
<td>Myhmanlar [gelip] başladaylar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Completing an Action: -yp/-ip/-p bolmak/gutarmak

A structure involving “bolmak” or “gutarmak” is used to express the completion of an action. The first verb must be in its “-yp/-ip/-p” participial form and “bolmak” or “gutarmak” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Kyrgyz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you finish reading this book?</td>
<td>Şu kitaby [okap] bolduňmy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My brother has finished eating the candies.</td>
<td>Meniň jïjim süýjileri [iýip] gutardy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attempted Action: -yp/-ip/-p görmek

Synanyşgyň Aňladylyşy

A structure involving “görmek” is used to express the idea of trying to do something, or the idea of doing-and-seeing. The first verb must be in its “-yp/-ip/-p” form and “görmek” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Bu nahary dadyp gör. Try a bite of this food.
Men pikir edip göreýin. Let me think about it.
Zöhre şol köýnegi geýip gördü. Zohra tried on that dress.
Men synaşyp görmeli. I must try.
Sen synanyşyp gördüñmi? Did you ever try?
Expressing Continuous Action: Otyr, Ýatyr, Dur, Ýör, Barmak
İşliğin Dowamlygyynyň Aňladylyşy

Four verbs in Turkmen, “oturmak” (to sit), “ýatmak” (to sleep), “durmak” (to stand), and “ýöremek” (to walk), have special third-person singular forms: “otyr, ýatyr, dur, and ýör,” respectively. These modal verbs can be used alone or with compound verb structures to indicate a continuous action or the physical position of something. In compound structures, the first verb (the action that is continuing) is in the “-yp/-ip/-üp/-p” participial form. Please note that in some parts of Turkmenistan (Lebap for example), the modal verbs are specifically used for this purpose of indicating a continuous action. Therefore, the sentence below can be interpreted in two ways, depending on where you’re from:

Olar şu wagt nahar bişirip otyrlar. Right now they are cooking.

Or Right now they are cooking, while sitting.

Personal endings are added as such:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>otyrmak</th>
<th>ýatmak</th>
<th>durmak</th>
<th>ýöremek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>otyryn</td>
<td>ýatryn</td>
<td>durun</td>
<td>ýörün</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>otyrsyň</td>
<td>ýatrysynyň</td>
<td>dursuň</td>
<td>ýörsüň</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>otyr</td>
<td>ýatyr</td>
<td>dur</td>
<td>ýör</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>otyrysy</td>
<td>ýatrysy</td>
<td>dursus</td>
<td>ýöryş</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>otyrsyňyz</td>
<td>ýatrysyňyz</td>
<td>dursuňyz</td>
<td>ýörsüňiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>otyrlar</td>
<td>ýatyrlyar</td>
<td>durlar</td>
<td>ýörler</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above structure can be used as a singular verb to indicate one of the four associated verbs. Note that the third-person singular, “ýör,” is used by itself only in certain regional dialects. In compound structures with other verbs, it is used more frequently, especially in the regions that use this structure to indicate continuous action. Some examples:

Myrat şu wagt ýatyr. Myrat is sleeping now.
Meniň dostum mugallymlar otagynda otyr. My friend is sitting in the teachers’ room.
Meniň maşynym siziň mekdebiňiziň öňünde dur. My car is in front of your school.

In compound structures, these verbs’ meanings are retained only in that they indicate the position of the doer of the action (and sometimes the meaning is reduced to only suggest continuous action). Also note that, while it has no special continuous forms, the verb “barmak” may also indicate continuous action when in a compound structure:

Ol okap ýatyr. He is reading (while lying down).
Men çaý içip otyrn. I’m drinking tea (while seated).
Ol taýda toý gidip dur. There’s a party going on over there.
Sag-aman işläp ýörsüňizmi? Are you working safely? (How are things?)
Men işe gidip barýan. I’m going to work.
Nirä howlugyp barýan? Where are you hurrying to?
Physical objects capable of continuous action but not physical movement such as cars, refrigerators, electricity, and televisions, use “dur” in compound structures:

Cyralar ýanyp dur.
The lights are on.

Holodilnik işläp dur.
The refrigerator is running.

Duhowka ýanyp dur.
The oven is on.

Telefon işläp dur.
The telephone is working.

In the case where these modals are used to indicate a continuous action, both the present continuous and past continuous tenses can be formed. Construction is as follows: “otyr/ýatyry dur/ýör” + simple past suffix.

Men okap otyryn.
I am reading.

Men okap otyrdym.
I was reading.

Jigim parkda aýlanyp ýör.
My little sister is walking around the park.

Jigim parkda aýlanyp ýördi.
My little sister was walking around the park.

Biz telewizor görüp otyrys.
We are watching TV.

Biz telewizor görüp otyrdyk.
We were watching TV.
Expressing Possibility
Mümkinlik Aňladylyşy

The word “mümkin” (maybe) can be employed in grammatical structures to indicate possibility. The first structure expresses the possibility that something may happen, but that it is not guaranteed or known to be certain. The resultant meaning is similar to use of the modal verbs “might” or “may” in English. Structure is as follows: verb in infinitive form + possessive suffix + “mümkin.” The ‘k’ is transformed into a ‘g’ due to sound assimilation. Note that with this form, the personal possessive pronoun is used instead of the nominative pronoun. The structure can be literally translated into English as “my writing maybe.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>yazmak/gelmek</th>
<th>to write/to come</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meniň</td>
<td>ýazmagym/gelmegim mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniň</td>
<td>ýazmagný/gelmegin mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onuň</td>
<td>ýazmagy/gelmeği mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biziň</td>
<td>ýazmagymyz/gelmegimiz mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siziň</td>
<td>ýazmagynyz/gelmeginiz mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olaryň</td>
<td>ýazmagnyz/gelmeği mümkin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some examples:

Wagtym bolsa, meniň okamagym mümkin. If I have time, I might read.
Meniň şäherde nahar îýmegim mümkin. I might eat in the city.
Biziň naharanada duşmagymyz mümkin. Maybe we’ll meet at a restaurant.
Ondan çykyp diskoteka gitmegimiz mümkin. When we leave there, maybe we’ll go to a disco.
Goňşymyz düyünde dükan açmagy mümkin. Our neighbor might open a store in his house.
Turkmenabat-Mary ýolunyn bahasynyň arzanlamagy mümkin. The fare for the Turkmenabat-Mary route might get cheaper.

The negative is formed by inserting “-maz/-mez” after the verb stem:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>yazmak/gelmek</th>
<th>to write/to come</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meniň</td>
<td>ýazmazlygym/gelmezligim mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniň</td>
<td>ýazmazlygyný/gelmezligiň mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onuň</td>
<td>ýazmazlygy/gelmezligi mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biziň</td>
<td>ýazmazlygymyz/gelmezligimiz mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siziň</td>
<td>ýazmazlygynyz/gelmezliginiz mümkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olaryň</td>
<td>ýazmazlygy/gelmezligi mümkin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meniň ertir mekdebiňize gelmezligim mümkin. I might not come to your school tomorrow.
Hat ýazmazlygym mümkin. I might not write a letter.
Işim kän bolsa, okamazlygym mümkin. If I have a lot of work, I might not read.
Biziň günortanlyk nahar .ColumnName. We might not eat lunch.  
Jahanyň toýa gelmelizigimiz mümkin.  Jahan might not come to the wedding.  
Olaryň ýygnaga gatnamazlygy mümkin.  They might not participate in the meeting.  
Başlygyný ýygnaga gelmelizigimiz sebäbi onuň ogly ýaranok.  The boss might not come to the meeting because his son is sick.  
Dükana taze matalaryň gelmelizigimiz mümkin.  New fabric might not come to the store.  
Howanyň gyzmazlygy mümkin sebäbi häzir tomsyň soňky aýy.  The weather might not heat up again because it’s the last month of summer.  
Otlynyň gelmeliz silver mümkin.  The train most likely will not come.  

Many English speakers use the word ―Müente‖ in a liberal manner equivalent to the use of the adverb “maybe” in English. “Müente‖ is more frequently used in a manner similar to the English adjective “possible.” To use the word correctly in this way, the correct possessive ending should be added to the infinitive form of the verb and followed with the adjective “Müente‖.

Biziň daşary yurda gitmegimiz mümkin.  We may go to a foreign country.  
Olaryň taze jaý salmagy mümkin.  They may build a new house.  
 Şu gün teatrda konsert bolmagy mümkin.  Today there may be a concert at the theater.  

The following examples are similar to the English structure using the adverb “maybe,” and they are correct, but native speakers use this structure less frequently. Also, “müente‖ may not be used in combination with the definite future tense; only the indefinite future tense is used. Note that the adverb “belki‖ may also be used. It can imply that one hopes something will happen, and sometimes it is used to make a suggestion:

Müente, biz daşary yurda gideris.  Maybe we‘ll go to a foreign country.  
Belki ol ertir geler.  Maybe (I hope) he‘ll come tomorrow.  
Belki çay içeřis.  Maybe we‘ll drink tea?  

However, Turkmen speakers most commonly express possibility using a variety of verb forms such as “bolaýmasa,” the indefinite future, and phrases like “Nesip bolsa.”

**Requesting Permission: müente?**

*Rugsat Berilmegiň Hayys Etmek*

The word “müente‖ can also be used to ask for permission for an action. Structure is as follows: verb in infinitive form + “müente‖ + “-my/?-mi?‖:

Çilim çekmek müente?  May I smoke? (Is it okay to smoke?)  
Girmek müente?  May I come in?  
Jaň etmek müente?  May I make a call?  
Okamak müente?  May I read?  
Iýmek müente?  May I eat?
**Indicating Likely Situations**

*Çak Edilýän Hadysa*

The “-dyr/-dir” suffixes express probability rather than possibility. More specifically, this structure is used to express ideas which you believe are true. It is similar to English use of “must be.” Usually, this form is employed when speaking in the third person.

- Eger inlişçe kitap gerek bolsa, kitaphanadanadyr. If you need English books, there should be some in the library.
- Mugallymlar mekdepedir. The teachers must be at school.
- Onuň uly jaýy, maşyny bar. Ol baýdyr. He has a big house and car. He must be rich!
- Gerek bolsa, şo taýda pul bardyr. If you need it, there must be money there.

When used with verbs in the present tense, “-ýan/-ýän” is added to the verb stem:

- Sähra Amerikanlar bilen işleýär. Ol inlişçe bilýändir. Sahra works with Americans. She must know English.
- Hoşgün Parahatçylyk Korpusy işleýändir. On Wednesday, Peace Corps must be open.

When used with verbs in the past tense, the form changes slightly; the past tense suffix is replaced by “-an/-en”:

- Nahar bişendir. The food must have finished cooking.
- Şähere gidendir. He must have gone to the city.
- Sütüji bolandyr. (The food) ought to be tasty.
- Çaý içiberiň, sowandyr. Go ahead and drink the tea, (it) must have cooled by now.
- Telewizory aç, kino başlandyr. Turn on the TV; the film must have started.
- Bu salady ejem taýýarlandyr. My mother must have prepared this salad.
- Ol gyñaç daňynypdyr. Ol durmuşa çykandyr. She’s wearing a head scarf. She must be married.
- Belki olar bazara gidendirler. Maybe they went to the bazaar.

When used with verbs in the future tense, “-jak/-jek” is added to the verb stem:

- Mümkin biz futbol oýnakdyrys. Maybe we’ll play soccer.
- Belki olar Maryda ýaşajakdyrýlar. Maybe they will live in Mary.
- Olar saňa basym hat yazjakdyrýlar. They should write a letter to you soon.
Making a guess

Çak Etmek

To indicate a situation that one does not know for sure, but which one thinks may be true, the following form is commonly used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>bolmak/gitmek</th>
<th>to be/to go</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>bolamyasam /gidaymesem</th>
<th>I think I may be /I think I may go</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>bolamyasmañ /gidaymeseñ</td>
<td>I think you may be /I think you may go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol</td>
<td>bolamyasma /gidaymesë</td>
<td>I think he may be /I think he may go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>bolamyasak /gidaymesëk</td>
<td>I think we may be /I think we may go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>bolamyasmañyz /gidaymesëñiz</td>
<td>I think you may be /I think you may go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olar</td>
<td>bolamyasalar /gidaymeseler</td>
<td>I think they may be/I think they may go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To use this form in the present tense, add “bolamyasam” with the correct personal ending to a verbless statement, or add the “-yan/-yân” present participle ending to the verb and follow it with “bolamyasam” and its correct personal ending. To make the statement negative, add “-ma/-me” before “-yan/-yân”:

Ol mekdepde bolamyasam. I think he may be in the school.
Ol mekdepde işleyân, bolamyasam. I think he may work in the school.
Sen bilyañ, bolamyasmañ… I think you know…
Olar Türkmençe bilmyan, bolamyasam. I think they might not know Turkmen.

To use this form in the past tense, make the conjugated verb a the past participle and use “bolamyasam” as a helping verb:

Ol giden, bolamyasam. I think he may have gone.
Men yazmadyk, bolamyasam… I think I may not have written…
Sen kitabymy alan bolamyasmañ… I think you may have taken the book…

To use this form in the future tense, add “-jak/-jek” to the stem of the conjugated verb and use “bolamyasam” as a helping verb. Note that for all verbs other than “bolmak,” if conjugated in this form, it indicates future tense. The negative is formed by inserting an “m” between the stem of the verb and “aýmasam/-aýmesë”:

Olar ertir myhmananada ýataýmasalar. I think they may sleep in a hotel tomorrow.
Ol indi gitmejek, bolamyasam. I think he may not go now.
Ol keselhanada işlemäyemesë. I think he may not work in the hospital.
Biz toýa gidaymesek. I think we may go to the party.
Siz täze jaý aljak bolaymasañyz. I think you may not buy a new house.
Expressing Wants and Desires

**İisleğ – Meýil Aňladylyşy**

In Turkmen, there is a way to express a wish to do something that parallels the English use of infinitives: “Men çay içmek isleýärin” (I want to drink tea). However, a more common way to express desires involves a construction unlike any in English, utilizing “gelmek” as a helping verb: “Meniň çay içesim gelýär” (literally, my tea-drinking comes). This would roughly translate as “I want to drink tea”. The main verb “içmek” has the personal ending “-esim” added to the stem, with “gelmek” in the third-person singular, “gelýär.” Note the use of possessive pronouns rather than personal pronouns in the following table. However, as always, the pronoun can be omitted since the verb suffix indicates the subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turkish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meniň oýnamak/iýmek gelýär</td>
<td>I want to play/to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniň oýnasyn/iýesimiz gelýär</td>
<td>You want to play/to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onuň oýnasy/iýesim gelýär</td>
<td>She wants to play/to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biziň oýnasynyz/iýesinziz gelýär</td>
<td>We want to play/to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siziň oýnasyny/iýesiniz gelýär</td>
<td>You want to play/to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olaryň oýnasyn/iýesim gelýär</td>
<td>They want to play/to eat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meniň köp kitap okasym gelýär. I want to read many books.
Onuň kakasynýñ maşyn alasy gelýär. His/her father wants to buy a car.
Amerikan naharyny iýesim gelýär. I want to eat American food.
Seniň doňdurma iýesiň gelýär? Do you want to eat ice cream?
Biziň şu gün işläsimiz gelýär. We want to work today.
Onuň maşgalasyny göresi gelýär. She misses her family.
Jaý alasy gelýär, emma pulum ýok. I want to buy a house, but I don’t have money.

The negative is formed by changing the “gelýär” to “gelmeýär” or, more commonly, “gelenok”:

Men hat ibermeli, ýöne poçta çenli ýöräsim gelenok. I have to mail a letter but I don’t want to walk to the post office.
Meniň şu kitaby okasym gelenok. I do not want to read this book.
Onuň hiç kitap okasy gelenok. He does not want to read any books.
Bagyşlaň, ýöne biziň çorba iýesimiz gelenok. Excuse us, but we don’t want to eat soup.
Meniň hiç zat iýesim gelenok. I do not want to eat anything.
Onuň bir ýyl okuwy galdy, emma okasy gelenok. He has one year of school left, but he doesn’t want to study.

The past-tense form is also possible. To form the past-tense, simply use the third-person singular, past-tense form of the verb “gelmek”:

Meniň Türkmençe gowy öwrenesim geldi. I wanted to learn Turkmen well.
Onuň suraçy bolsasy geldi. He wanted to be an artist.
Maşynymyzy ýuwasymyz geldi. We wanted to wash our car.

The past-tense negative is formed by changing “geldi” to “gelmedi”:

Şu kinony göresiň gelmedi? You didn’t want to see this movie?
Meniň okasym gelmedi. I did not want to read.
Meniň düýn kän arak içesim gelmedi. I didn’t want to drink a lot of vodka yesterday.

The future tense is also possible. To form the future tense, simply use the third-person singular, indefinite future form of “gelmek.”

Eger men gitsem, hemmäňizi göresim geler. If I go, I will miss all of you.
Meniň dynç alasym geler. I will want to take a rest.

The negative is formed by changing “geler” to “gelmez”:

Seniň şu taýda yaşasyň gelmezmi? Won’t you want to live here?
Onuň ertir hiç zat edesi gelmez. He won’t want to do anything tomorrow.
Comparatives and Superlatives
Deňeşdirme we Güýçlendirme

In Turkmen, the comparative form is made by adding the instrumentive suffix “-dan/den” to the “lesser” noun being compared. Unlike English, comparative adjectives in Turkmen typically come at the end of comparative statements.

Bu üzümler şol üzümlerdenden süýji. These grapes are sweeter than those grapes.
Aşgabat Marydan uly. Ashgabat is bigger than Mary.
Meniň gyzym onuň oglundan akyly. My daughter is smarter than her son.
Biziň işimiz siziňkiden kyn. Our work is more difficult than yours.

Use of the “-rak/-räk” suffix implies that there is only a small degree of difference between compared objects. It can roughly be translated to “a little” or “a little more.”

Gyzlar oglaslanlardan akyllyrak. Girls are a little smarter than boys.
Bekrewe Herrikgaladan owadanrak. Bekrova is a little more beautiful than Herrikgala.
Türkmenistanyň howasy Amerikanyň howasyndan yssyrak. Turkmenistan’s weather is hotter than America’s weather.
Meniň köwşüm seniň köýnegiňden azajykgymadrak. My shoes are a little more expensive than your dress.

The “-rak/-räk” ending is also commonly used to express an evaluative idea similar to the English “kind of” or “sort of”:

Meniň saglygymgowurak. My health is sort of good.
Şu gün sowugrak. Today it’s kind of cold.
Onuň öyi kıçırak. His house is kind of small.
Düýnki nanymyz gatyrrakdy. Our bread was a little hard yesterday.
Türkmenistanyň howasy gyzynrak. Turkmenistan’s weather is kind of hot.

The “has” modifier is used to express a greater degree of difference between compared objects. It can be roughly translated to “much” or “much more.” If used in a non-comparative statement, the implied meaning is that something is compared to something else; see the third example below:

Aşgabat Moskwadan has kıçi. Ashgabat is much smaller than Moscow.
Men türkmençäni rusçadan has gowy bilýärin. I know Turkmen much better than Russian.
Olar geçen ay has köp işlediler. They worked much more last month.

To form the superlative, the words “iň” are added before the adjective. In English, it can be translated as “the most.”

Maral meniň iň gowy okuwçym. Maral is my best pupil.
Sekizinji synplaryň iň ökde okuwçylaryny saýla!

Choose the brightest pupils of the eighth grade.

Orsýet dünýade iň uly ýurtdyr.
Meniň pikirimçele, Türkmen dili iň kyn dil.

Russia is the largest country in the world.
In my opinion, Turkmen is the most difficult language.

Türkmen atlary iň owadan.

Turkmen horses are the most beautiful.

To form comparisons that express likeness (equivalent to the English “as... as...”) Turkmen uses the following structure:

Seniň şlýapaň hem onuňky ýaly gyymmat.
Seniň itiň hem onuňky ýaly uly.
Onuň okuwçylary hem biziňki ýaly gowy.
Meniň ejem hem Madonna ýaly oňat aýdym aýdyp bilýär.

Your hat is as expensive as hers.
Your dog is as big as his.
Their students are as good as ours.
My mother can sing as well as Madonna.

The English structure “so ... that” (“so big that...” or “so long that...”) is formed in Turkmen with the words “şeylebir” and “welin” (optional) in the following way:

Şeylebir köp adan toýa geldi welin, nahar ýetmedi.
Şeylebir garaňky welin, men hiç zat görüp bilmedim.
Howa şeylebir yssy, daşary çykar ýaly däl.

So many people came to the party that there wasn’t enough food.
It was so dark that I couldn’t see anything.
The weather is so hot it’s impossible to go outside.
Statements Expressing Time
_Çagt Türkçesindey Aňlayışy_

Habitual Action In the Past
_Endik Bolan Hereketleriň Öten Zamanda Aňlayışy_

It is used to express a habitual action that began and finished in the past, similar to “used to” or “would” in English. It is formed as follows: verb stem + “-ýar/-ýär” + appropriate past-tense ending.

Men öň köp palow iyärdim. I used to eat a lot of palow.
Sen kiçikäň nemes dilini okaýardyň. You used to study German when you were little.
Ol Türkmenistanda ýaşan wagty, dutar çalýardy. He used to play the dutar when he lived in Turkmenistan.
Ýaňky adam örän gowy okadýardy, indi pensiýa çykdy. That guy (who was just here) used to teach very well, then he retired.
Biz kiçikäk, futbol oñnaýardy. We played football when we were little.
Siz iňlis dilini her gün owrenýardinizmi? Did you use to learn English every day?
Olar her 5-nji gün metjide barýardylar. They used to go to the mosque every Friday.

To form the negative, insert “-ma/-me” before the “-ýar/-ýär” suffix, or suffix “-mokdym” after the verb steam.

Men kiçikäm gök-önümleri halamokdym. While I was little I didn’t used to like vegetables.
Biz Amerkadakak, türkmençe bilmeýardik. While we were in America, we didn’t know Turkmen.

The above grammar is typically used in conjunction with statements about things that happened at particular times. There are three ways to construct such statements, as outlined in the following sections. Note that, unlike English, the first clauses of such statements are tenseless; the tense is provided by the second clause. In literal terms, there is no distinction in Turkmen between “when I go” and “when I went,” unless the full sentence is given.

Statements With “wagt”
_“Çagt” Türkçesindey Belli bir Wagty Aňlayışmak_

It is possible to apply personal possessive suffixs to the Turkmen word for time, “çagt,” and add a descriptive word to specify which time. This form is only used when speaking of the past.

Men ýaş wagtym futbol oñnaýardym. When I was young, I used to play football.
Ol okan wagty diñe başlik alýardy. When she studied, she used to get only fives.
Biz kiçi wagtyyz surat alýardyk. When we were little, we used to take pictures.
Temporal Statements With “-ka/-kä”

Wagty “-ka/-kä” bilen Anlatmak

The suffix “-ka/-kä” can be added to other words to express that the action of the sentence happened at that time. It implies a continuous situation in the past, as opposed to a single event. To use this form correctly, add the appropriate personal ending to the suffix, as follows:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>-kam/käm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen</td>
<td>-kaň/-käň</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oл</td>
<td>-ka/-kä</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz</td>
<td>-kak/käk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz</td>
<td>-kaňyz/-käňiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oлар</td>
<td>-kalar/-käler</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sen bäbekkäň köp aglaýardyň. While you were a baby, you used to cry a lot.

Ol okuwçyka hiç wagt okamaýardy. While he was a student, he never used to study.

Biz kiçiňäk nemis dilini öwrenyärdik. While we were little, we used to learn German.

Olar kiçiňäler bu ýerde köp ruslar bardy. While they were small there were a lot of Russian people here.

When used in conjunction with a place, “-da/-de” is inserted between the place and the appropriate “-ka/-kä” suffix, as follows:

Men universitetdekäm köp kitap okaýardym. I used to read many books while I was in the university.

Ol Türkmenistandaka rus dilini hem öwrendi. While she was in Turkmenistan, she also learned Russian.

Biz şu gün mekdepdekäk, gar ýagdy. While we were at school today, it snowed.

When used in conjunction with a verb, the third-person present simple suffix “-ýar/-ýär” is inserted between the verb stem and the appropriate “-ka/-kä” suffix. As usual, the first clause is tenseless.

Ol Amerikada ýaşaýarka, Türkmenistan barada bilenokdy. While he was living in America, he did not know about Turkmenistan.

İşden öye gelýärkäň çörek getir. While you’re coming home from work, bring bread.

Negatives are formed by replacing “-ýar/-ýär” with “man/män” as below. The actual meaning is similar to an English “before” clause, and carries the same meaning as the “-maz/-mez” form (see below).

Magtymguly köcä ýetmäńkäň, sag tarapda dukan bar. The store is on the right side before you reach Magtymguly Street.

Men Türkmenistaná gelmäńkäm, şu kitaby I read this book before coming to
Constructing Time Clauses

In English we form adverbial clauses that indicate a time at which an action occurs using the word “when.” In Turkmen, when the time indicated is shown in relation to another action (for example: “when I came” or “when she calls”) this information is expressed by adding an ending to the verb that defines the time. As with the “wagt” and “-ka/-kä” constructions outlined above, the time clause itself is tenseless. Structure is as follows: verb stem + “-an/-en/-n” + possessive suffix + “-da/-de.” Note that while the adverbial clause may begin with the word “Haçan-da” (equivalent to the English “when”), this word is generally dropped, especially in spoken Turkmen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Stem (written form)</th>
<th>Verb Stem (spoken form)</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>açmak/içmek</td>
<td>açmak/içmek</td>
<td>to sneeze/to drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>men</td>
<td>asgyranymda/içenimde</td>
<td>When I sneeze/drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sen</td>
<td>asgyranynyðda/içeniñde</td>
<td>When you sneeze/drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ol</td>
<td>asgyرانynda/içeninde</td>
<td>When he sneeze/drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biz</td>
<td>asgyranymyzda/içenimizde</td>
<td>When they sneeze/drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siz</td>
<td>asgyrañyzda/içeníñde</td>
<td>When you sneeze/drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>olar</td>
<td>asgyranynnda/içeninde</td>
<td>When they sneeze/drink</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Haçan-da) Men Türkmenistana gelenimde Türkmen dilini öwrenip başladym. When I came to Turkmenistan, I began to learn Turkmen.

Sen jañ edeniñde, men ýatyrdym. When you called, I was sleeping.

Ol Aşgabada geleninde, meniň öýüme gelýär. When he comes to Ashgabat, he comes to my house.

Biz eksamen berenimizde, gaty ýadaýas. When we take an exam, we get very tired.

Statements With “Before” and “After”

In Turkmen, the construction for expressing an action that comes before or after something else is unique and very important. If an action comes before something else, the structure is as follows: verb stem + “-maz/-mez” + possessive suffix + “-dan/-den” + “öň”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Stem (written form)</th>
<th>Verb Stem (spoken form)</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>açmak/eşitmek</td>
<td>açmak/eşitmezimden öň</td>
<td>Before I open/hear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>men</td>
<td>açmazymdan/eşitmezimden öň</td>
<td>Before you open/hear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sen</td>
<td>açmazynýdan/eşitmeziñden öň</td>
<td>Before you open/hear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ol</td>
<td>açmazynzdan/eşitmeziñden öň</td>
<td>Before he opens/hears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biz</td>
<td>açmazymyzdan/eşitmezimizden öň</td>
<td>Before we open/hear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siz</td>
<td>açmazýñyzdan/eşitmeziñizden öň</td>
<td>Before you open/hear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>olar</td>
<td>açmazynzdan/eşitmeziñinden öň</td>
<td>Before they open/hear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men ýatmazymdan öň öý işlerimi gutarypdym. I finished my homework before I slept.
Men Türkmenistana gelmezinden öň şu kitaby okapdym. I read this book before I came to Turkmenistan.

If you specify the subject or it is implied elsewhere, the possessive suffix is not necessary. For example:

Ol işe gitmezden öň, suwa düşüpdir. She took a shower before she went to work.
Telefonda gürleşmezden öň, tölemeli. (You) must pay before you speak on the telephone.
Men Aşgabada gaýtmañdan öň, maşgalam antenna satyn aldy. Before I returned to Ashgabat, my family bought a satellite dish.

If an action comes after something else, the structure is as follows: verb stem + “-an/en” + possessive suffix + “-dan/den” + “soň”:

Men ýatyp turanymdan soň işlerimi gutararyn. I will finish my work after I sleep.
Men Türkmenistana gelenimden soň şu kitaby okapdym. I read this book after I came to Turkmenistan.
Telefonda gürleşip bolanyňdan soň tölemeli. You must pay after you finish speaking on the telephone.
Men naharymy iýip bolanymdan soň bararyn. I will go after I finish eating.

Expressing lengths of time
*Hereketiň Dowamlylygyň Aňladylyşy*

To express the length of time for a noun, the suffix “-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük” is sometimes used.

- başına lyk iş (5 minutes of work)
- üç günük rugsat (3-day vacation)

In a similar way, the time duration of verbs can also be expressed using the above suffix, similar to English use of “for.” However, the suffix should not be used with verbs that occur over a length of time; it should only be used with verbs that occur at a single moment (*gitmek, gelmek, almak, bermek,*).

- İki ýýlyk geldim. (I came for 2 years.)
- Dört aýlyk gidi. (He left for four months.)
- Hassahanada üç sagat boldyk. (We were at the hospital for 3 hours.)

If the verb does occur over a length of time, the suffix “-lap/-läp,” may be used, although it is optional. Note that the action could still be taking place, or it may have ended:

- Ol on baş ýyllap gitara çaldy. He played (has been playing) guitar for 15 years.
- Men posylka baş günlap garaşdym. I waited for the package for 5 days.
Sen on ýyllap mekdepde okadyňmy?
Gahrymanlar üç günлăp suw içмändirler.

Did you study for 10 years?
The heroes drank no water for three days.

To communicate the idea of having done something since a specific moment in time in the past, Turkmen uses the present tense in combination with the instrumental case and the postposition “bäri” (similar to the English “since”):

Olar sagat ondan bäri ýygnakda.

They have been in the meeting since 10 o’clock.

Men Turkmenistana gelenimden bäri Türkmençe öwrenýän.

I have been learning Turkmen since I came to Turkmenistan.

Ol on baş ýaşyndan bäri dutar çalýar.

He has been playing dutar since he was 15 years old.

Ol on baş ýyl(dan) bäri dutar çalýar.

He has been playing dutar for 15 years.

Statements With “-ça/-çä”

Wagtyň “-ça/-çä” bilen Aňladylyşy

The English prepositions “until” or “while” can be expressed in Turkmen with the suffix “-ça/-çä.” Structure is as follows: verb stem + “-ýan/-ýän” + “-ça/-çä” + possessive suffix:

Bolýar Döwlet, men gitdim, görüşýänçäk.

Okay Dowlet, I’m gone, until we see each other again.

Nahar bişýänçä maňa kömekleşsene!

Until the food is done, please help me!

Sapak başlayança kart oýnadyk.

Until the lesson began, we played cards.

Garaňky düşýänçä men daşarda oturjak.

Until it gets dark, I’m going to sit outside.

Sen yzyña gelyänçäň men ýataryn.

Until you come back, I’m going to sleep.

Siz şähere gidýänçäniz maňa azajyk kömek edäýiň.

Before you go to the city, please help me a little bit.

While the “-ça/-çä” ending may be translated as “until,” note that when referring to times, dates, or other numbers (e.g. “until 6 o’clock”), the postposition “çenli” is used:

Men sagat sekize çenli mekdepde galmaly.

I have to stay at the school until 8 o’clock.

Ol 6-njy klasdan 9-nji klasa çenli okadýar.

He teaches 6th through 9th grades.

Biz ona çenli øýe gelmedik.

We didn’t come home until 10 o’clock.

Sagat üçe çenli öý işlerini işle.

Do your homework by (until) 3 o’clock.

Mekdep wagta çenli nahar bişireris.

We’ll cook until it’s time for school.

Mekdep wagta çenli nahar bişmeli.

The food must be ready by the time school starts.
Gerunds and Infinitives

*Işliklerden Yașalan Atlar we İşliği Nämälim Formalary*

In Turkmen, verbs are sometimes used as nouns, akin to the English use of infinitives and the “-ing” form of verbs. For example:

- Ony *tapmak* kyn. Finding her is difficult. (It is difficult to find her.)
- Käşihr *iýmek* peýdały. Eating carrots is healthy. (It is healthy to eat carrots.)
- Taryh barada kitap *okamak* gyzykly. It is interesting to read books about history.

The difference is that, in Turkmen, cases can then be applied:

- Men *almany* halaýan. I like apples.
- Men *ýatmagy* halaýan. I like sleeping. (to sleep)
- *Işlemeği* dowam et! Continue working! (to work)
- İnlis dilinde *geplemegi* owreniň. Learn to speak in English.
- Mekdebimiziň okuwçylary kuşt *oýnamakda* utuldylar. Our school’s students lost at playing chess.
- *Işleme CDN* ýadadym. I am tired from working.

Possessive suffixes may also be added:

- Bize *kömekleşmegiň* gerek. We need your help.
- İnlis dilinde *geplemegi* owreniň. Learn to speak in English.
- Şu gün işe *gelmegimiz* hökman däl. Today our going to work is unnecessary.

**Applying Dative Case to Verbs: -maga/-mäge**

*Yöneliş Düşümü İşlikler bilen Ulanylyşy*

On account of sound assimilation, a ‘k’ changes to a ‘g’ when followed by other letters, and the infinitive changes accordingly. In these cases, “-a/-e” is added to the infinitive, showing directional action. It is used to express that someone “went, “came,” or “entered” in order to do something else. Note that in speech (but never in writing), “-maga/-mäge” is often pronounced “-mana/-mäne.”

- Men mekdebe doganymy *tapmaga* gitdim. I went to school to find my sister.
- Men bazara iýmit *almaga* gidýarın. I’m going to the bazaar to buy food.
- Sen uniwersitete Türkmen dili *okamaga* girjekmi? Will you enter the university to study Turkmen language?
- Biz iňlis dilini we saglyk barada *okatmaga* geldik. We came to teach English language and about health.
- Biz çykşyş *görmäge* gidýarıs. We are going to see the performance.
- Olar nahary *iýmage* gidýarıs. We have gone to eat dinner.
- Siz ol ýere kino *görmäge* barýarsyňyzmy? Are you going there to see a movie?
- Olar sapaklarymyzy *barlamaga* gelerler. They will come to review our lessons.
- Sen Ahal-teke atlary *münmäge* gidýärșiňmi? Are you going to ride the Ahal-teke horses?
Men 3-de suratlaryňy görmekге barjak.  
Ol biziň täze doglan bäbegimizi görmekäge geldi.  
Olar aýda bir gezek pul almaga banka barýarlar.  

I’ll come to see your pictures at 3. 
He came to see our new-born baby. 
They go to the bank once a month to take money. 

Many grammatical structures that initially seem complicated are simply applications of cases, and can be more easily absorbed upon realization of this.

**Gerunds with “-yyş/-ýiş/-yş/-iş/-uş/-üş”**

*Işliklerden At Yasalyşy*

Another way of forming gerunds in Turkmen uses the endings “-yyş/-ýiş/-yş/-iş/-uş/-üş”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Türkmen</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Köp adam onuň ýazyşyny halayalar.</td>
<td>Many people like her writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men onuň tort biširişini öwrendim.</td>
<td>I learned his cake-baking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biziň futbol oýnaýşymyz görjekmi?</td>
<td>Do you want to watch our soccer playing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ene-atalarymyz biziň okaýýşymyz bilen gyzylkanýalar.</td>
<td>Our parents take an interest in our studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Imposing Desires on Others: -magyny/-megini**

*Başganyň Ýerine Yetirmegine Bagly Isleg*

The following structure expresses one’s desire or need for someone else to do something. In Turkmen, this unique structure links the possessive pronoun to the intended action. This form is more formal and, therefore, more common in writing. In these statements, there are two people: the person who desires or wants the action, and the person who they want to do the action. The structure is as follows: the director + whose action they desire or need (in genitive form) + the desired action (verb infinitive + possessed form + accusative case) + want/request/wait. Note that, when speaking, reported speech is almost always used in place of this grammar (“My father told me to study,” not “My father wants me to study.”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Türkmen</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men seniň tort äkelmegiňi isleýärin.</td>
<td>I want you to bring a cake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I your cake (to bring + iň + i) (I) want.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen meniň tort äkelmegimi isleýärşiň.</td>
<td>You want me to bring a cake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You my cake (to bring + im + i) (you) want.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol olaryň tort äkelmegini isleýär.</td>
<td>She wants them to bring a cake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She their cake (to bring + i +ni) (she) wants.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biz siziň futbol oýnamagyňyzы haýýş edýärís.</td>
<td>We request that you all play football.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We your football (to play + ýyz + y) (we) request.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siz olaryň futbol oýnamagyny haýýş edýärșiňizmi?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You request their football? Are you requesting that they play football?

Ol seniň diňlemegiňi isleýär. She wants you to listen.
Onuň şeýle etmegini haýyş etdim. I asked her to do it like that.
Onuň gelmegini isleýärin. I want him to come.
Men seniň gelmegiňi haýyş edýärin. I request that you come.
Men seniň gelmegiňe garaşýaryn. I await your arrival.

Because of the conjugation of the main verb, the first pronoun is not always necessary. Compare the first sentence with the second.
Postpositions

Ugur Görkeziji Kömekçi Sözler

Postpositions, the Turkmen equivalent of English prepositions, differ from their English counterparts not only in that they occur after a noun rather than before it, but also in that they employ a special possessive structure. When saying where something is, you must describe its location as possessed by another object. For example, “the book is on the table” is literally “the book is on the table’s top” in Turkmen. Some examples:

- Kitabyň gapdalynda depder dur. (book’s side-at notebook standing.)
- Türkmenistanyň günbatarynda Hazar deňzi ýerleşýär. (Turkmenistan’s west-at Caspian Sea located)
- Mekdebiň ýokarsynda baýdak parlap dur. (school’s side-upside flag waving)
- Buludyň yzynda gün şöhle saçyp dur. (cloud’s side- behind sun shining)
- Mugallym okuwçylaryň öňünde dur. (teacher in front of students)
- Bu gürrüň ikimiziň aramyzda galsyn. (let this conversation stay between you and me)
- Direktor mekdebiň içinde. (director inside school)
- Pulumy stoluň üstünde goýdum. (I put my money on the table)
- Meniň üstümde oturmasana! (please don’t sit on me)

A handful other common postpositions, however, do not employ this structure. Examples of these include “üçin” (for), “bilen” (with), and “barada” and “hakda” (both meaning “about”). Note that when some of these postpositions (such as “üçin” and “bilen”) are used in combination with pronouns, the pronouns usually appear in the genitive case:

- “Meniň üçin” or “meň üçin,” “onuň üçin” or “oň üçin,” “biziň üçin” or “biz üçin” (but never “olaryň üçin,” only “olar üçin”); “meniň bilen,” “sениň bilen,” or “siziň bilen,” (but not “olaryň bilen,” only “olar bilen”).
Other Important Grammatical Points

Beýleki Möhüm Grammatiki Bölümler

Bar and Ýok
Bar we Ýok
When English employs the verb “to have” or “to exist,” as well as various other structures such as “there is/are,” Turkmen employs the half-verb “bar,” and as a negation, it’s opposite, “ýok.” When used in combination with the genitive case and sometimes the locative case, “bar” is usually most closely translated into English as the verb “to have”:

Meniň Ejem bar.  I have a mother.
Biziň erkek doganýmyz ýok.  We don’t have a brother.
Merediň maşyn bar.  Meret has a car.
Meretde maşyn bar.  Meret has a car.

Often when bar is used in combination with the locative or nominative cases, it does not indicate ownership, but only existence and/or location of an object:

Gülşatda açar bar.  Gushat has a key.
Mekdepde iki kompýuter bar.  In the school there are two computers.
Howluda it ýok.  There’s no vodka in the yard.
Bärde restoran ýokay?  There’s no restaurant here?
Şaşlyk barmy?  Is there any shashlyk?
Barmy Maksat?  Is Maksat here?

To use “bar” or “ýok” in the past tense, simply add the simple past tense endings:

Men şol otaga girjekdim, ýöne ol ýerde ýygnak bardy.  I was going to enter that room, but there was a meeting there.
Olaryň toýynda arak ýokdy.  There was no vodka at their party.
Biziň maşynýmyz bardy, ýöne satdyk.  We had a car, but we sold it.

Note, however, that in the future and conditional tenses, “bar” and “ýok” are replaced by the verb “bolmak” (see below). Also note that there is a verb “barmak,” which means “to be going somewhere,” or “to arrive,” and it should not be confused with the half-verb “bar.”

The Verb “Bolmak”
“Bolmak” işligi
One point of confusion faced by English speakers when first learning Turkmen is the frequent omission of a verb when in English the verb “to be” is required. While there is a Turkmen equivalent of the verb “to be” (“bolmak”), it is used in a variety of ways that often differ from the uses of the English variant. First note that it is not usually used as a connecting verb in the present tense, as the English verb “to be” is:

Türkmenistan owadan.  Turkmenistan is beautiful.
Men mugallym.  I am a teacher.
However, when describing a state of being that is regularly or always true, “bolmak” may be used in the present tense. Note the contrast in the following two examples:

Bu gün yssy.  
Tomus yssy bolýar.  

Today it’s hot.  
It’s hot in the summer.

“Bolmak” may also be used as a connecting verb in the past tense.

Bu ýyl tomus yssy boldy.  
Kino gaty gzykly boldy.  
Biz barjakdyk, emma giç boldy.  

Summer was hot this year.  
The movie was very interesting.  
We would have gone, but it was late.

While in many cases, Turkmens simply apply past tense endings to an adjective or noun to communicate this idea, note that sometimes both options are possible, and there can sometimes be a slight difference in meaning. This difference has to do with whether or not what is being described is still true:

Toýda adam köpdi.  
Toýda köp adam boldy.  

There were many people at the party (and they may or may not be there anymore).  
There were many people at the party (but not anymore).

Note also that in the above examples, instead of “boldy” or simply using the past tense endings, the half-verb “bar” may also be used in combination with past tense endings to express the same idea:

Toýda köp adam bardy.  
Onuň ýetirlik puly bardy.  

There were many people at the party.  
She had enough money.

However, in the future tense and in the conditional tense, “bolmak” serves both as a connecting verb and in place of “bar,” although it is sometimes acceptable to use “bar” and “bolmak” together in a conditional phrase:

Men Parahatçylyk Korpusynyň Meýlitinçisi boljak.  
(Şäherde maşyn kän bolar.  
Nahar süýji bolmasa, az iýerin.  
Wagtym bolsa, saňa kömek ederin.  
Wagtynyz bar bolsa, bize kömek ediň.  
Mugallym bolmasa, sapak bolmaz.  
(Mugallym ýok bolsa, sapak ýok bolar.)

I’m going to be a Peace Corps Volunteer.  
There will be a lot of cars in the city.  
If the food isn’t good, I won’t eat a lot.  
If I have time, I’ll help you.  
If you have time, help us.  
If there’s no teacher, there won’t be a lesson.
The use of “bolmak” is also necessary in various command forms:

Akyllı bol!  Behave yourself! (literally: Be smart!)
Sag bolun.  Thank you/goodbye (lit: Be well!).
Ýasy uzyn bolsun!  May he have long life! (lit: May his years be
long!)
Bol!  Go! /It’s your turn! /Finish!

At times, the verb “bolmak” is used in a sense similar to “gutarmak,” to finish, especially in
combination with a second verb in the -ip/-yp/-üp/-üp form:

Bolduñmy?  Are you done?
Ol bu kitaby okap boldumy?  Has she finished reading this book?

In other cases, “bolmak” may carry a meaning similar to the English verb “to happen”:

Näme boldy?  What happened?
Oña näme bolýar?  What’s the matter him?
Kinoda näme bolup dur?  What’s going on in the movie?

A final use of “bolmak” is in various colloquial expressions:

Bolýarmy? (Bormy?)  Okay?
Boljak.  It’ll do.
Boldy.  Done. That’s all.
Bolmaz.  It won’t work.
Bolanok.  It’s not correct./I’m not agree with you.

“In Order To”
Üçin / Yaly
Gerunds can be used with the accusative case to convey that one action was performed in order
to complete another, separate action (see p.689). To express similar statements that lack
directional action (sentences with verbs that do not take the dative case), the construction is
different. The Turkmen construction can be literally translated as “for” or “in order to do”
something. Structure is as follows: verb infinitive + “üçin”:

Men 5-lik almak üçin ýazdym.  I wrote in order to get a five.
Ol bilimli bolmak üçin onat okady.  He studied in order to be knowledgeable.
Biz şu Türkmen el işlerini öyümizdäkilere bersmek üçin satyn aldyk.  We bought these Turkmen handicrafts to
give to our family (those at our home).
Sen teatra girmek üçin tölediňmi?  Did you pay to get into the theater?

Below is an alternative construction to express the equivalent of the English “so that” or “in
order to,” which is especially common in conversation. Structure is as follows: desired outcome
with verb in third-person singular, indefinite future tense + “ýaly” + action being performed in order to achieve the outcome:

Men kitaby gowy okar ýaly äýnek dakynýaryn. I wear glasses so that I can read books well.

Joram gowy is tapar ýaly iňlis dilini öwrenýär. My friend studies English in order to find a good job.

Günüň ýagtysy girmez ýaly tutyny ýapyp bersene. Please close the curtain so that the sun’s light won’t come in.

Biz saglygymyz oňat bolar ýaly ýagly nahar íýemizok. In order that our health will be good, we don’t eat fatty food.

Sen rugsat alar ýaly bilim bölümine barmaly. In order to get permission you must go by the Education Department.

Seniň dişiň ak bolar ýaly günde iki gezek dişiňi ýuwmaly. You should brush your teeth twice a day so that your teeth will be white.

**Wondering**

“-myka/-mikä;-ka/-kä” bilen Soralyşy

The suffixes “-ka/-kä” are added to the final word of a question sentence to emphasize wonder or a desire to know something that is uncertain. In some cases it is similar to the English “I wonder,” though usually the speaker expects an answer from someone else. Construction is as follows: question + “-ka/-kä” + possessive suffix:

Serdar barmyka? Can you tell me if Serdar is there?

Ejeň şahere gidimikä? Can you tell me if your mother went to the city?

Haçan gelerkä? Can you tell me when she’ll come?

Şu taýda saklap bolmazmyka? (I wonder) would it be possible to stop here?

Amerikanyň ilçihanasyň nirededigini aýdyp bilmezmiňiz? Could you tell me where the American Embassy is?

Konferensiýa haçan ka? (I wonder) when is the conference?

Biz ertir şahere gidip bilermikäk? Will we be able to go to the city tomorrow?

Men seniň bilen teatra gidip bilermiňiz? I wonder if I can go with you to the theater.

Uly klaslary okadyp bilermikäňiz? Can you teach big classes?

Note that, as the examples illustrate, the “-ka/-kä” suffix itself can imply the subject of the statement.

**Causing**

**Sebäpli/üçin**

As in English, it is possible to relate an explanation for the outcome of a situation, similar to the use of “because of” (“sebäpli”). However, in Turkmen, “üçin” may also be used to convey the same meaning. When the reason contains a verb, the ending of the verb changes slightly. For
past tense, construction is as follows: verb stem + “-an/-en” + “-lygy/-ligi” + “sebäpli” + result clause. For present tense, replace the “-an/-en” with “-ýan/-ýän”:

Ýagyş ýaganlygy sebäpli, uçar wagtynda uçmady.  Because it rained, the plane didn’t take off on time.

Kurorta gidýänligiňiz üçin bir aý rugsat almaly bolsaryňyz.  You will have to ask for one month (of vacation) in order to go to the spa.

For negative statements in the present tense, add “-ma/-me” after the verb stem; for past tense, change the “-an/-en” to “-man/-män.”

Siziň kasseta getir mänliginiňiz üçin kino görüp bilmeris.  Because you didn’t bring the cassette, we will not be able to watch the movie.

Ýaramay anlygy sebäpli şu gün okuwa gidip bilmedim.  Because I am sick, I couldn’t go to school today.

Reported Speech

 Başganyň Sözüniň Üçünji Üöňkemede Berilmegi

The “-dyk/-dík” endings, when added to a word, are similar to the English “that” and create a dependent clause or show indirect speech in a sentence. To use “-dyk/-dík,” add the suffixes to the conjugated verb that belongs in the dependent clause and add the appropriate possessive suffix (-ým/-ým, -ýň/-ýň, -ýn/-ýn, -ýmyz/-ýmiz, -ýňyz/-ýňiz, -ýn/-ýn) in the accusative case (-ý/-i).

The “-dyk/-dík” endings may also be added directly to a noun, adjective, or question word.

Men oňa altyda geljekdigimi aýtdym.  I told him that I would come at 6:00.

I told him that I would come at 6:00.

The following examples show how to express such statements in different tenses:

Ol özüniň günde telewizor görýändigiňi aýtdy.  He said that he watches television everyday.

Ol özüniň günde telewizor görendigiňi aýtdy.  He said that he watched television every day.

Ol özüniň günde telewizor görjekdigini aýtdy.  He said that he would watch television every day.

Siz maňa näme isleýändigiňizi aýdyñ.  Tell me what you want.

Ol maňa köp zat öwrenýändigiňi aýtdy.  He told me that he’s learning a lot.

Ol maňa seniň gelendigiňi aýtdy.  She told me that you came.

Köwşüň bahasynyň näçedigini aýdyyp bilersini?  Can you tell me how much your shoes cost?

Mugallymyň nirede digini bilýärsini?  Do you know where the teacher is?

Men ol gyzyň menden ulydigyny bilýärin.  I know that girl is taller than I.

Men seniň kitabyň meniňkiden gowudygyny bilýärin.  I know that your book is better than mine.

Biz şu kitabyň sözlük digini bilýäris.  We know that this book is a dictionary.
Men toýuň nirede geçiril jekdiginì bilemok. I don’t know where the party will be held.
Men toýuň nirede bolýandgynì bilemok. I don’t know where the party is.
Men mugallymyň nirede digini bilemok. I don’t know where the teacher is.

In spoken Turkmen, if the last word of the dependent clause is a verb, the “-dyk/-dik” part of the ending is frequently dropped:

Men toýuň nirede bolýanyň bilemok. I don’t know where the party is.
Ol maňa seniň geleeniňi aýtdy. She told me that you came.
Ol (özüniň) günede telewizor görjegini aýtdy. He said that he would watch television everyday.

Expressing Hearsay and Rumor: -myş/-miş

Eşitmiş

These endings indicate that something has been overheard or is rumored to be true. Typically, it is used informally to gossip, with a meaning similar to “I heard that” or “they say that”. In the present tense, simply add “-myş/-miş” to the end of the sentence, according to vowel harmony. Because the structure is used almost exclusively when speaking in the third person, conjugations for first and second person have been omitted.

Ol iňlisçe kitaplary okaýarmyş. (They say that) she reads English books.
Ol köp iýýärmiş. (I heard that) she eats a lot.
Daşary ýurtlarda biziniň dogan-garyndaşlarymyz barmyş. (It’s been said that) we have relatives in foreign countries.
Serdar aşsamalaryna işleýärmiş. (They say that) Serdar works in the evenings.
Oglanlar gyz almak üçin 3.000 dollar töleme limiň. (People are saying that) boys must pay $3,000 in order to marry a girl.

To express this kind of statement in the past-tense, add either the “-an/-en/-n” past-tense ending or the “-yp/-ip/-p” participial ending to the verb stem, followed by the “-myş/-miş” suffix:

Gyzyň synaglardan 5-lik alanmyş. (They told me) your daughter got fives on the exams.
Nýu -Ýýrdka baş günüp gar ýagypmyş. (They say that) it snowed for five days in New York.
Toý 5-de başlanmyş. (It’s rumored that) the wedding began at 5.

To express this kind of statement in the future tense, simply add one of the definite future-tense suffix “-jak/-jek” to the verb stem, followed by “-myş/-miş.”

Gülşat indiki aý toý etjekmiň. (I’ve heard that) Gulshat will get married next month.
Şu ýýl Amerikada täze Prezident saýlanjakmyş. (I hear) a new president will be chosen in America this year.
Indiki aý Bil Clinton täze kitaby neşir edjekmiş. (It’s rumored that) Bill Clinton will publish a new book next month.

Myhmanlar 7-de barjakmyş. (She says) the guests will come at 7.

To Get The Attention “Bara”
“Bara”-Kömekçi Sözi

The Turkmen word “bara” is used to bring attention to a specific person, place, or thing. Although English doesn’t use a similar word, it can be translated roughly as, “You know…“ or “Take…for example.”

Ýaňky aýal bara, ol meniň ejemiň jorasy. You know the woman who was just here; she’s my mother’s friend.

In Turkmen, “ýaňky aýal” literally means “the last woman” or “the woman who was just here.” The word “bara” emphasizes that the speaker wishes to bring the listener’s attention to a specific woman and that a statement about that woman will follow.

Şu kitap bara, biziň direktorymyzň ýazan kitaby. You know this book—it’s the book that our director wrote.

Biziň goňşumyz bara, düýt maşynyny satypdyr. You know our neighbors—yesterday they sold their car.

Poçtadaky aýallar bara, seni sorady. You know the women at the Post Office—they asked about you.

Jemal bara, geçen hepde okuwa girdi. You know Jemal—she started school last week.

However, note that the word bara often has no meaning at all, and is simply used to get the attention of others when one begins speaking, as in “Men bara…” or “Sen bara…”
Verb Suffixes
*
Işlik Goşulmalary
*

One very crucial part of knowing Turkmen is learning to use and understand the complex system of suffixes. Simply defined, suffixes, or “goşulmalar” are endings added to verb stems to change the verbs’ usage and function.

Passive: -yl/-il, -ul/-ül, -l
*
Işligiň gaýdym derejesi
*
Adding the following “goşulmalar” changes the verb from the active voice to the passive voice. As in English, it is employed when the subject is unknown or unimportant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iýmek</td>
<td>to eat</td>
<td>My mother wove a big carpet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iýilmek</td>
<td>to be eaten</td>
<td>This carpet was woven from wool.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meniň ejem uly halyny dokady.
Şu haly ýuňden dokaldy.

Meniň ejem uly halyny dokady.
Şu haly ýuňden dokaldy.

Meniň ejem uly halyny dokady.
Şu haly ýuňden dokaldy.

Meniň ejem uly halyny dokady.
Şu haly ýuňden dokaldy.

Passive: -yn/-in, -un/-ün, -n
*
Işligiň özliük derejesi
*
Adding the following “goşulmalar” makes the verb reflexive so that the subject of the sentence is acting upon itself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ýuwmak</td>
<td>to wash</td>
<td>I see my girlfriends everyday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ýuwunmak</td>
<td>to wash oneself</td>
<td>He showed himself at work and left.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men günde joralarymy görýärin.
Ol işe görnüp gaýtdy.

Men günde joralarymy görýärin.
Ol işe görnüp gaýtdy.

Men günde joralarymy görýärin.
Ol işe görnüp gaýtdy.

Men günde joralarymy görýärin.
Ol işe görnüp gaýtdy.

Jemal, nirä gitdiň? Görneňok!

Jemal, nirä gitdiň? Görneňok!

Jemal, nirä gitdiň? Görneňok!

Jemal, nirä gitdiň? Görneňok!
Reciprocal: -yş/-iş,-uş/-üş,-ş

Adding these “goşulmalar” expresses that the action is exchanged between two people or groups. To express reciprocal action in English we often say “each other” or “one another.”

geplemek
geleşmek
to speak
to converse

Maral jigisini gujaklady.
Dostlar gujaklaşdylar we oğuşdylar.
Sen Selbini görüştün?
Biz goşüp salamaşdyk.
Sag bolun, goşuşyançak.
Jemal we Jeren täzę ýylda sowgatlar berşerler.

Güljan bilen goşąlarily günde salamaşýar.

Okuwçylar sorag-jogap alyşdylar.

Gülşat çagalaryny giç ýatyrdy.

However, note that with some verbs, this ending is not necessarily reflexive (“kömekleşmek,” “bişirişmek,” “göterişmek,” “yazyşmak,” or sometimes even the verbs in the above examples). In these cases, the meaning is that one person helped another do something.

Men oňa kitap ýazyşdym.
Ol jigisine öý işini işleşdi.

Meni mugallym şu kitap bilen gyzyklandyrdy.
Mergen öýe gelip derrew ýatdy.

Causative: -dyr/-dir, -dur/-dür, -yr/-ır, -ur/-ür, -uz/-üz, -ar/-er, -dar/-der, -t

Adding these “goşulmalar” makes the subject of the verb also the cause of an action or state, for example making someone do something.

düşünmek
düşündirmek
to understand
to explain (to make understood)

okamak
okatmak
to learn
to teach (to make someone else learn)

Men şu kitap bilen gyzyklanamok.

I am not interested in this book.
The teacher got me interested in this book.
Mergen came home and went to sleep right away.
Gulshat put her children to bed late.
Men Aýnabady görenimde güldüm.
Ol gülkünç değișme aýdanynda, dostlaryny güldürdi.

When I saw Aynabat, I laughed.
He made his friends laugh when he told a funny joke.

Tomsuna hemme adamlar ir turýarlar.
Sagat 10-da meni turuzsana!
Ol işledi.
Ol meni howlusynda işledi.

Everyone wakes up early in the summer.
Wake me up at 10 o'clock!
He worked.
He made me work in his yard.

Ol şu gün ýalňyşyna düşündi.
Mugallym täze mowzuggy düşündirdi.

Today he realized he had made a mistake.
The teacher explained a new topic.

Only “görmek” (to see) uses the “goşulma” “-kez” in its causative form:

Olar bizi köçede gördüler.
Men suratlarymy jorama görkezýärin.

They saw us on the street.
I am showing my friend my pictures.
Important Suffixes and Prefixes
Möhüm Öň we Soň Goşulmalary

-la/-le
The suffix “-la/-le” is often used to form a verb from a noun or adjective.

-gep speech  iş work  yssy hot
-geplemek to speak  işlemebek to work  yssylamak to become hot

-el hand  göz eye  täze new
-ellemek to touch  gözlemebek to look for  täzelemebek to renew

-çy/-çi,-ýjy/-ýjı,-iji,-üji/-üjy
The suffix “-çy/-çı” can be added to nouns and functions like “-ist” or “-er” in English, denoting occupation, profession, or position.

-iş work  okuw school  surat picture
-işçi worker  okuwçy pupil  suratçy artist

-gep talk  -gepci talker (blabbermouth)

In cases where verbs are made into nouns, the suffix becomes “-yjy/-ýjy/-ýjı/-üjı/-üjy”:

-diňlemek to listen  okamak to read  ýasamak to craft
-diňleýji listener  okyjy reader  ýasaýjy artisan

-ýazmak to write  sürmek to drive  satmak to sell
-ýazyjy writer  sürüji driver  satyjy seller

-dar
The suffix “-dar” can make personal nouns out of other nouns. It is unaffected by vowel harmony.

-bergi debt  tarap side
-bergedar debtor  tarapdar supporter

-keş
The suffix “-keş” personalizes certain nouns indicative of a particular custom or habit. It is unaffected by vowel harmony.

-gybat gossip  nas green chewing tobacco
gybatkeş gossiper  naskeş tobacco chewer (habitual)

-çilim cigarette  çaý tea
-çilimkeş chain smoker  çaýkeş tea-lover
The suffix “-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz” is similar to “un-,” “-less,” or “without” in English.

tertip \ behavior \ howp \ danger \ adalat \ justice

tertipsiz \ poorly-behaved \ howpsuz \ safe \ adalatsyz \ unfair

akył \ intelligence \ garaş \ wait

akylyszyz \ unintelligent \ garaşsyz \ independent (without waiting)

-ly/-li
The suffix “-ly/-li” forms an adjective in the same way as “-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz,” but with an affirmative meaning rather than a negative one.

tertipli \ well-behaved \ howply \ dangerous \ adalatly \ just

akylyly \ intelligent \ garasly \ dependent

bi-
The prefix “bi-“ expresses the idea of “without.” It does not affect, nor is it subject to, vowel harmony.

tarap \ side \ günä \ sin \ kanun \ law

bitarap \ neutral \ bigüñä \ innocent \ bikanun \ lawless

-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük
The suffixes “-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük” function to create abstract nouns, like the suffixes “-hood,” “-ness,” or “-ity” in English. They adhere to vowel harmony.

gözel \ beautiful \ çaga \ child

gözellik \ beauty \ çagalyk \ childhood

köp \ much, many \ dost \ friend

köplük \ plurality \ dostluk \ friendship

This suffix can also make nouns and adjectives from numerical expressions.

bäş \ five \ bir ýyl \ one year \ on üç \ thirteen

bäşlik \ a five (money) \ bir ýyllyk \ a year’s worth \ on üçlük \ (bus) #13

This suffix can also make nouns and adjectives which show purpose.

günde \ everyday \ ýetmek \ to suffice \ el \ hand

gündelik \ diary \ ýeterlik \ enough \ ellik \ glove
Multiple suffixes may also be combined:

- **bitaraplyk** neutrality  
- **bigünälik** innocence  
- **howpsuzlyk** safety  
- **adalatlyylyk** justness  
- **mugallymçylyk** pedagogy  
- **bergidarlyk** indebtedness

**Diminutives**

---

### Atlaryň we Sypatlaryň Söygülük Derejesi

In Turkmen, it is possible to make a diminuitive form of both adjectives and nouns. To create a diminuitive adjective, add the suffix “-ja/-je” or sometimes “-jak/-jek/-jyk/-jik”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turkish Word</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sary</td>
<td>yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saryja</td>
<td>little (cute) yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sowuk</td>
<td>cold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sowujak</td>
<td>nice and cold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kiçi</td>
<td>little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kiçiçek</td>
<td>little/tiny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bir</td>
<td>one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birje</td>
<td>just one little</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To create a diminuitive noun, add the suffix “-jyk/-jik,” or sometimes “jagaz”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turkish Word</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oglan</td>
<td>boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oglanjyk</td>
<td>little boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depder</td>
<td>notebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depderjik</td>
<td>little notebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gyz</td>
<td>girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gyzjagaz</td>
<td>little girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>giil</td>
<td>flower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>güljagaz</td>
<td>(just one) little flower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**The “-da/-de” ending as “also”**

### “-da/-de” Ownuk Bölegi “Hem” Manysynda

If a hyphen precedes the “-da/-de” ending on a word, it is not the locative case, but rather can indicate several things, the most common of which is the meaning “and,” “also,” or, in combination with conditional statements, “even though”:

- **Bu-da** dogry.
  - This is also correct.
- Çyra ýansa-da otagyň içi garañky.
  - Even if the light on, inside the room it is dark.
Some Common Mistakes Made by English Speakers

The Double Negative

One common point of confusion among English speakers when speaking Turkmen is the difference between “ýok” and “däl.” While “däl” negates adjectives, nouns, and certain verb structures in a way similar to the English “not,” “ýok” communicates the idea that something does not exist, and therefore applies only to nouns:

Men gitjek däl. (Men gitjek ýok.) I’m not going to go.
Mende pul ýok. (Mende pul – däl.) I don’t have money.
Șol dogry däl. (Şol dogry ýok.) That’s not correct.
Ol Amerikan däl. (Ol Amerikan ýok.) He’s not American.

Also remember that most verb tenses have a negative form that does not require the use of “däl.”

Men kömek etmedim. (Men kömek etdim – däl.) I didn’t help.

In addition, note that in many cases of negation, Turkmen requires a double negative, unlike English. This applies only when using an absolute negative such as “hiç kim” or “hiç zat”:

Hiç kim jañ etmedi. (Hiç kim jañ etdi.) No one called.
Bazarda hiç zat ýokdy. (Bazarda hiç zat bardy.) There was nothing at the bazaar.
Ol hiç haçanmekdebe gelenok. (Ol hiç haçanmekdebe gelýär.) He never comes to school.
Bärde hiç zat arzan däl. (Nothing is cheap here.) Nothing here is cheap.

“Eger,” “Haçan,” and Conditionals

Many English speakers make the mistake of using the English structure for conditional statements rather than the correct Turkmen structures, which are significantly different. The most common error is using the words “eger/eger-de” and “haçan” in the way we do in English. In many cases, Turkmen employs a structure that does not use these words, and when they are used, they are frequently dropped in spoken Turkmen:

Bazarda pomidor arzan bolsa, men köp alaryn. (Eger-de bazarda pomidor arzan, men köp alaryn.) If the tomatoes are cheap, I’ll buy a lot.
(Eger-de bazarda pomidor arzan, men köp alaryn.)
(Haçan-da) Men suraty görenimde, güldim. (Haçan men suraty gördüm, güldüm.) When I saw the photograph, I laughed.
(Biz kiçikäk her gün futbol oýnayardyk.) When we were little, we played soccer every
(Haçan biz kiçi boldyk, her gün futbol oynayardyk.)
Haçan-da jañ kakylsa, biz öýe gidip bilýäris.
(Đaşan jañ etjek, biz öýe gidip bilýäris.)

Definite vs. Indefinite Future
Mälim we Nämälim Geljek Zamanyň Ulanylyşy
When learning Turkmen, there is a tendency to overuse the Definite Future Tense (“-jak/-jek”) because it is so easy to form. While this may be helpful in the beginning, and while Turkmen will understand, Turkmen themselves use the Indefinite Future Tense more frequently. In many cases, it is not correct to use the Definite Future Tense, especially when speaking in the second or third person:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Türkmen</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Şirin haçan geler? (Şirin haçan geljek?)</td>
<td>When is Shirin going to come?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen işlärsiň. (Sen işlejek.)</td>
<td>You are going to work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol bizden sora my? (Ol bizden sorjakmy?)</td>
<td>Is he going to ask us?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Nähili?” vs. “Nädip?”
“Nähili?” we “Nädip?” Sorag Sözlериниň Ulanylyşy
“Nähili” and “nädip” are both question words. “Nähili” means “how” and “what kind,” and is usually used for questions about nouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Türkmen</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sen nähili?</td>
<td>How are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howa nähili?</td>
<td>How is the weather?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nähili tort?</td>
<td>What kind of cake is it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gapynyň reňki nähili?</td>
<td>What color is the door?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen nähili nahary gowy görýän?</td>
<td>What kind of food do you like?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ýýdäkileriň saglygy nähili?</td>
<td>How is the health of everyone at home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniň masynyň belgisi nähili?</td>
<td>What brand is your car?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nähili adam ol?</td>
<td>What kind of person is he?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gör! Olar nähili owadan!</td>
<td>Look! How beautiful they are!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Nädip” also means “how,” but is applied to verbs and connotes ability:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Türkmen</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men nädip almaly pirog bişireýin?</td>
<td>How can I bake an apple pie?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen nädip tapdyň?</td>
<td>How were you able to find it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen kompýuteri nädip bejerdiň?</td>
<td>How did you fix the computer?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telewizory nädip açmalý?</td>
<td>How do I turn on the TV?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Şu sözlemi nädip terjime etmeli?</td>
<td>How should I translate this sentence?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu owadan jaýy nädip gurduň?</td>
<td>How did you build this beautiful house?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu gymmat göwheri nädip satyn alyp bildiň?</td>
<td>How were you able to buy this costly diamond?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Mix-ups
Düşümleri garyşdyrmak

Another point of difficulty in Turkmen is remembering which case to use when, since the case system in English is not as highly developed as that of Turkmen. While at many times, the needed case may be obvious, at other times the case depends entirely on which verb or half-verb is used. One must simply remember which verbs take which case. Some common errors:

Men ondan soradym. (Men ona soradym.) I asked him.
Maňa kömek gerek. (Men kömek gerek.) I need help.
Men ony halamok. (Men ol halamok.) I don’t like it.
Ol maňa düşünmedi. (Ol meni düşünmedi.) He didn’t understand me.
Aman ol gyzy söýýär. (Aman ol gyza söýýär.) Aman loves that girl.
Biz otagdan çykdyk. (Biz otagy çykdyk.) We left the room.