

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

The present continuous denotes ongoing action or a state in progress at the moment of speaking or around the present time. The tense marker is -yor, which appears after the verb stem and before the personal ending.

1. Function / Meaning

The marker -yor expresses present-time continuity, showing that the action is occurring now or is in progress.

It may also indicate temporary or developing situations.

2. Form and Structure

The present continuous is formed by:

Verb stem → -yor → Personal ending

Examples of structural order:

gel-iyor-um
bak-ıyor-sun
yaz-ıyor
yap-ıyor-uz
gel-iyor-sunuz
gör-üyor-ler

3. Vowel Reduction in the Stem

Stems ending in a vowel undergo vowel reduction, where the final stem vowel becomes -ı, -i, -u, -ü depending on harmony:

a → ı
e → i
o → u
ö → ü

Examples:

yap-a → yapıyor
gel-e → geliyor
oku-o → okuyor
gör-ö → görüyor

The stem-final vowel does not remain; the reduced harmonic vowel replaces it.

4. Vowel Harmony of -yor

The element -yor itself does not change by vowel harmony.
Harmony applies only to the personal ending following -yor.

Examples:

gel-iyor-um
gel-iyor-sun
gel-iyor-uz

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5. Personal Endings

Personal endings attach after -yor:

1st singular → -um / -üm / -ım / -im

2nd singular → -sun / -sün

3rd singular → -ø

1st plural → -uz / -üz / -ız / -iz

2nd plural → -sunuz / -sünüz

3rd plural → -lar / -ler

The vowel in the personal ending harmonizes with the reduced vowel preceding -yor.

6. Negative and Interrogative Formation

Negative:

stem + -ml- + yor + personal ending

Examples:

gelmiyorum

bakmıyorsun

anlamıyor

duymuyoruz

Interrogative:

yor-form + personal ending + mi (written separately)

Examples:

Geliyor musun?

Anlıyor mu?

Bakıyor musunuz?

Examples

- Geliyorum. — I am coming.
- Yazıyorum. — I am writing.
- Okuyorsun. — You are reading.
- Görüyor. — He/She is seeing.
- Yapıyoruz. — We are doing.
- Geliyorsunuz. — You (plural/honorific) are coming.
- Konuşuyorlar. — They are speaking.
- Gelmiyorum. — I am not coming.
- Anlamıyor. — He/She is not understanding.
- Bakıyor muyuz? — Are we looking?

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Notes

- The marker -yor is invariable and does not harmonize.
- Vowel reduction applies to vowel-final stems before -yor.
- Personal endings follow four-way vowel harmony.
- Third person singular has zero ending.
- The question particle mi remains separate and harmonizes independently.