

# 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-iyor-sun  
yaz-iyor  
yap-iyor-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 + -m- + -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.