

ADJECTIVE SUFFIXES

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

These derivational suffixes attach to nouns to form adjectives indicating possession, absence, or association. Each suffix follows vowel harmony and integrates directly with the noun stem.

1. -li (with, having)

Forms adjectives meaning “with,” “having,” or “characterized by” the noun.

Form

a / ı → -lı

e / i → -li

o / u → -lu

ö / ü → -lü

Examples

su → sulu

tuz → tuzlu

yağ → yağlı

renk → renkli

kedi → kedili

2. -siz (without, lacking)

Forms adjectives indicating absence or lack.

Form

a / ı → -sız

e / i → -siz

o / u → -suz

ö / ü → -süz

Examples

tuz → tuzsuz

su → susuz

ışık → ışısız

şeker → şekersiz

renk → renksiz

3. -ci (agent, affiliation, occupation)

Forms adjectives or nouns denoting professional role, habitual activity, or association.

Form

cı / ci / cu / cü

çı / çi / çu / çü

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Examples

balık → balıkçı
kahve → kahveci
masa → masacı
oyun → oyuncu

Examples

- Tuzlu çorba geldi. — A salty soup arrived.
- Şekersiz kahve istiyorum. — I want sugar-free coffee.
- Balıkçı limanda. — The fisherman is at the port.
- Kahveci açıldı. — The coffee seller/shop opened.
- Sulu boya aldım. — I bought watercolor paint.
- Masacı geldi. — The furniture worker/seller arrived.

Notes

- All suffixes follow four-way vowel harmony.
- -Cl appears in two consonant series according to stem-final assimilation.
- These suffixes derive adjectives directly from nouns.