

ABLATIVE CASE (-DAN)

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

The ablative case expresses separation, departure, origin, and movement away from a point. The suffix attaches to the noun and adapts to vowel harmony and consonant voicing.

1. Function / Meaning

The ablative indicates movement away from a place, the source of an action or event, the origin of information, or the point from which comparison is made.

2. Forms

The base suffix is -DAn.

Front-back vowel harmony determines the vowel:

a → dan

i → dan

o → dan

u → dan

e → den

i → den

ö → den

ü → den

There are no other vowel variants of this suffix.

3. Consonant Voicing

If the noun ends with a voiceless consonant (**ç, f, h, k, p, s, ş, t**), the initial d becomes t:

dan → tan

den → ten

Examples:

ağaç → ağaçtan

kitap → kitaptan

ders → dersten

çift → çiftten

4. Attachment Rules

- No buffer consonant is used.
- No vowel deletion occurs.
- The suffix attaches directly to the noun.
- The noun stem remains unchanged.

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5. Core Uses

- Physical movement away from a location.
- Origin or starting point.
- Source of information or report.
- Cause or reason expressed through abstraction.
- Reference point in comparison.

Examples

- Evden çıktım. — I left the house.
- Yoldan geldik. — We came from the road.
- Ağaçtan düştü. — He/She fell from the tree.
- Şehirden dönüyorum. — I am returning from the city.
- Kapıdan girdiler. — They entered through the door.
- Arkadaştan haber geldi. — News came from a friend.
- Masadan kalemi aldım. — I took the pen from the table.
- Bahçeden ses geliyor. — A sound is coming from the garden.
- Ülkeden ayrıldı. — He/She departed from the country.
- Dersten sonra yürüdüm. — I walked after the class.

Notes

- Only four surface forms exist: *dan* / *den* / *tan* / *ten*.
- Harmony follows front–back distinction.
- Voiceless consonants trigger *t*-.
- The ablative expresses separation, origin, or reference.