

LOCATIVE CASE (-DA)

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

The locative case (**-DA**) expresses location and answers the question “**Where?**” (**Nerede?**).

It is used to indicate that someone or something is **in**, **on**, or **at** a place.

The suffix has four regular forms: **-da**, **-de**, **-ta**, **-te**.

1. Forms of the Locative Suffix

The suffix changes according to **vowel harmony** and the **voicing of the final consonant**.

Possible forms:

- **-da**
- **-de**
- **-ta**
- **-te**

2. Vowel Harmony (a / e selection)

Check the **last vowel** of the noun:

- a, ı, o, u → **a** → *-da* / *-ta*
- e, i, ö, ü → **e** → *-de* / *-te*

Examples:

- oda → **odada** (in the room)
- yol → **yolda** (on the road)
- ev → **evde** (at home)
- gül → **gülde** (on the rose)

3. Voicing Rule (d / t selection)

If the noun ends with a **voiceless consonant**

(f, s, t, k, ç, ş, h, p):

→ use **-ta** / **-te**

If it ends with a **vowel or voiced consonant**:

→ use **-da** / **-de**

4. Examples by Suffix Form

-da

- oda → **odada** (in the room)
- yol → **yolda** (on the road)
- okul → **okulda** (at school)

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-de

- ev → **evde** (at home)
- şehir → **şehirdede** (in the city)
- göz → **gözde** (in the eye)

-ta

- kitap → **kitapta** (in the book)
- sınıf → **sınıfta** (in the classroom)
- park → **parkta** (in the park)

-te

- sepet → **sepette** (in the basket)
- market → **markette** (at the market / in the market)
- süt → **sütte** (in the milk / in milk)

5. Meaning: in / on / at

The locative corresponds to English “in”, “on”, and “at”.

Examples:

- **Ben evdeyim.** (I am at home.)
- **Kitap masada.** (The book is on the table.)
- **O okulda.** (He/She is at school.)
- **Kedi sandalyede.** (The cat is on the chair.)

6. Locative with Personal Endings

Locative forms combine with personal endings to express “to be”.

Examples:

- **Ben evdeyim.** (I am at home.)
- **Sen evdesin.** (You are at home.)
- **O evde.** (He/She is at home.)
- **Biz evdeyiz.** (We are at home.)

7. Locative in Questions

Use **nerede?** to ask for location.

Examples:

- Neredesin? → **Evdeyim.**
- Kitap nerede? → **Masada.**
- Onlar nerede? → **Parkta.**

8. Common Locative Expressions

- **iş yerinde** (at the workplace)
- **mutfakta** (in the kitchen)
- **üniversitede** (at the university)
- **yemekte** (at dinner)
- **dışarıda** (outside)

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Examples

- Köpek **bahçede**.
- Saat **duvarda**.
- Öğretmen **sınıfta**.
- Araba **garajda**.
- Biz **parkta** yürüyoruz.

Notes

- Four forms: **-da, -de, -ta, -te**
- Last vowel selects **a / e**
- Last consonant selects **d / t**
- Used for locations and states of being