

# SIMPLE PAST

by Seda Sürel

## INTRODUCTION

The simple past suffix -DI attaches directly to the verb stem and marks completed actions or states in the past. The suffix contains the consonant D/T and a vowel determined by vowel harmony.

### 1. Function

The simple past indicates an event or state that occurred and was completed in the past. The suffix carries tense, while person is marked through personal endings.

### 2. Forms

#### a. Consonant Alternation (D ↔ T)

D becomes T after voiceless consonants (ç, f, h, k, p, s, ş, t).

Examples:

bak- → baktı

git- → gitti

#### b. Vowel Harmony (I → ı / i / u / ü)

a / ı → dı

e / i → di

o / u → du

ö / ü → dü

Combined with consonant alternation:

tı / ti / tu / tü

dı / di / du / dü

### 3. Person Endings

#### 1st singular

-(l)m → dım / dım / dum / düm

#### 2nd singular

-(l)n → dın / din / dun / dün

#### 3rd singular

-ø → dı / di / du / dü

#### 1st plural

-(l)k → dık / dik / duk / dük

#### 2nd plural

-(l)nlz → dınız / diniz / dunuz / dünüz

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## 3rd plural

-IAr → dılar / diler / dular / düler

Consonant alternation (t/d) applies systematically.

## 4. Stem Changes

Some stems undergo consonant softening before vowel-initial personal endings:

git-ti-m → gittim (no softening; suffix begins with consonant)

bekle-di-m → bekledim

oku-du-m → okudum

No buffer consonant is used.

## 5. Usage

The simple past applies to:

- completed actions
- past states
- definite past events

It does not carry evidential meaning; indirectness is expressed with -miş.

## Examples

- Dün geldim. — I came yesterday.
- Sabah aradın. — You called in the morning.
- O baktı. — He/She looked.
- Biz yazdık. — We wrote.
- Siz konuştunuz. — You spoke.
- Onlar uyudular. — They slept.
- Kitap bitti. — The book finished.

## Notes

- The suffix combines consonant alternation (D/T) and four-way vowel harmony.
- Person endings attach directly without buffer consonants.
- The third person singular has no additional suffix beyond -DI.