

# PERSONAL VERB ENDINGS

by Seda Sürel

## INTRODUCTION

Personal verb endings mark person and number on the verb and establish agreement between the verb and its subject. These endings attach to the tense–aspect–mood stem and follow four-way vowel harmony where applicable.

### 1. Function / Meaning

Personal endings encode grammatical person directly on the verb. They form a complete finite verb even when no overt subject is present.

### 2. Forms

Turkish personal endings consist of six forms:

1st singular → -(I)m  
2nd singular → -(s)In  
3rd singular → -Ø  
1st plural → -(I)z  
2nd plural → -(s)Inlz  
3rd plural → -IAr

### 3. Vowel Harmony (Four-Way)

The vowel I in -(I)m and -(I)z adapts according to the last vowel of the verbal base (stem + tense marker):

a / i → i  
e / i → i  
o / u → u  
ö / ü → ü

This produces forms such as:

gel- → gelirim  
anla- → anlıyız  
oku- → okurum  
gör- → görürüm

### 4. Consonant Behavior and Buffering

- -(I)m and -(I)z attach directly without buffer consonants.
- -(s)In and -(s)Inlz use s only after vowel-final stems (oku- → okursun).
- After consonant-final stems, the suffix begins directly with the vowel (bil- → bilirsin).
- Third person singular has no overt ending.
- Third person plural -IAr attaches without harmony (geliyorlar).

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## 5. Position in the Verb Morphology

Personal endings occur at the end of the finite verb.

The structural order is:

**Verb stem → Tense/Aspect/Mood → Personal Ending**

Examples of placement:

gel-iyor-um

yaz-di-n

bak-acak-sınız

gel-di-ler

### Examples

- Geliyorum. — I am coming.
- Geliyorsun. — You are coming.
- Geliyor. — He/She is coming.
- Geliyoruz. — We are coming.
- Geliyorsunuz. — You (plural/honorific) are coming.
- Geliyorlar. — They are coming.
- Anladım. — I understood.
- Anladınız. — You (plural/honorific) understood.
- Bekliyoruz. — We are waiting.
- Gidiyorlar. — They are going.

### Notes

- The vowel of -(I)m and -(I)z follows four-way vowel harmony.
- -(s)In and -(s)Inlz use s only after vowel-final stems.
- Third person singular has zero ending.
- Third person plural -IAr may be omitted when plurality is contextually clear.
- Personal endings are the final morphological element of a finite verb.