

# 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 → -(l)m
- 2nd singular → -(s)In
- 3rd singular → -ø
- 1st plural → -(l)z
- 2nd plural → -(s)InIz
- 3rd plural → -IAr

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

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

- a / ı → I
- e / i → i
- o / u → u
- ö / ü → ü

This produces forms such as:

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

### 4. Consonant Behavior and Buffering

- -(l)m and -(l)z attach directly without buffer consonants.
- -(s)In and -(s)InIz 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).

# PERSONAL VERB ENDINGS

*by Seda Sürel*

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