



Turkmen Language Grammar Guide

U.S. Peace Corps Turkmenistan

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Introduction

The Turkmen Language belongs to the greater family of Turkic languages. The Turkic languages, together with the Mongolian and Manchu-Tungus languages, form the Ural-Altaic language group. Specifically, Turkmen is included in the sub-group of Southern Turkic (Oguz) languages, along with Turkish, Crimean Tatar, and Azeri. Southern Turkic is a sub-group of Common Turkic, which also includes Kazakh, Uzbek, Uigur, Kyrgyz, and others.

Among all the Turkic languages, there are similar grammatical structures, similar phonetics, some shared vocabulary, and high mutual intelligibility. Some experts also consider Japanese and Korean part of this phylum, or family, although evidence of this is debated.

Turkmen is agglutinative, meaning its grammatical functions are indicated by adding various suffixes to fixed stems. Suffixes on nouns indicate number. In general, Turkmen employs a Subject-Object-Verb word order, as is typical for Turkic languages, but other orders are possible in certain discourse situations. As such, Turkmen makes use of postpositions rather than prepositions, and unique relative clauses that precede the verb. In some ways Turkmen is an easy language to learn. Unlike Russian or Spanish, Turkmen has no genders. There are no irregular verbs. For the most parts, words are written exactly as they are pronounced. Finally, Turkmen's grammatical case system is remarkably simple once understood, and has almost no exceptions.

The greatest difficulty for beginning Turkmen speakers will probably be adapting to Turkmen's elaborate system of grammatical suffixes, or "tag words" and learning to re-order their speech so that the predicate (verb) is the last thing spoken. Also, many simple English grammatical structures (such as "to have," "to need," "to want," and "to be able to") are handled differently in Turkmen.

Turkmen Language History

The entrance of Turkic-speaking groups into the southwestern region of Central Asia by the fifth and sixth centuries gradually changed the area from Persian-speaking to Turkic-speaking. The decisive influx came when Oguz tribes migrated into the area between the Ural Mountains and the Aral Sea around the 8th and 9th centuries. During this same period the term Turkmen was first used to refer to these people. By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the Oguz tribes in Turkmenistan had coalesced to the point that they could be regarded as a single people. Although they shared common traditions and the same language, they had strong divisions among them. Subnational and clan consciousness still predominates in Turkmenistan where Turkmen people tend to divide themselves by origin and clan. The newly independent Turkmenistan state gained independence from the Soviet Union on October 27, 1991.

The oldest monuments of Turkic languages—inscribed on stones and datable to the early 8th century CE—were discovered in the late 19th century in southern Siberia around the Yenisey River and in northern Mongolia near the capital of Urga (modern Ulaan-Baatar). Deciphered in 1893 by the Danish scholar Vilhelm Thomsen, they provide valuable insights into the history of Central Asia around the seventh century CE. These records of the Turk dynasty (Chinese T'u-chüeh) include texts found at Kosho-Tsaidam on the Orhon River, as well as several Chinese

texts. These texts throw light on the nomadic culture of the tribal empire controlled by the Turk dynasty (Gokturks), including shamanism, the calendar, customs, and social structure, with strong Chinese influence detectable in the latter.

The Five Branches of Turkic Languages

1. Oguz, also known as Southern or Southwestern Turkic (includes the Turkish language, or Osmanli, the most widely used Turkic language, spoken in Turkey and the Balkan Peninsula; Azeri, spoken in Azerbaijan and northwestern Iran; and Turkmen, spoken in Turkmenistan and other parts of Central Asia;
2. Kipchak, or Western Turkic (includes the Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages, spoken in Central Asia; Tatar, spoken around the middle Volga, and in Turkey, the Balkans, Central Asia, and China; Bashkort or Bashkir language, which is very similar to Tatar);
3. Karluk or Eastern Turkic (includes Uzbek, spoken in Uzbekistan and other parts of Central Asia and Uigur, spoken in the Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region of China, and parts of Central Asia);
4. Northern Turkic, also known as Eastern Hunnic (consists of a number of languages spoken in Siberia, such as Yakut and Altay);
5. And the single-language branch consisting of the Chuvash language, spoken along the middle Volga River.

Language Variation and Dialects

Turkmen has numerous dialects, which differ phonologically and morphologically. They can be broken into two general groups: the major or central dialects and others on the periphery. The following dialects, generally regarded as major, also denote tribal distinctions: Yomut, Teke, Salir, Sarik, Goklen, Arsari, and Chowdur. No consensus exists, however, on exactly how many major dialects should be recognized within Turkmen.

Some scholars claim that the standard language is based on just one dialect—Yomut. Most linguists, however, acknowledge that Yomut and Teke are the two dialects whose contributions to the formation of the standard language since 1920 surpass those of any other dialect.

The Turkmen Alphabet

Türkmen Elipbiýi

Evolution of the Alphabet

Elipbiýiň taryhy

The Turkmen alphabet was first written in the Arabic script, until about 1929, when the “Unified Turkish Latin Alphabet” (UTLA), which was based on the Roman alphabet, was introduced. This alphabet was very similar to the Roman alphabet currently used for the Turkish language. The UTLA script was replaced in 1940 when all Turkic people in the Soviet Union were required to adopt the Cyrillic script. Finally, in 1995, the “**Täze Türkmen Elipbiýi**,” or New Alphabet, was formally introduced by President Niyazov to re-align Turkmenistan with the non-Soviet world. Similar new alphabets have been introduced in Uzbekistan and other republics.

The New Alphabet is currently used for street signs and political slogans, but there is a shortage of other reading materials. Most Turkmen books in print are older and use the Cyrillic alphabet. The new alphabet is used for new Turkmen texts, instruction in schools, and for all official documents. Despite this, there has been no push for the older generation to learn the new alphabet and therefore newspapers, information, and other resources are often available in both alphabets.

The new alphabet (**Täze Elipbiý**), containing nine vowels and twenty-one consonants, is much easier for native English speakers to read and understand than the Cyrillic, and also seems better suited to the Turkmen language. For this reason we have used it in the grammar discussions of this text. Most letters are pronounced more or less like their English counterparts.

The Alphabet

Täze Elipbiý

The following is a list of the letters of the new Turkmen alphabet and English approximations of how to pronounce their Turkmen names:

Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name
Aa	“ah”	Ää	“a”*	Jj	“jeh”	Nn	“en”	Rr	“er”*	Üü	“ü”*
Bb	“beh”	Ff	“eff”	Žž	“zheh”	Ňň	“eng”	Ss	“eth”	Ww	“weh”
Çç	“cheh”	Gg	“geh”	Kk	“ka”	Oo	“o”	Şş	“sheh”	Yy	“uyi”*
Dd	“deh”	Hh	“heh”*	Ll	“ell”	Öö	“ö”*	Tt	“teh”	Ýý	“yeh”
Ee	“eh”	Ii	“ee”	Mm	“em”	Pp	“peh”	Uu	“ooh”	Zz	“theh”

*For these letters it is impossible to approximate a phonetical spelling using English letters. “Ä” is pronounced like the “a” in “apple.” The first “h” in “heh” should be pronounced as a fricative in the throat like the “ch” in “Bach.” “R” is not pronounced like the “er” in the English word “writer.” There should be a slight roll of the tongue on the “r,” as in Spanish or Russian. “Ö,” “ü,” and “y” are vowels that do not appear in English. For their pronunciations, see below. It should be noted that different dialects have different pronunciations for some consonants. For example, s’s and z’s are not always lisped.

Like in all languages the Turkmen alphabet can be divided into two groups: **vowels** (*çekimli sesler*) and **consonants** (*çekimsiz sesler*).

vowels (<i>çekimli sesler</i>)	a, e, ä, i, o, ö, u, ü, y
consonants (<i>çekimsiz sesler</i>)	b, ç, d, f, g, h, j, ž, k, l, m, n, ñ, p, r, s, ş, t, w, ý, z

Vowels

Çekimliler

Short vowels are approximately like simple vowels in standard American English. English has no true equivalents of long vowels because it has “diphthongs” or double vowels that are different from each other. For example, in pronouncing the word “wrote,” English speakers actually make **o** into two different vowels (oh--ooh). The sound of long vowels can be approximated by extending the pronunciation of a short vowel for the duration of two vowels.

The nine vowels of Turkmen are represented by the following letters or letter-groups:

- a** When short, pronounced as the English **a** in the word “father.” In words with a long **a**, it is pronounced as a drawn-out English **aa**, as in “bah (humbug).”
- ä** When short, pronounced as the English **a** in “ant.” In words with a long **a**, it is pronounced as a drawn-out **a** as in “man” or “lamp.”
- e** When short, pronounced as the English **e** in “pet.” There is no long **e** in Turkmen.
- y** When short, pronounced similar to the English **i** in “possible.” In words with a long **y**, it is pronounced approximately as a drawn out **hee** in “wheel,” but deep in the throat.
- i** When short, pronounced as the English **i** in “middle.” In words with a long **i**, it is pronounced approximately like **ea** in “easy.”
- o** When short, pronounced as the English **a** in “all.” In words with a long **o**, it is pronounced approximately as a drawn-out English **o** in “board.”
- u** When short, pronounced as English **u** in “truth.” In words with a long **u**, this sound is pronounced approximately as a drawn-out English **ou** in “through.”
- ö** Pronounced short, is close to **ir** in “girl” but with rounding the lips. In words with a long **o**, it is pronounced with a longer duration than short **o**, as in the word **learn**.
- ü** Similar to **u** as English “prune,” but with more tightly rounded lips.

Consonants

Çekimsizler

The 21 Turkmen consonants are represented by the following letters:

- p** Pronounced as English **p** in “pen.”
- t** Pronounced as English **t** in “ten”.
- k** Pronounced as English **k** in “keep” when in words with the vowels **ä, e, i, ö, ý** but as English **c** in “call” when in words with the vowels **a, y, o, u**.
- b** Pronounced as English **b** in “boy” at the beginning of a word and similar to **v** or **w** in other positions.
- d** Pronounced as English **d** in “deep.”
- g** Pronounced as English **g** in “geese” when in words with the vowels **ä, e, i, ö, ý**, but as a sound like the soft English **gh** in “yogurt” in words with **a, y, o, u**.

m	Pronounced as English m in “meat.”
n	Pronounced as English n in the word “nice.”
ň	Pronounced as English ng in “sing.”
l	Pronounced as English l in “look.”
r	Pronounced the same way as English r in “rice”, but with a trill.
s	Pronounced as a hard English th in “ thing ” in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English s in “sun” in words coming from Russian.
z	Pronounced as a soft English th in “ the ” in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English z in “zoo” in words coming from Russian.
ş	Pronounced as English sh in “share.”
ç	Pronounced as English ch in “check.”
ž	Pronounced as English s in “treasure” in words from Russian.
j	Pronounced as English j in “juice.”
h	Pronounced as English h in “hall” in some words, but as a guttural ch in English-German “Bach” in other Turkmen words.
f	Pronounced as English f in “four.”
w	Pronounced as English w in “wagon” in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English v in “very” in words from Russian.
ý	Pronounced as English y in “yes.”

Short and Long Vowels

Gysga we uzyn çekimliler

Vowels are divided into two groups: **short** (*gysga*) and **long** (*uzyn*) vowels.

short vowels (<i>gysga çekimliler</i>)	a , e , - , i , o , ö , u , ü , y
long vowels (<i>uzyn çekimliler</i>)	a:, - , ä:, i:, o:, ö:, u:, ü:, y:

In Turkmen the sound **e** has no long variant and **ä** has no short variant. For example:

ene	grandmother	ä:dik	boots
eşik	clothes	ä:ynek	glass
gelin	daughter-in-law	tä:ze	new
şemal	wind	kä:se	cup

Beginners should take care to learn the difference between short and long vowels. This difference often is all that distinguishes the meanings of two words.

at	horse	a:t	name
bil	know! (imperative)	bi:l	waist
ot	grass	o:t	fire
pil	elephant	pi:l	shovel
daş	far	da:ş	stone
yaz	write!	ya:z	spring
tut	catch! (imperative)	tu:t	mulberry
öl	die! (imperative)	ö:l	wet

Vowel Harmony

Çekimlileriň sazlaşygy

One very interesting feature of Turkmen is that all vowels can be divided into two groups: the **front vowels** (*inçe çekimli sesler*) and the **back vowels** (*ýogyn çekimli sesler*). Front vowels are pronounced higher in the throat and are more nasal, while back vowels are pronounced lower in the throat and are more guttural.

front vowels (<i>inçe çekimli sesler</i>)	ä, ö, ü, i, e
back vowels (<i>ýogyn çekimli sesler</i>)	a, o, u, y

In Turkmen, if the first vowel in a word is a front vowel, the rest of the vowels in the word and in suffixes added to the word must also be front vowels.

eşik		eşiklerimiz
gelneje	+ ler + imiz =	gelnejelerimiz
meýletinçi		meýletinçilerimiz

Similarly, if the first vowel in a word is a back vowel, then any subsequent vowels must also be back vowels.

talyp		talyplarymyz
okuwçy	+ lar + ymyz =	okuwçylarymyz
baýramçylyk		baýramçylyklarymyz

In short, front vowels go with front vowels and back vowels go with back vowels. However, this vowel harmony can be broken within international, borrowed and compound words. For example: **telewizor**, **radio**, **ofis** (international); **magnitofon** (Russian); **kitap**, **dükan**, **serdar** (Persian-Arabic); **älemgoşar**, **Gülşat** (compound).

In these cases, consistent with the general rule for vowel harmony in Turkmen, the final vowel of the word determines the vowel harmony for suffixation.

Verbs in Turkmen adhere consistently to vowel harmony. All verbs belong to one of two groups determined by their infinitive forms: those ending in “-**mak**,” and those ending in “-**mek**.” The suffixes for all “-**mak**” verbs have only back vowels, whereas only front vowels will be found in the suffixes of “-**mek**” verbs. Examples of this will follow in the explanations of verb tenses.

In addition to being divided into front and back, vowels can also be divided into rounded and open vowels. **Rounded vowels** (*dodak çekimliler*) are pronounced using the lips: **o, ö, u, ü**. **Unrounded vowels** (*dodaklanmaýan çekimliler*) are pronounced further back in the mouth: **a, ä, e, i, y**. If a word has a rounded vowel in the first syllable, its second syllable (and therefore any ending you affix to a one syllable word) usually also contains a rounded vowel. Thus if the first vowel is an “a” (**almak**), the vowel in the ending will be another open vowel – “y” (**aldym**). But if the first vowel is an “o” (**bolmak**), the vowel in the ending will be rounded (**boldum**).

Examples of standard verb endings are below:

almak → aldym, alsyn, alyň, alyp, alyndy
çekmek → çekdim, çeksin, çekiň, çekip, çekildi
gitmek → gitdik, gitsin, gidiň, gidip, gidildi
çykamak → çykdyň, çyksyn, çykyň, çykyp, çykyldy

Examples of the exceptions that follow the rounded-vowel rule are below:

bolmak → boldum, bolsun, boluň, bolup, bolundy
bökmek → bökdük, böksün, böküň, böküp, böküldi
uçmak → uçduňyz, uçsunlar, uçuň, uçup, uçuldy
düşmek → düşdüm, düşsün, düşüň, düşüp, düşüldi

These exceptions apply only to verb forms such as the ones listed above, and do not affect present tense or definite or indefinite future tense endings. They do, however, affect genitive case endings: topuň, otuň, özüň, unuň, gülüň.

Also note that if adding an ending puts two “e”s together, or an “e” followed by “i,” the vowel will become “ä”:

işle- + emok = işlämok işle + ip = işläp

In addition, words whose spellings do not follow the rounded vowel rule (üçin, müdir, olar, çörek) are often pronounced in a way that follows the rule (“üçün”, “müdür”, “olor”, “çörök”). However, a rounded vowel never appears in the third syllable of a word (düşündim, ýuwundym), although it may be pronounced as though it did.

Voiced and Unvoiced Consonants

Açyk we dymyk çekimsizler

In Turkmen all consonants can be divided into two groups as well.

voiced (<i>açyk çekimsizler</i>)	b, w, g, d, z, j, ž, y, l, m, n, ŋ, r
unvoiced (<i>dymyk çekimsizler</i>)	k, p, s, t, f, h, ç, ş

Sound Assimilation/Letter Transformation

Dymyk çekimsizleriň açyga öwrülmegi

Sound assimilation occurs due to certain letter combinations. Although sound assimilation occurs in English, we do not change the spelling of words. In Turkmen however, when certain letter combinations occur, the spelling of a word is changed to reflect its pronunciation.

In Turkmen, therefore, when a suffix starting with a vowel is added to a word stem that ends with one of the following letters: “**k, p, t, ç,**” the letter must be changed as follows:

K → G P → B T → D Ç → J

Kitap → meniň kitabym
 Pişik → onuň pişigi
 Gülşat → Gülşadyň sumkasy
 Guwanç → Guwanjyň jigisi

Vocal Transformations

Çekimsiz sesleriň meňzeşleşmegi

Certain consonant combinations are spoken differently in Turkmen than their written forms would indicate. For example, the “**nd**” of “**mende**” (on my person) is pronounced “**nn**” when spoken (**menne**). The following chart illustrates these combinations and examples with the spoken transformations rendered in the new alphabet.

Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken	Translation
n + d	nn	sende	senne	on your person
l + d	ll	aldym	allym	I took
z + d	zz	agyзда	agyzza	in the mouth
s + d	ss	bäsdeş	bässeş	rival
s + t	ss	üsti	üssi	top, surface
ş + j	ş ş	goşjak	goşşak	will add
z + s	ss	ýazsyn	ýassyn	let him write
t + s	ss	gitse	gisse	if she goes
t + ç	çç	parahatçylyk	parahaççylyk	peace
ç + s	şş	açsa	aşsa	if it opens
ç + l	şl	açlyk	aşlyk	hunger, famine
ç + d	şd	geçdik	geşdik	we passed
ç + j	şş	içjek	işşek	will drink
g + b	gw	bagban	bagwan	gardener

The Case System

Düşümler

Like Russian or German, Turkic languages have a system of grammatical cases. Cases change words depending on their grammatical context. English has cases for personal pronouns. For example: “I see **him**,” “He sees **me**,” *not*: “Me sees he,” or “Him sees I.” Turkmen has six cases, and these cases are used for all nouns, not just personal pronouns. The six Turkmen cases are: the **nominative**, used for the subject of the sentence; the **genitive**, similar to English possessives; the **dative**, used to show directed action; the **accusative**, which is similar to the English “direct object” the **locative**, which shows locality; and the **instrumental**, which is used to show origin.

While six cases might seem a bit overwhelming at first, it should be noted that the case suffixes often simply replace our English prepositions such as “from,” “at,” “with,” “in,” “on,” and “to.” Also, the rules for their use are remarkably simple and inflexible, unlike those of the Russian cases.

Cases and Their Suffixes

Düşümler we olaryň goşulmalary

	Vowel Endings	Consonant Endings
Nominative <i>Baş düşüm</i>	--- (no change) pagta - cotton Gökdepe - Gokdepe (a town)	--- (no change) gazan - pot käşir - carrot(s)
Genitive <i>Eýelik düşüm</i>	-nyň, -niň (-nuň, -nüň) pagtanyň- cotton's Gökdepäniň- Gokdepe's	-yň, -iň (-uň, -üň) gazanyň- pot's käşiriň- carrots'
Dative <i>Yöneliş düşüm</i>	-a, -ä or -na, -ne pagta- to cotton Gökdepä- to Gokdepe	-a, -e gazana- to the pot käşire- to the carrots
Accusative <i>Yeňiş düşüm</i>	-ny, -ni pagtany- the cotton (direct ob.) Gökdepäni- Gokdepe (d.o.)	-y, -i gazany- the pot (d.o.) käşiri- the carrot(s) (d.o.)
Locative <i>Wagt-orun düşüm</i>	-da, -de or -nda, -nde pagtada- in the cotton (field) Gökdepede- in Gokdepe	-da, -de gazanda- in the pot käşirde- in carrots
Instrumental <i>Çykyş düşüm</i>	-dan, -den or -ndan, -nden pagtadan- from cotton Gökdepeden- from Gokdepe	-dan, -den gazandan- from the pot käşirden- from carrots

The Nominative Case

Baş düşüm

This case answers **Kim?** (Who?), **Näme?** (What?), **Nire?** (Where?).

It is used for the subject of the sentence and sometimes for non-specific direct objects (see discussion of the Accusative Case below).

Gökdepe owadan.
Çyra söndi.

Gokdepe is beautiful.
The light was turned off.

The Genitive Case

Eýelik düşüm

This case answers **Kimiň?** (Whose?), **Nämäniň?** (Of what?), **Niräniň?** (Of where?).

It is usually used to show simple possessive relationships. Note that a suffix is also added to the owned object.

Gökdepäniň häkimligi
Gülşadyň maşgalasy

Gokdepe's mayor's office
Gulshat's family

However, it is sometimes used in ways unfamiliar to English speakers, most notably in postpositional contexts:

Gökdepäniň ýanynda
Stolyň aşagynda

by Gokdepe, near Gokdepe
under the table.

The Dative Case

Ýöneliş düşüm

This case answers **Kime?** (To whom? For whom?), **Nämä?** (Towards what? To what end?), **Nirä?** (To where?).

It describes an action directed toward something, and is roughly equivalent to “to” in English.

Bu awtobus Gökdepä gidýär.
Men Amana sowgat berdim.
Sen nirä gitmeli?
Men mekdebe gitmeli.

This bus is going to Gokdepe.
I gave a present to Aman.
Where do you have to go?
I have to go to the school.

It can also describe abstract direction.

Jemala çay gerek.

Jemal needs tea. (Tea is necessary to Jemal.)

Note how the final vowels change in the following examples:

Gökdepe
Mary
Çüli

Bu awtobus Gökdepä gidýär.
Bu samolýot Mara gidýär.
Bu maşyn Çülä gidýär.

The dative case may also be used at times when an English speaker would use the word “for”:

Saňa hat ýok.

There is no letter for you.

The Accusative Case

Ýeňiş düşüm

This case answers **Kimi?** (Who?), **Nämäni?** (What?), **Niräni?** (Where?).

It is used for direct objects – things that are acted upon by the verb of the sentence.

Men käşiri dograýaryn.

I'm cutting the carrots.

It also carries the specificity of an English “the” and is only used when the object is definite. For example:

Sen ýygnagy başlajakmy?
Men şu kitaby okadym.

Are you going to start the meeting?
I read this book.

In the following sentences “**ýygnak**” and “**kitap**” are indefinite and refer to “*a* meeting” and “*a* book” as compared to the above sentences, which refer to “*the* meeting” and “*this* book.” The above sentences use the accusative case while the examples below do not:

Şu gün ýygnak bar.
Men kitap okadym.

Today there is **a** meeting.
I read **a** book.

The Locative Case

Wagt-orun düşüm

This case answers **Kimde?** (Upon whom?), **Nämede?** (At what?), **Nirede?** (Where? At what place?).

It translates to English in various ways depending on the context, but is roughly the same as the English prepositions “in,” “at,” and “on.”

Men Gökdepede ýaşaýaryn.
Mende çay ýok.
Şu gün klasda ýygnak bar.

I live in Gokdepe.
I don't have any tea. (On me, there is no tea).
Today there is a meeting in class.

The Instrumental Case

Çykyş düşüm

This case answers **Kimden?** (From whom?), **Nämeden?** (From what?), **Nireden?** (From where?)

Like the English “from,” it can be used to describe origin (physical, material, place).

Bu köýnek Türkiýeden.
Men ejemden hat aldym.
Bu köýnek pagtadan.

This dress is from Turkey.
I got a letter from my mother.
This dress is made from cotton.

Cases of Pronouns

Çalyşmalaryň düşümde üýtgeýşi

Turkmen is similar to Romance languages in that there are two second-person pronouns: one is informal and singular, used to address friends and peers, while the second is employed in formal settings or when speaking to more than one person. The third-person pronouns are genderless; the distinction between “he,” “she,” and “it” can only be determined through context. Pronoun cases are similar to regular noun case endings. The main exceptions being the mutation of “ol” to “o,” in the following forms: “ony,” “oňa,” “onuň,” “onda,” and “ondan.” Other variations include the following dative pronouns: “maňa,” “saňa,” and “oňa.”

Nominative	Men I	Sen You (sing., informal)	Ol He/she/it	Biz We	Siz You (plural, formal)	Olar They
Genitive	Meniň My	Seniň Your	Onuň His/her/its	Biziň Our	Siziň Your	Olaryň Their
Dative	Maňa To me	Saňa To you	Oňa To him/her/it	Bize To us	Size To you	Olara To them
Accusative	Meni Me	Seni You	Ony Him/her/it	Bizi Us	Sizi You	Olary Them
Locative	Mende Upon me	Sende Upon you	Onda Upon him/her/it	Bizde Upon us	Sizde Upon you	Olarda Upon them
Instrumental	Menden From me	Senden From you	Ondan From him/her/it	Bizden From us	Sizden From you	Olardan From them

Possessive Suffixes

Değişlilik goşulmasy

In Turkmen, the suffix “**iň**” is added to indicate possession. However, unlike in English, a suffix is also added to the object of possession.

Pronouns	Spoken	Vowel ending	Consonant ending
Men + iň My	Meň	-m kakam, ejem	-ym/-im/-um/-üm maşynym, itim, öyüm
Sen + iň Your	Seň	-ň kakaň, ejeň	-yň/-iň/-uň/-üň maşynyň, itiň, öýüň
Ol = O + nuň His/her/its	Oň	-sy/-si kakasy, ejesi	-y/-i maşyny, iti, öyi
Biz + iň Our	Biziň	-myz /miz kakamyz, ejemiz	-ymyz/-imiz/-umyz/-ümüz maşynymyz, itimiz, öýümüz
Siz + iň Your	Siziň	-ňyz/-ňiz kakaňyz, ejeňiz	-yňyz/-iňiz/-uňyz/-üňiz maşynyňyz, itiňiz, öýüňiz
Olar + yň Their	Olaň	-sy/-si kakasy, ejesi	-y/-i maşyny, iti, öyi

The genitive participle is often omitted in speech since the suffix alone indicates possession:

Meniň kakam geldi.	= Kakam geldi.	My father came.
Siziň kitabyňyz gyzykly.	= Kitabyňyz gyzykly.	Your book is interesting.
Biziň maşgalamyz uly.	= Maşgalamyz uly.	Our family is big.

Possessive Suffixes without a Genitive Case Subject

Eýelik Düşümsiz Değişlilik

When referring to two nouns in direct relation in Turkmen, the possessive suffixes are used on the second noun, while the first noun remains in the nominative case. The first noun acts more as an adjective than a noun. One example is the word “bus stop,” rendered in Turkmen as “awtobus duralgasy.” If the first noun were in the genitive case (“awtobusyň duralgasy”), this would indicate one particular bus’s stop. For more examples, see below:

maşyn ýagy = motor oil	maşynyň ýagy = the car’s oil
öý işi = home work	öýüň işi = the home’s work
ýylan derisi = snakeskin	ýylanyň derisi = the snake’s skin

The Absolute Possessive: -ky/-ki

Üýtgeşsiz değişlilik

Kimiňki? Whose?	Spoken	Examples
Meniň + ki Mine	Meňki	Bu kitap meniňki. This book is mine.

Seniň + ki Yours	Seňki	Kompýuter seniňkimi ? Is this computer yours?
Onuň + ky His/hers/its	Oňky	Şu suratlar onuňky . These pictures are hers/his.
Biziň + ki Ours	Biziňki	Bu çagalar biziňki . These children are ours.
Siziň + ki Yours	Siziňki	Alyň, şu sowgat siziňki . Here, this present is yours.
Olaryň + ky Theirs	Olaňky	Maşyn olaryňkymy ? Is the car theirs?

The absolute possessive **-ky/-ki** can be added to nouns too:

Bu palto **Kelliniňki**.
Bu kitap **mekdebiňki**.

This coat is Kelli's.
This book is the school's.

Referring to groups of people or things *Adamlaryň ýa-da zatlaryň toparlarda aňladylyşy*

In Turkmen, the genitive case and its corresponding suffixes are used to talk about groups of people in a way similar to the English “four of us” or “all of us.” The genitive case may be applied either to numbers or words such as “**hemme**” or absolute negatives with “**hiç**.” Note that the possessive ending is enough to communicate this idea, so pronouns are often dropped:

(Biziň) **ikimiz**
(Siziň) **üçüňiz**
(Olaryň) **kyrkysy**
Itleriň **hemmesi**
Çagalaryň **hiç biri**
Süýjileriň **barysy**
Hiçimiz

(The) two of us
(The) three of you
(The) forty of them
All of the dogs
None of the children
All of the candies
None of us

Forming Questions: -my?/-mi?

Sorag Goşulmasy

In Turkmen, questions are not indicated by vocal inflection but rather by the use of a suffix: “**-my/-mi**.” To form a question in Turkmen, simply attach the “**-my/-mi**” suffix to the final word of a statement:

Sen Türkmen mi ?	Are you Turkmen?
Kakaň geldi mi ?	Did your father come?
Siz nahar iýip bolduňyz my ?	Did you all finish eating?
Sen ýatjak my ?	Are you going to sleep?
Ulum my ?	(Is it) big?
Gyzkly my ?	(Is it) interesting?

By removing the “**-my/-mi**” suffix the question becomes a statement:

Sen Türkmen.	You are Turkmen.
Kakaň geldi.	Your father came.

Note that if a question word is used (who, what, when, etc...), the “**-my/-mi**” suffix is not used:

Sen haçan geldiň? (Sen haçan geldiňmi?)	When did you come?
Sen dün geldiň mi ?	Did you come yesterday?
Ol nireden ? (Ol niredenmi?)	Where is he from?
Ol Amerikadan my ?	Is he from the United States?

Multiple-choice questions are constructed slightly differently. The “**-my/-mi**” suffix can be appended to the first choice, or to both:

Sen hytaý my , ýa-da türkmen?	Are you Chinese, or Turkmen?
Çaý gyzgyn my , ýa sowuk my ?	Is the tea hot or cold?

Forming Plurals: -lar/-ler

Köplük San Goşulmasy

To pluralize nouns and verbs, Turkmen uses the “**-lar/-ler**” suffix endings, according to the vowel harmony rule.

köçe + ler streets
Some examples:

Pişik**ler** jüýjeler*ini* iýýärler.
Ýaz paslynda güller açylýarlar.
Kakamyň işdeş**leri** Türkiýä gitdiler.

myhman + lar guests

Cats eat chicks.
Flowers open in spring.
My father's co-workers went to Turkey.

Some variations in the usage of plurals are distinct from English. Notice that in the examples below the nouns are in the singular form although they refer to many.

Men köp **kino** gördim.
Okuwçylar **alma** iýýärler.

I saw (have seen) many movies.
Students are eating apples.

Additionally, when making a statement or asking a question about quantity, the noun remains in the singular form, although it refers to many:

Bizde üç **maşyn** bar.
Olarda näçe **jay** bar?
Seniň **doganyň** barmy?

We have three cars.
How many houses do they have?
Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Also, when specifying quantity with a number, verb endings remain in the singular form, although the verb refers to many:

Geçen hepde biziň öýümize on sany
myhman geldi.

Last week ten guests came to our house.

Verb Overview

Işlikler Barada Umumy Maglumat

All verbs in the Turkmen language are conjugated the same, depending on their infinitive form. The infinitive form of a verb in Turkmen ends in either “-**mak**” or “-**mek**.” For example, “ok**amak**” (to read/to study), “ýaz**mak**” (to write), or “iý**mek**” (to eat). In theory, the conjugations of “-**mak/-mek**” verbs are similar to verbs in a language such as Spanish, where verb infinitives have “ar,” “er,” or “ir” endings. However, there are no irregular verbs in Turkmen. These two endings and their corresponding conjugations are relatively identical, yet they differ slightly as a result of the vowel-harmony rule. For more information, see the above section on vowel harmony.

Like English, Turkmen has a great variety of verb tenses. Verbs in Turkmen are conjugated in plural and singular for first, second, and third persons. As in Romance languages and Russian, the subject of a sentence is often not spoken if it is obvious. Below is an overview of the main verb tenses. All examples are given for both “-**mak**” and “-**mek**” verbs. Note that the negative structures, usually formed by adding “-**ma**” or “-**me**” after the stem, are also included. Given the challenges of direct translation, we have tried to translate the meaning of verbs and sentences as closely as possible. Please note that many of the sentences in this book are examples of spoken, informal Turkmen, and that throughout the different sections of this book the targeted grammatical structure is in bold.

Present Tense

Häzirki Zaman

(This form is also commonly used as an equivalent to the English present continuous tense.)

	ýazmak/iymek	spoken	to write/to eat
Men	ýazýaryn/iýýärim	ýazýan/iýýän	I write/eat I am writing/eating
Sen	ýazýarsyň/iýýärsiň	ýazýaň/iýýäň	You write/eat You are writing/eating
Ol	Ýazýar/iýýär	ýazýa/iýýä	He writes/eats He is writing/eating
Biz	ýazýarys/iýýäris	ýazýas/iýýäs	We write/eat We are writing/eating
Siz	ýazýarsyňyz/iýýärsiňiz	ýazýaňyz/iýýäňiz	You write/eat You are writing/eating
Olar	ýazýarlar/iýýärler or ýazýar/iýýär	ýazýalar/iýýäler or ýazýar/iýýär	They write/eat They are writing/eating

Men her gün mekdebe **gidýärim**.

Meniň kakam keselhanada **işleýär**.

Sen her başynjy gün metjide **barýarsyňmy?**

Siz her gün namaz **okaýarsyňyzmy?**

Obaň gyzlary haly **dokaýarlar**.

I go to school everyday.

My father works at the hospital.

Do you go to mosque every Friday?

Do you pray everyday?

The village's girls weave carpets.

The present simple tense is also used in Turkmen to speak of events in the future. It is somewhat similar to English use of the “present” continuous in statements such as, “I’m going to school tomorrow.” For example:

Biz ertir toýa **gidýäris**.

Meniň jigim indiki ýyl uniwersitete **girýär**.

We are going to the party tomorrow.

My little brother is entering the university next year.

To form the negative of the present tense, add “-ma/-me” after the stem:

Men ejeme hat **ýazmaýaryn**.

Sen köp et **iýmeýärsiň**.

Ol kitap **okamaýar**.

Biz şähre **gitmeýäris**.

Siz çay **içmeýärsiňizmi?**

Olar alma **ýygmaýarlar**.

I don't write my mother letters. (I am not writing my mother a letter.)

You don't eat a lot of meat.

He doesn't read books. (He is not reading a book.)

We don't go to the city. (We are not going to the city.)

You don't drink tea? (You aren't drinking tea?)

They don't pick apples. (They are not picking apples.)

In everyday speech, however, the suffix “-ok” is more commonly used to negate sentences. Note that the verb tense indicated is fairly flexible, indicating present tense or recent past, or even occasionally used to talk about things in the more distant past. The chart below shows the conjugations of this form:

	almak/bermek	to take/to give
Men	alamok/beremok	I do not take/give I have not taken/given
Sen	alaňok/bereňok	You do not take/give You have not taken/given
Ol	alanok/berenok	He does not take/give He has not taken/given
Biz	alamyzok/beremizok	We do not take/give We have not taken/given
Siz	alaňyzok/bereňizok	You do not take/give You have not taken/given
Olar	alanoklar/berenoklar	They do not take/give They have not taken/given

Men söýgülime hat ýaz**amok**.

I have not written a letter to my sweetheart.

Myrat berilen soraga jogap ber**enok**.

Myrat isn't answering the given question.

Çagyrylan myhmanlar entek gelen**oklar**.

The invited guests still haven't arrived.

Men bir hepdeden bäri işl**ämok** sebabi keselledim.

I haven't worked for a week because I have been ill.

Men mekdepde işl**ämok**.

I don't work at the school.

Siz Aşgabatda ýaş**aňyzokmy**?

You don't live in Ashgabat?

Sen geçen aý okadyňmy? Ok**amok**.

Did you study last month? No, I didn't.

These forms can also indicate that a certain activity is generally not performed or that something is generally not true:

Men kömelek iý**emok**.

I don't eat mushrooms (as a habit).

Men çilim çek**emok**.

I don't smoke (as a habit).

Jerenler melleginde işl**änoklar**.

Jeren and her family do not work in the field.

Gyşda-da howa sowuk bol**anok**.

Even in winter the weather is not cold!

Simple Present, Emphatic Statement: -dyr/-dir

Habarlyk goşulma

Adding the “-dyr/-dir” suffixes to a verb or noun gives emphasis to a statement in the present tense.

Arassaçylyk – saglyk**dyr**.

Cleanliness is health.

“Talantsyz ýazyjy—agsak esger ýaly**dyr**.”

The talentless writer is like a lame soldier.

Past Tense

Öten Zaman

(This form is also used and understood as an equivalent to the English Present Perfect)

	ylgamak/ýöremek	to run/to walk
Men	ylgady m /ýöred im	I ran/walked
Sen	ylgady ň /ýöred iň	You ran/walked
Ol	ylgady y /ýöred i	He ran/walked
Biz	ylgady k /ýöred ik	We ran/walked
Siz	ylgady ňyz /ýöred iňiz	You ran/walked
Olar	ylgady lar /ýöred iler	They ran/walked

Men bu sözlügi bazardan **satyn aldym**.
 Ol goňşusyna kömek **etdi**.
 Orazyň kakasy jaý **saldy**.
 Sag-aman **geldiňizmi**?
 Sen mekdepde näçe sagat **okadyň**?
 Okuwdan soň Rahat ýanyma **geldi**.
 Sen şu kinony **gördüňmi**?

I bought this dictionary from the bazaar.
 She helped her neighbor.
 Oraz's father built a house.
 Did you arrive safely?
 How many hours did you study at school?
 After school Rahat came to see me.
 Did you see this movie? (Have you seen this movie?)

To form the negative, add “**-ma/-me**” after the stem.

Men **ýazmadym**.
 Sen **gitmediň**.
 Biz dün **işlemedik**.
 Ahmet mekdepde ispan dilini **öwrenmedi**.
 Biz ot ýygdyk, ýöne öýe **getirmedik**.
 Sen näme üçin öý işini **etmediň**?
 Sen näme üçin **iýmediň**? **Halamadyňmy**?

I didn't write.
 You didn't go.
 We didn't work yesterday.
 Ahmet did not learn Spanish at school.
 We picked grass but we didn't bring it home.
 Why didn't you do your homework?
 Why didn't you eat? You didn't like it?

Action in the Distant Past: -yp/-ip

Daşlaşdyrylan Öten Zaman

Sometimes, the speaker wishes to emphasize that, from their perspective, something happened a long time ago. For this, “**-ip/-yp**” is inserted between the verb stem and the past-tense suffix. This form can also mean that the speaker is sure he or she did something in the past:

	ýatmak/bişirmek	to sleep/to cook
Men	ýatyp dy m/bişirip dim	I slept/cooked (a long time ago)
Sen	ýatyp dy ň/bişirip diň	You slept/cooked (a long time ago)
Ol	ýatyp dy /bişirip di	He slept/cooked (a long time ago)
Biz	ýatyp dy k/bişirip dik	We slept/cooked (a long time ago)

Siz	ýatypdyňyz/bişiripdiňiz	You slept/cooked (a long time ago)
Olar	ýatypdylar/bişiripdiler	They slept/cooked (a long time ago)

Kakam baş ýyllap direktor **bolup işläpdi**.
Baýramalyda uly kitaphana **bolupdy**.

Father worked as a director for 5 years.
In Bairamali there was a big library (a long time ago).

Biz geçen ýyl Köýtendaga **gidipdik**.
Saýatda baýramçylyk üçin okuwy **ýapypdylar**.

Last year, we went to Koytendag.
In Sayat, school closed for a holiday (a while ago).

Men rutçkamy bärde **goýupdym**.

I know I put my pencil here (but now it's gone).

To form the negative, insert “**-man/-män**” in place of the “**-yp/-ip**” after the stem in the above endings. The difference between this and the negative simple past is that “**-man/-män**” implies a more distant past. Sometimes the meaning can also be similar to past perfect:

Men **ýazmandym**.
Biz garaşypdyk, ýöne siz **gelmändiňiz**.
Myrat öý işini **ýerine ýetirmändi**.
Biz seniň hatyňa jogap **ýazmandyk**.
Olar şu kinony **görmändiler**.
Biz şol güne çenli, möjekleriň eýmenç sesini **eşitmändik**.

I did not write.
We waited, but you didn't come.
Myrat hadn't done his homework.
We did not answer your letter.
They did not see this movie.
Until that day, we had never heard the horrible sound of wolves.

Expressing Unwitnessed Actions: **-ypdyr/-ipdir**

Habarlyk Goşulmasynyň Hal Işlik Goşulmasy bilen Öten Zaman Aňladyşy

The following grammar is used when the speaker knows something happened, but they were not physically present at the event, or they didn't realize it until after the fact. This is also the form used when storytelling in the third person. To form the negative, replace “**-yp/-ip**” with “**-man/-män**”:

	açmak/geýmek	to open/to put on (clothing)
Men	açypdyryn/geýipdirin	I opened/put on
Sen	açypsyň/geýipsiň	You opened/put on
Ol	açypdyr/geýipdir	He opened/put on
Biz	açypdyrys/geýipdiris	We opened/put on
Siz	açypsyňyz/geýipsiňiz	You opened/put on
Olar	açypdyrlar/geýipdirler	They opened/put on

Olar bir ýere **gidipdirler**.
Daýym täze maşyn **alypdyr**.

(I found out later) they went somewhere.
My uncle bought a new car (but I found out later).

Sen **horlanypsyň**.

You've lost weight (and I didn't notice before).

Men şu gün köp **yatypdyryn**.
Biz düyn köp **icipdiris**.

I slept more than I thought I would!
We drank more than we thought we

Mugallymlar şu gün işe **gelmändir**.

would!

The teachers apparently didn't come to work today.

Expressing surprise: “Eken”

“Eken” Kem İşligi

The word “**eken**” expresses a meaning somewhat similar to the -ypdyr/-ipdir form, but usually emphasizes that what was found out later was unexpected. It is also possible to add endings similar to the possessive endings, the exception being “**-ik**” in place of “**-imiz**” on the third person plural. These endings do not change the meaning:

Ýygnak gyzykly **eken**.
Gutyda nahar bar **ekeni**.

The meeting turned out to be interesting.
Oh, so there was food in the box. (I expected something else.)

Özüň bilýän **ekeniň**.
Keselhandada adam ýok **eken**.

Oh, so you knew!
There aren't any people in the hospital. (I thought there would be).

Biz çagakak köp uruşýan **ekenik**.

We fought a lot when we were kids (and someone else told us about it later).

In combination with a verb, the relative clause endings are added and the verb is followed by the word “**eken**”:

Ol türkmençe gowy gepleýän **eken**.
Ol düýn Aşgabada gitjek **eken**.

(It turns out) he speaks Turkmen well.
(I found out later) he was going to go to Ashgabat yesterday.

Olar bu gün gelen **eken**! Men olar ertir geler öýtdim.

Oh, they came today! I thought they would come tomorrow.

Also note that this word is used in third-person storytelling along with the -ypdyr/-ipdir form, in which case it does not necessarily indicate surprise.

Past Conditions

Öten zamanyň “-dy/-di” goşumlasynyň beýleki söz toparlary bilen ulanylyşy

Because there is no true equivalent for the verb “to be” in Turkmen, the appropriate simple past-tense suffix is simply added to the end of the noun, adjective, or place to indicate a past situation.

Men öň okuwçy**dym**.
Sen geçen ýyl okuwçy**dyňmy**?
Biz öň çagady**k**.
Ol 2001-nji ýylda firmanyň başlygy**dy**.
Siz öň tikiň**idiňizmi**?
Olar akyly**dy**lar.
Meniň tigitim gyzy**dy**.

I was a student.
Were you a pupil last year?
We were children before.
He was the company's boss in 2001.
Were you a seamstress before?
They were smart.
My bicycle was red.

When referring to a place, “-da/-de” must be added as well:

Zöhre geçen hepde Lebapdady.
Kakam kuhnyäda dälidi.
Düýn ýagyş yagan wagty men bazardadym.

Zohre was in Lebap last week.
Dad wasn't in the kitchen.
Yesterday when it was raining, I was at the bazaar.

Future Tense

Geljek Zaman

Definite Future

Mälim Geljek Zaman

	okamak/bilmek	to read/to know
Men	okajak/biljek	I will read/know
Sen	okajak/biljek	You will read/know
Ol	okajak/biljek	He will read/know
Biz	okajak/biljek	We will read/know
Siz	okajak/biljek	You will read/know
Olar	okajak/biljek	They will read/know

This future form is generally only used to make statements about oneself, to make negative statements, to ask questions about wants, or to make statements about things others say. For all other statements about the future, use the indefinite future tense outlined in the next section.

Men indiki aý, nesip bolsa, Ispaniýa **gitjek**.
Çaý içjekmi?
Merjen saňa jaň **etjek** diýdi.
Men Çary bilen pökki **oýnajak**.
Oraz maňa:”**Hat ýazjak**” diýdi.
Biz size gezmäge **geljek**.
Siz indiki ýyl Turkiýä **gitjekmi**?

Next month I will, God willing, go to Spain.
Will you (do you want to) drink tea?
Merjen said she would call you.
I will play ball with Chary.
Oraz said he would write me a letter.
We will come to visit you all.
Will you go to Turkey next year?

To form the negative, add “**däl**” after the verb:

Men **ýazjak däl**.
Sen **gitjek dälmi**?
Ýok, ol :”**Geljek däl**” diýdi.
Biz täze ýyl baýramyny öýde **bellejek däl**.
Biz ýaryşa **gitjek däl**.
Çagalar bizi:”**Diňlejek däl**” diýdiler.

I will not write.
Won't you go?
No, he said he will not come.
We won't celebrate New Year's at home.
We won't go to the competition.
The children said they will not listen to us.

Indefinite Future

Nämälim Geljek Zaman

	durmak/görmek	to stand/to see
Men	duraryn/görerin	I will (probably) stand/see
Sen	durarsyň/görersiň	You will (probably) stand/see

Ol	durar/görer	He will (probably) stand/see
Biz	durarys/göreris	We will (probably) stand/see
Siz	durarsyňyz/göritersiniz	You will (probably) stand/see
Olar	durarlar/görerler	They will (probably) stand/see

The indefinite future tense is used for speaking in the third person and making statements (as opposed to asking questions) in the second person. It is also used in the first person as frequently as the definite future tense, the difference being that the definite future tense typically implies that it is one's own desire to do something. Using the indefinite future tense in the first person implies that one will do something for some other reason. Degree of certainty of a statement in the indefinite future tense varies according to context and intonation.

Men täze köýnek almaga **giderin**.

Biz bazardan gyzyl gulakhalka **alarys**.

Ol çagalara nahar **berer**.

Jeren jorap **öörmi?**

Men sen **gellersiň** diýip, umyt edýärim.

Kakam sagat 5-de işden **geler**.

Şu gün ejemiň doglan güni we biz oňa sowgat **bereris**.

Ertir Myrat bilen Gunça meniň ýanyma **gelerler**.

Indiki 5-nji gün **maslahatlaşarys**.

I'll go to buy a new dress.

We will buy gold earrings from the bazaar.

She will feed the children.

Will Jeren knit a sock?

I hope you'll come.

My father will come from work at 5.

Today is my mother's birthday and we will give her a present.

Tomorrow Myrat and Guncha will come to me (will come here).

Next Friday, we'll consult each other.

To form the negative, add “**-ma/-me**” after the stem, except in the third person, where “**-maz/-mez**” is used instead.

Men **ýazmaryn**.

Sen **gitmersiň**

Ol **nahar bişirmez**.

Biz **kömek etmeris**.

Siz ertir bazara **gitmersiňiz**.

Olar **gelmezler**, sebäbi howa sowuk.

I (probably) won't write.

You (probably) won't go.

He (probably) won't cook.

We won't help.

You won't go to the market.

They won't come, because the weather is cold.

Expressing Intended Action in the Past *Hyýallanmagyň Öten Zamanda Aňladylyşy*

There are two ways to express intended but unrealized actions in the past. The first is more definite and uses a construction that is equivalent to saying “I was going to do something, but I couldn't/didn't.” This construction is formed by adding the personal past-tense ending to the definite future conjugation “**-jak/-jek**” of the verb, as follows:

	sanamak/seretmek	to count/to look
Men	sanajakdym/seretjekdim	I was going to count/to look

Sen	sanajakdyň/seretjekdiň	You were going to count/to look
Ol	sanajakdy/seretjekdi	She was going to count/to look
Biz	sanajakdyk/seretjekdik	We were going to count/to look
Siz	sanajakdyňyz/seretjekdiňiz	You were going to count/to look
Olar	sanajakdylar/seretjekdiler	They were going to count/to look

Men şähre **gitjekdim**, ýöne ýetişmedim.

I was going to go to the city, but I didn't make it.

Men şol kitaby **okajakdym**, emma rus dilinde eken.

I was going to read that book, but it turns out it's in Russian.

Biz tort **bişirjekdik**, ýöne şekerimiz gutaran eken.

We were going to bake a cake, but it seems we'd run out of sugar.

Biziň mugallymymyz bizden synag **aljakdy** welin, ol pikirini üýtgetdi.

Our teacher was going to give us a test, but he changed his mind.

Ol bize bir süýji nahar **bişirjekdi**, ýöne gaz söňüpdir we ol bir ýere gitmeli boldy.

She was going to cook us a delicious meal, but the gas went out and she had to go somewhere.

Bazara giden bolsam, sumka satyn **aljakdym**.

If I had gone to the bazaar, I would have bought a bag.

To form the negative, the personal past-tense ending is added to the definite future, negative conjugation of the verb. Recall that in the definite future tense, the negative is formed by placing the word “**däl**” after the “**-jak/-jek**” form of the verb. So in this case, the personal past-tense ending is added to “**däl**.” This construction expresses that someone was not going to do something, but did indeed do it. For example:

Men **gitjek däldim**, emma mugallymym: “Hökman gitmeli” diýdi

I wasn't going to go, but my teacher said “You must go.”

Ol **berjek däl**di, ýöne men haýyş etdim.

He wasn't going to give it, but I requested.

Sen düyn wagtynda işe gelen bolsaň, men saňa **käýejek däldim**.

If you had come on time yesterday, I wouldn't have scolded you.

The second way to express unrealized action in the past is to form a construction that is similar to the English modal “would.” This construction is generally dependent on a conditional “if” clause. For example, “If ..., I would have...” It is formed by adding the third-person singular indefinite future ending “**-ar/-er**” + the personal past-tense ending to the verb stem, as shown in the following chart. Because this form is generally used with a conditional “if” clause, it might be more useful to study this section in conjunction with the following section on conditionals.

	aytmak/gülmek	to say/to laugh
Men	aydardym/gülerdim	I would have said/laughed
Sen	aydardyň/gülerdiň	You would have said/laughed
Ol	aydardy/gülerdi	She would have said/laughed
Biz	aydardyk/gülerdik	We would have said/laughed
Siz	aydardyňyz/gülerdiňiz	You would have said/laughed
Olar	aydardylar/gülerdiler	They would have said/laughed

Eger-de men bir käse çay içen bolsam, **gijä galaradm.**

Eger irräk turan bolsam, ertirlik **edinerdim.**

Eger rusça bilen bolsaň, onda şu kitaba **düşünerdiň.**

Eger maşyn bolan bolsa, onda size **giderdik.**

Eger kompýuter ulanyp bilen bolsadym, Internet **öwrenerdim.**

Men nahar **bişirerdim**, emma häzir şähere gitjek.

Biz size **kömekleşerdik** welin, ýaltanýarys.

If I had drunk one cup of tea, I would have been late.

If I had gotten up earlier, I would have eaten breakfast.

If you had known Russian, you would have understood this book.

If there had been a car, we would have gone to your house.

If I had known how to use computers, I would have learned the Internet.

I would have cooked, but I am going to the city now.

We would have helped you, but we are lazy.

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense ending to the negative form of the third-person singular, indefinite future tense “**-maz/-mez.**”

Eger işimiz bolsady, biziň içimiz **gysmazdy.**

If we had had work, we wouldn't have been bored.

Eger-de uçaryň biledini alyp bilen bolsadyk, onda maşynly **gitmezdik.**

If we had been able to buy a plane ticket, we wouldn't have gone by car.

Ol Turkmenistana **gelmezdi**, ýöne ony iberdiler.

He wouldn't have gone to Turkmenistan, but they sent him.

Anticipated Action: -jak/-jek bolmak

Göz Öňünde Tutulýan Hereket

A structure involving the future tense and “**bolmak**” is used in a similar way to the English phrase “going to.” The first verb must be in the future definite form (**-jak/-jek**) and “**bolmak**” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Sen **ýatjak bolýarsyňmy?**

Are you going to go to sleep?

Biz saňa **jaň etjek bolýarys.**

We're going to call you.

Garaşyň, men **nahar iýjek bolýaryn.**

Wait, I'm going to eat.

Men ol kinony giç bolsa-da **görjek bolýaryn.**

I'm going to watch the movie, even if it's late.

Merjen saňa bir zat **aýtjak bolýar.**

Merjen is going to tell you something.

Goňsylarymyz deňize **gitjek bolýarlar.**

Our neighbors are going to go to the sea.

Ejem dagy gatlama **bişirjek bolýarlar.**

My mother and the others are going to cook gatlama (sweet oily bread).

A related structure using “**-jak/-jek**” with “**bolmak**” and the continuous action verbs **otyr**, **ýatyr**, **dur** and **ýör** communicates the idea of being about to do something.

Men çörek **bisirjek bolup durun.**

I'm about to bake some bread.

Ol kitap **okajak bolup otyr.**
Biz aeroporda **gitjek bolup durus.**
Sen tort **iýjek bolup otyrдыңmy?**

He's about to read a book.
We're about to go to the airport.
Were you about to eat a cake?

Future Conditions

Geljek Zaman

To speak of the future condition of a subject, “**bolmak**” is used as a helping verb:

Men suratçy **boljak.**
Ol lukman **bolar.**
Olar akylly **bolar.**
Sen toýda owadan **boljakmy?**
Sen ertir Serdarda **bolarsyňmy?**
Ertir bazarda balyk **bolarmy?**

I will be an artist.
She will be a doctor.
They will be smart.
Will you be beautiful at the toy?
Will you be in Serdar tomorrow?
Will there be fish at the bazaar tomorrow?

Relative Clauses

Ortak işlikler

Relative clauses are formed in Turkmen simply by using verb suffixes based on the tense and vowel harmony of the verb. “Who,” “which,” and “that,” commonly used in English to form relative clauses, are not used as such in Turkmen. In the section below, the relative clauses are bolded in both languages, in order to better understand their usage. Unlike in English, relative clauses always proceed the noun being modified.

Present Tense

Häzirki zaman ortak işligi

Relative clauses in the present tense are formed by adding the suffixes “-ýan/-ýän” to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verbs, respectively:

ýazýan dostum
gelýän adamlar

my friend who is writing
the people who are coming

Sentence structure is as follows:

Aşgabatdan gelýän adamlar biziň kafemizde naharlanýarlar.

Ashgabat-from coming people our cafe- (they) eat.

Kitap ýazýan dostum Türkmenabatda ýaşaýar.

Book writing friend-my Turkmenabat-in lives

Bilim bölümi **türkmen dilini okadýan**

mugallymlary ýygnady.

Parahatçylyk Korpusy meýletinçileri okatmak

üçin **türkmençe oňat bilýän adamlary** saýlaýar.

Halaçdan getirilyän erikler iň süýji.

Kitap ýazýan aýallar örän akylyly.

Meniň ýatýan krowatym köne.

The people who are coming from Ashgabat usually eat at our cafe.

My friend who is writing a book lives in Charjew.

The Education department gathered the **teachers who teach Turkmen.**

Peace Corps chooses **people who know Turkmen well** to teach the volunteers.

The apricots which are brought from Halach are the sweetest.

Women who write books are very smart.
The bed where I sleep is old.

The negative form of relative clauses in the present tense is formed by adding “-maýan/-meýän” to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verbs, respectively:

ýazmaýan dostum
gelmeýän adamlar

my friend who isn't writing
the people who aren't coming

Sentence structure is as follows:

Arak içmeýän adam, arak içýän adamlar bilen oturmagy halamaýar.

Dutar çalmaýan bagşy biziň obamyza toýa

The man who doesn't drink vodka doesn't like to sit with the men who drink vodka.

The singer who doesn't play the dutar

geldi.

Men **et ýmeyän meýletinçilere** kädili nahar berjek.

Biz **haly dokamaýan** gyzlara haly dokamagy öwretdik.

came to our village for a wedding.

I will give a squash dish **to the volunteers who don't eat meat.**

We taught **the girls who don't weave carpets** how to weave carpets.

Past Tense

Öten zaman ortak işligi

Relative clauses in the past tense are formed by adding “**-an/-en/-n**” to the stems of “**-mak/-mek**” verbs, respectively:

ýazan dostum
gelen adamlar

my friend who wrote
the people who came

Note that while this is a past tense form, it often indicates present tense. Sentence structure is as follows:

Tejenden gelen adamlar köp iýdiler.

Tejen-from-came-people-much-(they) ate

Bu kitaby okanlar oňa gowy diýdiler.

this-book-read (plural)-it-good-(they) said

Saýlanan okuwçylar bir aý lagere gatnaşarlar.

The people who came from Tejen ate a lot.

Those who read this book said it's good.

The students who were chosen will participate in the camp for one month.
You can come when you want.

Islän wagtyň gelip bilersiň.

The negative form of relative clauses in the past tense is formed by adding “**-madyk/-medik**” to the stems of “**-mak/-mek**” verb, respectively:

ýazmadyk dostum
gelmedik adamlar

my friend who didn't write
the people who didn't come

Sentence structure is as follows:

Toýa barmadyk adamlar, şol toý barada soradylar.

Düzmäni oňat ýazmadyk okuwçylar, pes baha aldylar.

Kinony görmedik dostum, kinonyň nähili bolandygyny sorady.

The people who didn't go to the wedding asked about it.

The students who didn't write the composition well received low marks.

My friend who didn't see the movie asked how it was.

Future Tense

Geljek zaman ortak işligi

Relative clauses in the future tense are formed by adding the “**-jak/-jek**” endings to the stems of “**-mak/-mek**” verbs, respectively:

ýazjak dostum

my friend who will write

geljek adamlar

the people who will come

Sentence structure is as follows:

Biziň klasymyzy okatjak mugallym Eýrandan geldi.

our-class-will teach-teacher-Iran-from-came

Gökdepä gitjek okuwçylar obanyň duralgasynda garaşyp durlar.

Gokdepe-to-will go-students-village's-stop-at-waiting

Indiki äý geljek kinolar gymmadrak bolarlar.

Ejemden geljek posylkada köp süýji bolar.

The negative form of relative clauses in the future tense is formed by adding “-majak/-mejek” to the stems of “-mak/-mek” verbs, respectively:

ýaz**majak** dostum
gel**mejek** adamlar

my friend who will not write
the people who will not come

Sentence structure is as follows:

Iýilmejek naharlary pişige bermeli.

Taýýarlanmajak okuwçylar çykyşa gatnaşmaly däl.

Suwa düşmejek adamlar hem howuza barypdylar.

Namaz okamajak adamlar metjidiň daşynda dursunlar.

Food that will not be eaten should be given to the cat.

Students who aren't going to prepare mustn't participate in the performance.

The people who won't swim also went to the swimming pool.

The people who will not pray should stay outside the mosque.

Relative Clauses in the Accusative Case

Ortak Işlikleriň Aýyklaýjy Agza Bolup Gelşi

Sometimes, the noun being modified is not the subject of the relative clause, but its direct object, as in “the book that I read.” To convey this in Turkmen, the appropriate possessive suffix is added to the noun being modified. The “owner” of the modified noun may also be included, in genitive case, but is not necessary. The passive-voice suffix can also be used when the subject is unimportant or unknown.

Okan kitaplary**my** kitaphanada goýdum, ýöne okalmadyk kitaplar meniň klasymda.

Ulanmajak unu**ňyzy** maňa berseňizläň.

Seniň okadýan okuwçylary**ň** ýaman samsykdyr!
Meniň iýen kökäm gaty süýjüdi.

I put the books that I read in the library, but the books that weren't read are in my classroom.

Please, give me the flour that you aren't going to use.

The students that you teach are so stupid!
The cookie that I ate was delicious.

Relative Clauses without Nouns***Beýleki Söz Toparlaryň Atlaşmagy (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)***

Turkmen has a looser grammatical structure than English, in that relative clauses do not always require a noun to modify. Usually, the implied subject is a group of people.

Arassalary goýmaly, **hapalary** ýuwmaly.

You should put away **(the ones) that are clean**, and wash **(the ones) that are dirty**.

Ulular işlesinler, **kiçiler** bolsa olara kömekleşsinler.

Let **(the ones) who are big** work, and let **(the ones) who are small** help them.

Daşary ýurtdan gelýänler şäheriň owadan ýerlerine gezelenç edýärler.
(*outside-country-from-come-city's-beautiful-places-to-take walks.*)

(The people) who come from foreign countries take walks to the city's beautiful places.

Türkmenistanda ýaşanlar onuň taryhyny öwrendiler.

(The people) who lived in Turkmenistan learned about its history.

Uniwersitete girjekler tomusda ekzamen tabşyrlarlar.

(The people) who will enter the university will take an exam in the summer.

Relative Clauses with “-ky/-ki”***“-ky,-ki” bilen Sypat Ýasalyş (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)***

The suffixes “-ky/-ki” act as adjective clauses do in English. They are similar in meaning to the English “from,” “in,” or “at,” as in the following examples:

Men şol **kinodaky** gyzy halamok.

I don't like the girl in that film.

Tejendäki mugallymlar biziň ýygnağymyza gelýärler.

The teachers from Tejen are coming to our meeting.

Aşgabatdaky çörek biziňkiden gowy.

The bread in Ashgabat is better than ours.

Öýüňizdäkilere köp salam aýt!

Say a big hello to those at your home.

10-njy “A” **synpdaky** okuwçylaryň tertibi gowy däl.

The pupils of the 10th “A” class are not well behaved.

Eliňdäkiňi aýyr!

Get rid of what's in your hand!

Parkyň **içindäki** gazly suw şäherimiziň iň gowy suwy.

The soda inside the park is the best in our city.

Mekdebiň **ýanyndaky** howluda toý bar.

There's a party in the yard next to the school.

Men şu **köýnekdäki** ýakany gowy görýärim.

I like the embroidered collar of this dress.

While in the above examples the “-ky/-ki” ending works in combination with the locative case, with some time words in Turkmen, the locative case “-da/-de” suffix is not used. These words include “aý,” “ýyl,” “gün,” seasons, times of the day like “ağşam” and “irden,” “düýn,” and “ertir.” However “ýyl” and “aý” can be used in the locative case if a specific dated year or month is indicated (“2001-nji ýyldaky” or “Nowruz aýyndaky”). Otherwise, add only the “-ky/-ki” part of the ending.

Öten ýyl hasyl gowudy. Öten **ýylky** hasyl bu **ýylkydan** köpdi.

Düýn agşam myhman geldi. **Agşamky** gelen myhman irden çay içmedi.

Çagalar **tomusky** dynç alyşda lagerlere gitdiler.

Last year, the harvest was good. The harvest last year was bigger than this year's.

Last night a guest came. The guest who came last night didn't drink tea this morning.

The children went to camps during the summer break.

Relative Clauses with “-ly/-li”

“-ly,-li” bilen Sypat Ýasalyş (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)

In English, sometimes a preposition such as “with” or “in” is used to form an adjective clause. The equivalent structure in Turkmen uses the adjectival suffix “-ly/-li” instead of a preposition:

Eli žurnally okuwçy ökde.

Gyzyl köýnekli aýal meniň ejem.

Sumkasy köp kitaply meýlitinçi her gün mekdebimize gelyär.

Bir kostum-balakly adam seni sorady.

The student with the magazine in his hand is bright.

The woman in the red dress is my mother.

The volunteer with a lot of books in his bag comes to our school every day.

Some man in dress pants asked for you.

Expressing Intention

Işligiň hyýallanma formasy

These suffixes indicate an intended action. They can be roughly translated to “to intend to.”

	horlanmak/semretmek	to lose weight/to gain weight
Men	horlan makçy /semre mekçi	I intend to lose weight/gain weight
Sen	horlan makçy /semre mekçi	You intend to lose weight/gain weight
Ol	horlan makçy /semre mekçi	He intends to lose weight/gain weight
Biz	horlan makçy /semre mekçi	We intend to lose weight/gain weight
Siz	horlan makçy /semre mekçi	You intend to lose weight/gain weight
Olar	horlan makçy /semre mekçi	They intend to lose weight/gain weight

Men ertir şähre **gitmekçi**.

Biz şu ýyl diňe başlik **almakçy**.

Jon ýazyjy **bolmakçy**.

Kakam öýe telefon **çekdirmekçi**.

I intend to go to the city tomorrow.

This year we intend to get only fives.

Jon intends to be a writer.

My father intends to install a telephone at home.

To form the negative, add “**däl**” after the verb.

Men **ýazmakçy däl**.

Men **gitmekçi däl**.

Men Amerika gidenimden soň instituta **girmekçi däl**.

I don’t intend to write.

I don’t intend to go.

I don’t intend to enter the university after I return to the USA.

To express that an action was intended in the past, add the personal past-tense endings to the “**-çy/-çi**” suffixes:

Men **okamakçydym**.

Men **ýýmekçidim**.

Ol doňdurma **ýýmekçidi**, ýöne tapmady.

I intended to read.

I intended to eat.

He intended to eat ice cream, but he didn’t find any.

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense endings to “**däl**.”

Men **ýýmekçi däldim**.

Ol **okamakçy däldi**.

Biz wagtymyzy **biderek geçermekçi däldik**.

Olar **ýatmakçy däldi**, ýöne ýadap geldiler.

I did not intend to eat.

He did not intend to read.

We didn’t intend to waste our time.

They didn’t intend to sleep, but they came home tired.

Imperative Forms/Commands

Işligiň Buýruk Formasy

Requests

Haýyş sözler

gaýrat etmek
haýyş

to do what one can; to do one's best
request; please

Informal Commands

Resmi däl buýruk

verb stem + no endings

(Sen) **Iý!**
Jahan, hatyňy gowy **ýaz!**
Oka! Öwren! Döret!
Myrat, **gaýrat et, dükana git!**
Dünýä, sözlemiňi ýalňyşsyz **düz!**

Umyt, toýdan irräk **gel!**

Eat!
Jahan, write your penmanship well!
Study! Learn! Create!
Myrat, do what you can, go to the store.
Dunya, compose your sentence without mistakes!
Umyt, come back from the wedding a little early!

Formal or Plural Commands

Resmi buýruk

verb stem + formal ending (-yň/-iň/-ň)

(Siz) **Okaň!**
Çagalar, öý işini **ýazyň!**
Çagalar, sapaklaryňyzy gowy **okaň!**
Iňlis dilini gowy **öwreniň!**
Yzyňyzdan gapyny **ýapyň!**
Telewizory **açmaň!**
Hapa jorap **geýmäň!**

Read!
Children, do your homework!
Children, study your lessons well!
Learn English well!
Close the door behind you!
Don't turn on the TV!
Don't wear dirty socks!

Less Formal, Polite Commands

Resmi, mylakatly buýruk

verb stem + (-sana/-sene)

Myrada ýazan hatymy **okasana!**
Ertir öýe **gelsene!**
Maksadyň toýuna täze köýnek **alsana!**

Öýdäki güllere **seretsene!**
Täzelik bolsa **aýtsana!**
Ony **öwmesene!**
Palow **iýmesene!**

Please read the letter I wrote to Myrat!
Please come to my home tomorrow!
Please buy a new dress for Maksat's wedding.
Please look after the flowers at home.
If you have news, please tell me!
Don't flatter him!
Don't eat the palow!

Formal, Polite Request

Resmi Haýyş

verb stem + (-yp/-ip/-p + bersene)

Okap bersene.

Aman, bu haty **ýazyp bersene.**

Tawusy telefona **çaagyryp bersene.**

Tarkanyň aýdymalaryny **ýazyp bermesene.**

Eje, oňa şol ýaşyl köwüş **alyp bermesene.**

Read for us, please.

Aman, please write this letter for me.

Please call Tawus to the phone for me.

Please don't record Tarkan's songs for him.

Mom, please don't buy those green shoes for him.

Formal, Polite Commands

Resmi Mylakatly Haýyş

verb stem + (-saňyzlaň/-seňizläň)

Okasaňyzlaň!

Hemmäňiz toýa **gelseňizläň!**

Gürrüňiňizi **goýsaňyzlaň!**

Biziň bilen Köýtendaga **gitseňizläň!**

Eje, meni toýa **goýberseňizläň!**

Please read!

All of you, please come to the wedding!

Please stop talking!

Please go with us to the Koytendag mountains.

Mom, please let me go to the wedding!

Encouraging Commands

Goldaw Beriji Buýruk

verb stem + (-ber/-beriň/-bersin)

Okaber. (Okaberiň.)

Mugallym, siz **gepläberiň.**

Siz **gidiberiň**, men zýyňyzdan bararyn.

Sen ejem bilen **oturyber** men Jemala jaň edeýin.

Sähra **iýibersin.**

Go ahead and read.

Teacher, keep speaking.

You go ahead and go, I'll be right behind you.

Go ahead and sit with my mother while I call Jemal.

Let Sahra keep eating.

Asking For Permission

Rugsat soramak

The following forms translate not as commands, but more as requests or expressions of "let me" or "do you want me to" They are formed by adding "**-aýyn/-eýin**" to the verb stem.

Men täze sözleri **ýazaýyn.**

Men **geçeýin.**

Okaýyn.

Rugsat berseňiz men **gideýin.**

Men tagtada sözlem **düzeýinmi?**

Let me write the new words.

Let me pass.

Let me read. (I'll read)

If you give permission, I'll go.

Do you want me to write a sentence on the board?

Men öňüne **geçeyinmi?**
Men bu banany **iýeyinmi?**

Do you want me to move to the front?
Do you want me to eat this banana?

A politer version of this form is made by adding the suffix “**-la/-le**”:

Çaý **guýaýyn-la.**
Galam **alaýyn-la.**
Gepleşeli-le.
Nahar **bişireliň-le.**

Please, let me pour (you some) tea.
Please, let me take the pencil.
Please, let's talk.
Please, let's cook.

The following examples translate as “may I.” They are formed by adding “**-aýaýyn/-äýeyin**” to the verb stem.

Şu gazeti azajyk **okaýaýyn?**
Zöhre, men **gidäýeyin?**
Giräýeyin?

May I read this newspaper a little bit?
Zohra, may I go?
May I come in?

For other means of asking permission, see the sections on simple conditionals and expressing uncertainty.

Making Suggestions

Teklip Etmek

The following examples translate as “let us.” They are formed by adding “**-aly/-eli**” (for two people) and “**-alyň/-eliň**” (for more than two) to the verb stem.

Bol, kitap **okaly!**
Boluň goşgy **ýazalyň!**
Ýör nahar **iýeli!**
Yörüň, **gideli!**
Okalyň!
Geliň **aýdym aýdalyň!**
Gel, **tans oýnaly!**

Let's read a book! (for two person).
Let's write a poem! (for more than two).
Let's eat!
Let's go!
Let's read!
Let's sing a song!
Let's dance!

To form the negative, add “**-ma/-me**” after the stem:

Hat **ýazmaly.** (The second “a” is long.)
Çay **içmäli.**
Bazara **gitmäliň.**
Buz gaýmak **iýmäli.**
Okamalyň!

Let's not write a letter.
Let's not drink tea.
Let's not go to the bazaar.
Let's not eat ice cream.
Let's not read!

Expressing Third-Person Desires**Üçünji Ýöňkemedede Buýruk Bermek**

The following forms are in the third person and express urges or wishes. This form is used quite frequently in making toasts. They can be translated roughly as “would that,” “let him/her/it,” or “may he/she/it.” They are formed by adding “-syn/-sin” or “-synlar/-sinler” to the verb stem:

Ol **ýazsyn**.

Ol **geçsin**.

Merete aýt, maňa hat **ýazsyn**.

Okuwa **girsin**.

Saglyk **bolsun**.

Şatlyk **bolsun**.

Gutly **bolsun**.

Nesip **etsin**.

Salam getiren **sag bolsun**.

Olar **ýazsynlar**.

Olar **geçsinler**.

Sag-aman **barsynlar**!

Let him write.

Let him pass.

Tell Meret to write me a letter.

May he enter school.

May there be health.

May there be happiness.

Congratulations!

Congratulations!

Thank you for passing on their hello.

Let them write.

Let them pass.

May they arrive safely!

To make the negative forms, add “-ma/-me” after the stems, according to vowel harmony:

Ol **ýazmasyn**.

Olar **gitmesinler**.

Ýagyş **ýagmasyn**!

Jeren, myhmanlar **gitmesinler**.

Uruş **bolmasyn**.

May he not write.

May they not go.

Would that it not rain!

Jeren; let the guests not go.

May there not be war.

Obligatory Forms

Işligiň Hökmanlyk Formasy

As a general rule, the “-maly/-meli” ending can be translated as “should,” “ought to,” “must,” “have to,” or “need to.” However, adding “**hökman**” to the sentence gives emphasis and indicates that the action is absolutely necessary.

Men **okamaly**.

I should read.

Men **hökman okamaly**.

I must read.

	soramak/işlemek	to ask/to work
Men	soramaly/işlemeli	I must ask/work
Sen	soramaly/işlemeli	You must ask/work
Ol	soramaly/işlemeli	He must ask/work
Biz	soramaly/işlemeli	We must ask/work
Siz	soramaly/işlemeli	You must ask/work
Olar	soramaly/işlemeli	They must ask/work

Olar şu gün biziň öýmize **gelmeli**.

They should be coming to our house tonight.

Men ertirine juýýelerime **seretmeli**.

In the morning, I have to look after my chicks.

Dostlar birek-birege **kömek etmeli**.

Friends should help each other.

Tagta etrabynda köp gülleri **ekmeli**.

In Tagta Etrap, many flowers need to be planted.

Çagalar multifilm **görmeli**.

Children should watch cartoons

Sagat 6-da Göwher jigisini çagalar bagyndan **almaly**.

At 6 o'clock Gowher must pick up her sister from kindergarten.

Mugallymlar ýylda iki gezek açyk sapak **bermeli**.

Teachers must give open lessons twice a year.

Myradyň kakasy maşynyny **ýuwmalı**.

Myrat's father has to wash his car.

Sen öňünden **aýdaýmalı** ekeniň.

You really should have told me beforehand.

Men ejeme hat **yazmalı**.

I need to write letter to my Mom.

To form the negative, add “**däl**” after the verb.

Men **ýazmaly däl**.

I must (should) not write.

Çagalar köp süýji **iýmeli däl**.

Children shouldn't eat a lot of sweets.

Okuwçylar sapakdan rugsatsyz **galmaly däl**.

Students mustn't miss lessons without permission.

Oglanlar çilim **çekmeli däl**.

Boys shouldn't smoke.

Biz giç **turmaly däl**.

We shouldn't get up late.

Sapakda hat **alyşmaly däl**.

You mustn't pass notes in your lessons.

Kompýutoryň önünde köp **oturmaly däl**.

You shouldn't sit too long in front of the computer.

Positive Obligatory Actions in the Past**Öten Zamanda Hökmanlyk Aňladylyşy (barlyk)**

It is also possible to use the “-maly/-meli” endings in the past-tense, with a resultant meaning similar to “should have.” If the appropriate past-tense ending is added to the “-maly/-meli” form of a verb, the implication is that the action should have been done, but was not actually performed.

	oturmak/öwrenişmek	to sit/to get used to
Men	oturmalydym/öwrenişmelidim	I should have sat/gotten used to
Sen	oturmalydyň/öwrenişmelidiň	You should have sat/gotten used to
Ol	oturmalydy/öwrenişmelidi	He should have sat/gotten used to
Biz	oturmalydyk/öwrenişmelidik	We should have sat/gotten used to
Siz	oturmalydyňyz/öwrenişmelidiňiz	You should have sat/gotten used to
Olar	oturmalydy(lar)/öwrenişmelidi(ler)	They should have sat/gotten used to

Men ýaňky adam bilen **duşuşmalydym**, ýöne gidip bilmedim.

Ol Murgaba **gelmelidi**, emma Mara gitdi.

Olar şu gün **duşuşmalydylar**.

I needed to meet with that guy, but I wasn't able to go.

He was supposed to come to Murgap, but he went to Mary.

They were supposed to meet each other today.

Negative Obligatory Actions in the Past**Öten Zamanda Hökmanlyk Aňladylyşy (ýokluk)**

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense ending to “däl” and place it after the verb. Meaning is similar to “shouldn't have;” the implication is that something should not have been done, but it was:

Men **işlemeli däldim**.

Ol **ýazmaly däldi**.

Biz **gitmeli däldik**.

Men işden gijä **galmaly däldim**, ýöne ýetişmedim.

Sen onuň üstünden **gülmeli däldiň**.

I shouldn't have worked (but I did).

He shouldn't have written (but he did).

We shouldn't have gone (but we did).

I shouldn't have been late to work, but I didn't make it (on time).

You shouldn't have laughed at him.

Conversely, if the verb “**bolmak**” is conjugated in the past-tense and placed after the “-maly/-meli” form of a verb, the implication is that the subject did not want to do something, but had to do so.

Men **okamaly boldum**.

Ol keselhanada **ýatmaly boldy**.

Men şu gün şähere **gitmeli boldum**.

Serdar kakasynyň maşynyny **ýuwmaly boldy**.

I had to read (and I did).

He had to sleep in the hospital.

I had to go to the city today.

Serdar had to wash his father's car.

The negation of this form, which is equivalent to the English “didn't have to,” is constructed by inserting “-ma/-me” after the stem of the verb “**bolmak**.”

Myhmanlar gelmedi, şonuň üçin köp nahar
bişirmeli bolmadym.

Ol Mara bilet **satyn almaly bolmady.**

Biz Rusça **öwrenmeli bolmadyk.**

Siz **terjime etmeli bolmadyňyz.**

The guests didn't come, therefore I didn't
have to cook much food.

She didn't have to buy a ticket to Mary.

We didn't have to learn Russian.

You didn't have to translate it.

Conditionals:

İşligiň Şert Formasy

In English, there are three kinds of conditionals:

1. Conditionals that are true in the present or future:
If I write a letter to her, **she will write** back.
2. Conditionals that are untrue in the present or future:
If I wrote a letter to her, **she would write** back.
3. Conditionals that are untrue in the past:
If I had written a letter to her, **she would have written** back.

However, determining which of the above to use is often less a matter of meaning than of grammatical flow. For instance, the actual difference between the first and second statements is largely contextual; the second statement simply emphasizes the fact that the “if” clause is less likely to be true. In Turkmen, conditionals are more freeform; there is no required association of tense between the “if” and “then” clauses. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult to give exact translations that also preserve the intended meaning of the speaker. In the section below, directly translated parts are thus italicized, while implied meaning is in parentheses.

Note that in the examples below “**eger**” and “**eger-de**” are synonymous. “**Haçan-da**” (similar to the English “when”) may be used almost interchangeably with “**eger**” and “**eger-de**.” These words are used in most of the examples here, but are often omitted in speech and writing because the conjugation of the verb is sufficient to indicate conditionality.

Simple Conditionals

Yönekeý Şert Forma

The simplest conditional form in Turkmen is generally similar in meaning to the first conditional form in English. It can also be used for generalizations, as in, “If I oversleep, my father yells at me,” where the statement addresses not one single incident, but a habitual event.

	ýuwmak/süpürmek	to wash/to wipe
Men	ýuwsam/süpürsem	If I wash/wipe...
Sen	ýuwsaň/süpürseň	If you wash/wipe...
Ol	ýuwsa/süpürse	If she wash/wipe...
Biz	ýuwsak/süpürsek	If we wash/wipe...
Siz	ýuwsaňyz/süpürseňiz	If you wash/wipe...
Olar	ýuwsalar/süpürseler	If they wash/wipe...

Eger-de meniň wagtyň **bolsa**, men agşam telewizor görerin.

Eger biri jaň **etse**, maňa aýtsana.

Eger biziň pulumyz ýeterlik **bolsa**, biz Aşgabada göçeris.

Haçan-da ol **gelse**, biz ýygnaýy başlamaly.

Eger biz kitabyňy **tapsak**, saňa bereris.

Eger-de men Jerene köwüş **alsam**, oňa

If I have enough time, I watch TV in the evenings.

If anyone calls, please tell me.

If we have enough money, we will move to Ashgabat.

If she comes, we should start the meeting.

If we find your book, we'll give it to you.

If I buy shoes for Jeren, I wonder if she'll

ýararmyka?

like them?

To form the negative, add “-ma/-me” after the verb stem:

Eger-de men **ýazmasam**...

If I do not write...

Men **gitmesem**...

If I do not go...

Eger-de men ertirlik nahar **ýimesem**, ajygaryn.

If I don't eat breakfast, I will get hungry.

Eger-de myhmançylyga baranyňda nahar

If you don't eat when you go guesting,

ýimeseň, gaty görerler.

they will be offended.

Eger Gözel okuwa **gelmese**, mugallym käýär.

If Gozel doesn't come to school, the teacher scolds her.

The above structure can also be used in conjunction with the verb “**bolmak**” to ask for permission to do something, similar to the English, “is it ok if...”:

Okasam bolýarmy?

Is it okay if I read?

Íýsem bolýarmy?

Is it okay if I eat?

Men öňüne **geçsem bolýarmy?**

Is it okay if I move to the front?

Biz ertir şähere **gitsek bolýarmy?**

Is it okay if we go to the city tomorrow?

Olar toýa **gitse bolýarmy?**

Is it okay if he goes to the toy?

Conditionals in the Present Tense

Şert Formasynyň Häzirki Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy

The meaning implied by the following grammar is similar to that above. The structure is as follows: verb stem + “-ýan/-ýän” + present-future conditional form of the verb “**bolmak**.”

	ýuwmak/süpürmek	to wash/to wipe
Men	Ýuwy ýan bolsam/süpür ýän bolsam	If I wash/wipe...
Sen	ýuwy ýan bolsaň/süpür ýän bolsaň	If you wash/wipe...
Ol	ýuwy ýan bolsa/süpür ýän bolsa	If she washes/wipes...
Biz	ýuwy ýan bolsak/süpür ýän bolsak	If we wash/wipe...
Siz	ýuwy ýan bolsaňyz/süpür ýän bolsaňyz	If you wash/wipe...
Olar	ýuwy ýan bolsalar/süpür ýän bolsalar	If they wash/wipe...

Ol kitap **ýazýan bolsa**, köp okaýandyr.

If he is writing a book, he must read a lot.

Biz Lebaba **gidýän bolsak**, onda Köytendagy görjek.

If we go to Lebap, then we will see Koytendag.

Siz öýde **galýan bolsaňyz**, nahar bişirmeli.

If you stay at home, you should cook.

Bilýän bolsalar gelerdiler.

If they had known, they would have come.

Bilýän bolsam, senden soramazdym.

If I knew, I wouldn't ask you.

Sen Aşgabada **gidýän bolsaň**, jorama salam aýtsana.

If you are going to Ashgabat, please say hello to my friend.

To form the negative, add “-maýan/-meýän” after the verb stem:

Bilmeýän bolsam sorardym.

If I hadn't known, I would have asked.

Haly **dokamaýan bolsalar**, stanogy getirsinler.

If they are not weaving a carpet let them

Iş etmeýän bolsaňyz maňa kömekleşiň.

bring the loom.

If you aren't working, help me.

Conditionals in the Past Tense

Şert Formasynyň Öten Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy

The following structure appears similar to the second and third conditional forms in English, but differs in that the associated “then” clause can take any tense. Construction is as follows: verb stem + “-an/-en” + present-future conditional form of the verb “**bolmak**.”

	ýuwmak/süpürmek	to wash/to wipe
Men	Ýuwan bolsam/süpüren bolsam	If I washed/wiped...
Sen	ýuwan bolsaň/süpüren bolsaň	If you washed/wiped...
Ol	ýuwan bolsa/süpüren bolsa	If she washed/wiped...
Biz	ýuwan bolsak/süpüren bolsak	If we washed/wiped...
Siz	ýuwan bolsaňyz/süpüren bolsaňyz	If you washed/wiped...
Olar	ýuwan bolsalar/süpüren bolsalar	If they washed/wiped...

Men ony **tanan bolsam**, salam bererdim.

If I had known her, I would have said hello.

Nahar **iýen bolsaň**, çay içiber.

If you've eaten, go ahead and drink tea.

Ol **gelen bolsa**, biz ýygnygy başlaly.

If he's come, let's start the meeting.

Eger biz **baran bolsak**, siziň bilen bazara giderdik.

If we had gone, we would have gone to the bazaar with you.

Telewizor **gören bolsaňyz**, täzelikleri eşidensiňiz.

If you had watched tv, you would have heard the news.

Myhmanlar **gelen bolsalar**, nahar äberiş.

If the guests have come, serve them food.

Ejem çörek **bişiren bolsa**, men saňa bererin.

If my mother has made bread, I'll give it to you.

To form the negative, add “-madyk/-medik” after the verb stem:

Eger men ertirlik nahar **iýmedik bolsam** ajygardym.

If I hadn't eaten breakfast, I would be hungry.

Eger Gözel okuwa **gelmedik bolsa**, mugallym oňa gygyrardy.

If Gozel hadn't come to school, the teacher would have yelled at her.

Ýagyş **ýagmadyk bolsa**, gezelenje giderdik.

If it hadn't rained, we would have gone for a walk.

Conditionals in the Future

Şert Formasynyň Geljek Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy

Future conditionals in Turkmen are similar to the statement, “if I am going to” in English.

Structure is as follows: verb stem + “-jak/-jek” + present-future conditional form of the verb “**bolmak**.” Note that Turkmen speakers use this future form frequently when English speakers would use a present tense conditional phrase.

	ýuwmak/süpürmek	to wash/to wipe
Men	Ýuwjak bolsam/süpürjek bolsam	If I('m going to) wash/wipe...
Sen	ýuwjak bolsaň/süpürjek bolsaň	If you('re going to) wash/wipe...
Ol	ýuwjak bolsa/süpürjek bolsa	If she('s going to) wash/wipe...
Biz	ýuwjak bolsak/süpürjek bolsak	If we('re going to) wash/wipe...
Siz	ýuwjak bolsaňyz/süpürjek bolsaňyz	If you('re going to) wash/wipe...
Olar	ýuwjak bolsalar/süpürjek bolsalar	If they('re going to) wash/wipe...

Eger men ertir **işlejek bolsam**, ir turmaly bolaryn.

If I am going to go to work tomorrow, I have to get up early.

İňlisçe **öwrenjek bolsaň**, köp praktika gerek.

If you are going to learn English, much practice is necessary.

Ejem çay **içjek bolsa**, men demläp berjek.

If my mother is going to drink tea, I will make it for her.

Biz kitap **ýazjak bolsak**, kompýuter bilmeli.

If we are going to write a book, we should know how to use a computer.

Siz tans **etjek bolsaňyz**, daşaryk çykyň.

If you are going to dance, go outside.

Gepleşjek bolsalar, jaň etsinler.

If they are going to talk, let them call.

To form the negative, add “**-majak/-mejek**” after the verb stem:

Aýlyk **tolemejek bolsaňyz**, men işlejek däl.

If you are not going to pay salaries, I will not work.

Görmejek bolsaň, telewizory öçür.

If you are not going to watch it, turn off the TV.

Sumkany satyn **almajak bolsaň**, bahalatma.

If you are not going to buy the bag, don't ask for the price.

Merjen nahar **bişirmejek bolsa**, men restorana gitjek.

If Merjen is not going to cook, I will go to a restaurant.

Toýa **gitmejek bolsam**, eşiklerimi çalşyrjak.

If I am not going to go to the party, I will change clothes.

Double Verbs

Hal işlikler

In English, we put the word “and” between two conjugated verbs to express that two actions are performed at once or at relatively the same time. It can also mean one action was performed, and a second immediately followed. Turkmen employs a structure that puts the two verbs together. The first verb is reduced to its stem and the participial ending “-yp/-ip/-p” is added according to vowel harmony. The ending of the second verb determines the performer of the actions, as in the following examples:

Men dün nahar **ıyıp ýatdym**.
Biz radio **diňläp, hat ýazýarys**.

Ol şähre **gidip geldi**.
Sag boluň, biz **ıyıp geldik**.
Çyrany **öçürip gel**.
Sowadyp içiň!

Yesterday I ate and went to sleep.
We are listening to the radio and writing a letter.
He went to and came from the city.
Thank you, we ate before we came.
Turn off the light and come.
Chill before drinking!

The participial “-yp/-ip/-p” endings have negative counterparts, “-man/-män,” also added to the stem of the first verb. Note that only the first action is negated.

Çagalar okuwa **ıymän girdiler**.
Okuwçylar sapaga **okaman gelyärler**.
Sen myhmançylyga **sowgat alman barmaly däl**.
Bagyşlaň, men **bilmän etdim**.

The children went to school without eating.
The pupils come to the lesson without studying.
You shouldn't go as a guest to someone's house without taking a gift.
I'm sorry, I did it without knowing.

Expressing Ability: -yp/-ip/-p bilmek *Başarnygyň Aňladylyşy*

A structure involving the main verb and “**bilmek**” is used to express the ability to do something, similar to use of “can” or “able to.” According to vowel harmony, the main verb's stem is followed by the participial ending “-yp/-ip/-p,” and “**bilmek**” is conjugated according to the performer of the action and the tense.

Men Türkmençe **okap bilýärim**.
Ol rusça **ýazyp bilenok**.
Seniň ejeň süýji nahar **bişirip bilýär**.
Biz ýerde **ýatyp bilemizok**.
Olar Özbegistana **gidip bilenoklar**.
Sen ony **görüp bildiňmi?**
Men maşgalam bilen **gepleşip bildim**.
Sen puluňy **çalşyp bildiňmi?**
Ol dynç **alyp bilmedi**.
Biz bazara **gidip bileris**.

I can read Turkmen.
He can't write Russian.
Your mother can cook delicious food.
We can't sleep on the floor.
They can't go to Uzbekistan.
Were you able to see him?
I was able to speak with my family.
Were you able to change your money?
He wasn't able to have a rest.
We can go to the bazaar.

Olar şu nahary **iyip bilmez**.
 Men toýa **baryp biljek däl**.
 Siz on kilometr **ylgap bilersiňizmi?**
 Gülşat düýe **alyp bilmez**.
 Okuwçylar bir ýylyň içinde inlis dilini **öwrenip bilerler**.
 Men şol gyzyň sagady **alyp bilsem...**
 Men **gidip bilmesem...**
 Sen **gepleşip bilseň**, köp salam aýt.
 Eger biz **gutaryp bilsek...**

They won't be able to eat this food.
 I won't be able to go the party.
 Will you be able to run ten kilometers?
 Gulshat won't be able to buy a camel.
 The students will be able to learn English in one year.
 If I could buy that gold watch...
 If I am not able to go...
 If you are able to talk, say a big hello.
 If we're able to finish...

Doing an Action for Someone: -yp/-ip/-p bermek

Hereketiň Başga Biri üçin Ýerine Ýetirilmeginiň Aňladylyşy

This is a structure involving “**bermek**” that is used to express the doing of an action for someone. According to vowel harmony, the main verb's stem is followed by the participial ending “**-yp/-ip/-p**,” and “**bermek**” is conjugated according to the performer of the action and the tense.

Men size jaý **salyp berdim**.
 Şol gapyny **ýapyp bersene**.
 Saňa şol köwşi **alyp bereýinmi?**
 Lukman näsagyň dişini **bejerip berdi**.
 Enesi agtyklaryna rowaýat **aýdyp berdi**.

I built a house for you.
 Please close that door for me.
 Do you want me to buy those shoes for you?
 The doctor repaired the patient's tooth.
 The grandmother told a story for her grandchildren.

Beginning an Action: -yp/-ip/-p başlamak

Hereketiň Başlanmagynyň Aňladylyşy

A structure involving “**başlamak**” is used to express the beginning of an action. The first verb must be in the “**-yp/-ip/-p**” participial form and “**başlamak**” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Men şu kitaby **okap başladym**.
 Nahar **iyip başladyňyzmy?**
 Myhmanlar **gelip başladylar**.

I started reading this book.
 Have you started eating?
 The guests began to arrive.

Completing an Action: -yp/-ip/-p bolmak/gutarmak

Hereketiň Gutaranlygynyň Aňladylyşy

A structure involving “**bolmak**” or “**gutarmak**” is used to express the completion of an action. The first verb must be in its “**-yp/-ip/-p**” participial form and “**bolmak**” or “**gutarmak**” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Şu kitaby **okap bolduňmy?**
 Meniň **jigim süýjileri iyip gutardy**.

Did you finish reading this book?
 My brother has finished eating the candies.

Attempted Action: -yp/-ip/-p görmek**Synanyşygyň Aňladylyşy**

A structure involving “**görmek**” is used to express the idea of trying to do something, or the idea of doing-and-seeing. The first verb must be in its “**-yp/-ip/-p**” form and “**görmek**” must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Bu nahary **dadyp gör**.

Men **pikir edip göreýin**.

Zöhre şol köýnegi **geýip gördi**.

Men **synaşyp görmeli**.

Sen **synaşyp gördüňmi?**

Try a bite of this food.

Let me think about it.

Zohra tried on that dress.

I must try.

Did you ever try?

Expressing Continuous Action: Otyr, Ýatyr, Dur, Ýör, Barmak Işligiň Dowamlylygynyň Aňladylyşy

Four verbs in Turkmen, “**oturmak**” (to sit), “**ýatmak**” (to sleep), “**durmak**” (to stand), and “**ýöremek**” (to walk), have special third-person singular forms: “**otyr**, **ýatyr**, **dur**, and **ýör**,” respectively. These modal verbs can be used alone or with compound verb structures to indicate a continuous action or the physical position of something. In compound structures, the first verb (the action that is continuing) is in the “**-yp/-ip/-up/-üp/-p**” participial form. Please note that in some parts of Turkmenistan (Lebap for example), the modal verbs are specifically used for this purpose of indicating a continuous action. Therefore, the sentence below can be interpreted in two ways, depending on where you’re from:

Olar şu wagt **nahar bişirip otyrlar**.

Right now they are cooking.

Or Right now they are cooking, while sitting.

Personal endings are added as such:

	oturmak	ýatmak	durmak	ýöremek
Men	otyr yn	ýatyr yn	dur un	ýör ün
Sen	otyr syň	ýatyr syň	dur suň	ýör süň
Ol	otyr	ýatyr	dur	ýör
Biz	otyr ys	ýatyr ys	dur us	ýör üs
Siz	otyr syňyz	ýatyr syňyz	dur suňyz	ýör süňiz
Olar	otyr lar	ýatyr lar	dur lar	ýör ler

The above structure can be used as a singular verb to indicate one of the four associated verbs. Note that the third-person singular, “**ýör**,” is used by itself only in certain regional dialects. In compound structures with other verbs, it is used more frequently, especially in the regions that use this structure to indicate continuous action. Some examples:

Myrat şu wagt **ýatyr**.

Myrat is sleeping now.

Meniň dostum mugallymlar otagynda **otyr**.

My friend is sitting in the teachers’ room.

Meniň maşynym siziň mekdebiňiziň önünde **dur**.

My car is in front of your school.

In compound structures, these verbs’ meanings are retained only in that they indicate the position of the doer of the action (and sometimes the meaning is reduced to *only* suggest continuous action). Also note that, while it has no special continuous forms, the verb “**barmak**” may also indicate continuous action when in a compound structure:

Ol **okap ýatyr**.

He is reading (while lying down).

Men çay **içip otyryn**.

I’m drinking tea (while seated).

Ol taýda toý **gidip dur**.

There’s a party going on over there.

Sag-aman **işläp ýörsüňizmi**?

Are you working safely? (How are things?)

Men işe **gidip barýan**.

I’m going to work.

Nirä **howlugyp barýaň**?

Where are you hurrying to?

Physical objects capable of continuous action but not physical movement such as cars, refrigerators, electricity, and televisions, use “**dur**” in compound structures:

Cyralar **ýanyp dur.**

Holodilnik **işläp dur.**

Duhowka **ýanyp dur.**

Telefon **işläp dur.**

The lights are on.

The refrigerator is running.

The oven is on.

The telephone is working.

In the case where these modals are used to indicate a continuous action, both the present continuous and past continuous tenses can be formed. Construction is as follows: “**otyr/ýatyr/dur/ýör**” + simple past suffix.

Men **okap otyryn.**

Men **okap otyrdym.**

Jigim parkda **aýlanyp ýör.**

Jigim parkda **aýlanyp ýördi.**

I am reading.

I was reading.

My little sister is walking around the park.

My little sister was walking around the park.

Biz telewizor **görüp otyrys.**

Biz telewizor **görüp otyrdyk.**

We are watching TV.

We were watching TV.

Expressing Possibility

Mümkinlik Aňladylyşy

The word “**mümkin**” (maybe) can be employed in grammatical structures to indicate possibility. The first structure expresses the possibility that something may happen, but that it is not guaranteed or known to be certain. The resultant meaning is similar to use of the modal verbs “might” or “may” in English. Structure is as follows: verb in infinitive form + possessive suffix + “**mümkin**.” The ‘**k**’ is transformed into a ‘**g**’ due to sound assimilation. Note that with this form, the personal possessive pronoun is used instead of the nominative pronoun. The structure can be literally translated into English as “my writing maybe.”

	ýazmak/gelmek	to write/ to come
Meniň	ýazmagym/gelmegim mümkin	I might write/come
Seniň	ýazmagyň/gelmegiň mümkin	You might write/come
Onuň	ýazmagy/gelmegi mümkin	He/she might write/come
Biziň	ýazmagymyz/gelmegimiz mümkin	We might write/come
Siziň	ýazmagyňyz/gelmegiňiz mümkin	You might write/come
Olaryň	ýazmagy/gelmegi mümkin	They might write/come

Some examples:

Wagtym bolsa, meniň **okamagym mümkin**.
 Meniň şäherde nahar **ýmegim mümkin**.
 Biziň naharhanada **duşmagymyz mümkin**.
 Ondan çykyp diskoteka **gitmegimiz mümkin**.

Goňşymyzyň öýünde dükan **açmagy mümkin**.

Turkmenabat-Mary ýolunyň bahasynyň **arzanlamagy mümkin**.

If I have time, I might read.
 I might eat in the city.
 Maybe we’ll meet at a restaurant.
 When we leave there, maybe we’ll go to a disco.
 Our neighbor might open a store in his house.
 The fare for the Turkmenabat-Mary route might get cheaper.

The negative is formed by inserting “**-maz/-mez**” after the verb stem:

	ýazmak/gelmek	to write/to come
Meniň	ýazmazlygym/gelmezligim mümkin	I might not write/come
Seniň	ýazmazlygyň/gelmezligiň mümkin	You might not write/come
Onuň	ýazmazlygy/gelmezligi mümkin	She might not write/come
Biziň	ýazmazlygymyz/gelmezligimiz mümkin	We might not write/come
Siziň	ýazmazlygyňyz/gelmezligiňiz mümkin	You might not write/come
Olaryň	ýazmazlygy/gelmezligi mümkin	They might not write/come

Meniň ertir mekdebiňize **gelmezligim mümkin**.

Hat **ýazmazlygym mümkin**.

Işim kän bolsa, **okamazlygym mümkin**.

I might not come to your school tomorrow.
 I might not write a letter.
 If I have a lot of work, I might not read.

Biziň günortanlyk nahar **ýmezligimiz mümkin**.
Jahanyň toýa **gelmezligi mümkin**.
Olaryň ýygnağa **gatnaşmazlygy mümkin**.
Başlygyň ýygnağa **gelmezligi mümkin** sebäbi
onuň ogly ýaranok.
Dükana täze matalaryň **gelmezligi mümkin**.
Howanyň **gyzmazlygy mümkin** sebäbi häzir
tomsyň soňky aýy.
Otlynyň **gelmezlegi gaty mümkin**.

We might not eat lunch.
Jahan might not come to the wedding.
They might not participate in the meeting.
The boss might not come to the meeting
because his son is sick.
New fabric might not come to the store.
The weather might not heat up again
because it's the last month of summer.
The train most likely will not come.

Many English speakers use the word “**Mümkin**” in a liberal manner equivalent to the use of the adverb “maybe” in English. “**Mümkin**” is more frequently used in a manner similar to the English adjective “possible.” To use the word correctly in this way, the correct possessive ending should be added to the infinitive form of the verb and followed with the adjective “**Mümkin**”.

Biziň daşary yurda **gitmegimiz mümkin**.
Olaryň täze jaý **salmagy mümkin**.
Şu gün teatrda konsert **bolmagy mümkin**.

We may go to a foreign country.
They may build a new house.
Today there may be a concert at the theater.

The following examples are similar to the English structure using the adverb “maybe,” and they are correct, but native speakers use this structure less frequently. Also, “**mümkin**” may not be used in combination with the definite future tense; only the indefinite future tense is used. Note that the adverb “**belki**” may also be used. It can imply that one hopes something will happen, and sometimes it is used to make a suggestion:

Mümkin, biz daşary yurda gideris.
Belki ol ertir geler.
Belki çay içeris.

Maybe we'll go to a foreign country.
Maybe (I hope) he'll come tomorrow.
Maybe we'll drink tea?

However, Turkmen speakers most commonly express possibility using a variety of verb forms such as “bolaýmasa,” the indefinite future, and phrases like “Nesip bolsa.”

Requesting Permission: mümkinmi?

Rugsat Berilmegini Haýys Etmek

The word “**mümkin**” can also be used to ask for permission for an action. Structure is as follows: verb in infinitive form + “**mümkin**” + “**-my?/-mi?**”:

Çilim çekmek **mümkinmi?**
Girmek **mümkinmi?**
Jaň etmek **mümkinmi?**
Okamak **mümkinmi?**
Iýmek **mümkinmi?**

May I smoke? (Is it okay to smoke?)
May I come in?
May I make a call?
May I read?
May I eat?

Indicating Likely Situations

Çak Edilýän Hadysa

The “-dyr/-dir” suffixes express probability rather than possibility. More specifically, this structure is used to express ideas which you believe are true. It is similar to English use of “must be.” Usually, this form is employed when speaking in the third person.

Eger iňlisçe kitap gerek bolsa, kitaphanadadyr.

If you need English books, there should be some in the library.

Mugallymlar mekdepdedir.

The teachers must be at school.

Onuň uly jaýy, maşyny bar. Ol baýdyr.

He has a big house and car. He must be rich!

Gerek bolsa, şo taýda pul bardyr.

If you need it, there must be money there.

When used with verbs in the present tense, “-ýan/-ýän” is added to the verb stem:

Sähra Amerikanlar bilen işleýär. Ol iňlisçe bilýändir.

Sahra works with Americans. She must know English.

Hoşgün Parahatçylyk Korpusy işleýändir.

On Wednesday, Peace Corps must be open.

When used with verbs in the past tense, the form changes slightly; the past tense suffix is replaced by “-an/-en”:

Nahar bişendir.

The food must have finished cooking.

Şähre gidendir.

He must have gone to the city.

Süýji bolandyr.

(The food) ought to be tasty.

Çaý içiberiň, sowandyr.

Go ahead and drink the tea, (it) must have cooled by now.

Telewizory aç, kino başlandyr.

Turn on the TV; the film must have started.

Bu salady ejem taýýarlandyr.

My mother must have prepared this salad.

Ol gyňaç daňynypdyr. Ol durmuşa çykandyr.

She’s wearing a head scarf. She must be married.

Belki olar bazara gidendirler.

Maybe they went to the bazaar.

When used with verbs in the future tense, “-jak/-jek” is added to the verb stem:

Mümkin biz futbol oýnajakdyrys.

Maybe we’ll play soccer.

Belki olar Maryda ýaşajakdyrlar.

Maybe they will live in Mary.

Olar saňa basym hat ýazjakdyrlar.

They should write a letter to you soon.

Making a guess**Çak Etmek**

To indicate a situation that one does not know for sure, but which one thinks may be true, the following form is commonly used:

	bolmak/gitmek	to be/to go
Men	bolaýmasam /gidäýmesem	I think I may be /I think I may go
Sen	bolaýmasaň /gidäýmeseň	I think you may be /I think you may go
Ol	bolaýmasa /gidäýmese	I think he may be /I think he may go
Biz	bolaýmasak /gidäýmeselek	I think we may be /I think we may go
Siz	bolaýmasaňyz /gidäýmeseňiz	I think you may be /I think you may go
Olar	bolaýmasalar /gidäýmeseler	I think they may be/I think they may go

To use this form in the present tense, add “**bolaýmasa**” with the correct personal ending to a verbless statement, or add the “**-ýan/-ýän**” present participle ending to the verb and follow it with “**bolaýmasa**” and its correct personal ending. To make the statement negative, add “**-ma/-me**” before “**-ýan/-ýän**”:

Ol mekdepe bolaýmasa .	I think he may be in the school.
Ol mekdepe işleýän, bolaýmasa .	I think he may work in the school.
Sen bilýän, bolaýmasaň ...	I think you know...
Olar Türkmençe bilmeýän, bolaýmasa .	I think they might not know Turkmen.

To use this form in the past tense, make the conjugated verb a the past participle and use “**bolaýmasa**” as a helping verb:

Ol giden, bolaýmasa .	I think he may have gone.
Men ýazmadyk, bolaýmasam ...	I think I may not have written...
Sen kitabymy alan bolaýmasaň ...	I think you may have taken the book...

To use this form in the future tense, add “**-jak/-jek**” to the stem of the conjugated verb and use “**bolaýmasa**” as a helping verb. Note that for all verbs other than “**bolmak**,” if conjugated in this form, it indicates future tense. The negative is formed by inserting an “**m**” between the stem of the verb and “**-aýmasa/-äýmese**”:

Olar ertir myhmanhanada ýataýmasalar .	I think they may sleep in a hotel tomorrow.
Ol indi gitmejek, bolaýmasa .	I think he may not go now.
Ol keselhanada işlemäýmese .	I think he may not work in the hospital.
Biz toýa gidäýmeselek .	I think we may go to the party.
Siz täze jaý aljak bolaymasaňyz .	I think you may not buy a new house.

Expressing Wants and Desires

Isleg – Meýil Aňladylyşy

In Turkmen, there is a way to express a wish to do something that parallels the English use of infinitives: “**Men çay içmek isleýärim**” (I want to drink tea). However, a more common way to express desires involves a construction unlike any in English, utilizing “**gelmek**” as a helping verb: “**Meniň çay içesim gelýär**” (literally, *my tea-drinking comes*). This would roughly translate as “I want to drink tea”. The main verb “**içmek**” has the personal ending “**-esim**” added to the stem, with “**gelmek**” in the third-person singular, “**gelýär**.” Note the use of possessive pronouns rather than personal pronouns in the following table. However, as always, the pronoun can be omitted since the verb suffix indicates the subject.

	oýnamak/iýmek	to play/to eat
Meniň	oýnasym/iýesim gelýär	I want to play/to eat
Seniň	oýnasyň/iýesiň gelýär	You want to play/to eat
Onuň	oýnasy/iýesi gelýär	She want to play/to eat
Biziň	oýnasymyz/iýesimiz gelýär	We want to play/to eat
Siziň	oýnasyňyz/iýesiňiz gelýär	You want to play/to eat
Olaryň	oýnasy/iýesi gelýär	They want to play/to eat

Meniň köp kitap **okasym gelýär**.
 Onuň kakasynyň maşyn **alasy gelýär**.
 Amerikan naharyny **iýesim gelýär**.
 Seniň doňdurma **iýesiň gelýärmi?**
 Biziň şu gün **işläsimiz gelýär**.
 Onuň maşgalasyny **göresi gelýär**.

Jaý **alasy gelýär**, emma pulum ýok.

I want to read many books.
 His/her father wants to buy a car.
 I want to eat American food.
 Do you want to eat ice cream?
 We want to work today.
 She misses her family.
 (She wants to see her family.)
 I want to buy a house, but I don't have money.

The negative is formed by changing the “**gelýär**” to “**gelmeýär**” or, more commonly, “**gelenok**”:

Men hat ibermeli, ýöne poçta çenli **ýöräsim gelenok**.
 Meniň şu kitaby **okasym gelenok**.
 Onuň hiç kitap **okasy gelenok**.
 Bagyşlaň, ýöne biziň çorba **iýesimiz gelenok**.
 Meniň hiç zat **iýesim gelenok**.
 Onuň bir ýyl okuwy galdy, emma **okasy gelenok**.

I have to mail a letter but I don't want to walk to the post office.
 I do not want to read this book.
 He does not want to read any books.
 Excuse us, but we don't want to eat soup.
 I do not want to eat anything.
 He has one year of school left, but he doesn't want to study.

The past-tense form is also possible. To form the past-tense, simply use the third-person singular, past-tense form of the verb “**gelmek**”:

Meniň Türkmençe gowy **öwrenesim geldi**.
 Onuň suratçy **bolasy geldi**.

I wanted to learn Turkmen well.
 He wanted to be an artist.

Maşynymyzy **ýuwasymyz geldi**.

We wanted to wash our car.

The past-tense negative is formed by changing “**geldi**” to “**gelmedi**”:

Şu kinony **göresiň gelmedimi?**

You didn’t want to see this movie?

Meniň **okasym gelmedi**.

I did not want to read.

Meniň dün kän arak **ıçesim gelmedi**.

I didn’t want to drink a lot of vodka yesterday.

The future tense is also possible. To form the future tense, simply use the third-person singular, indefinite future form of “**gelmek**.”

Eger men gitsem, hemmäňizi **göresim geler**.

If I go, I will miss all of you.

Meniň dynç **alasym geler**.

I will want to take a rest.

The negative is formed by changing “**geler**” to “**gelmez**”:

Seniň şu taýda **yaşasyň gelmezmi?**

Won’t you want to live here?

Onuň ertir hiç zat **edesi gelmez**.

He won’t want to do anything tomorrow.

Comparatives and Superlatives

Deňeşdirme we Güýçlendirme

In Turkmen, the comparative form is made by adding the instrumentive suffix “**-dan/den**” to the “lesser” noun being compared. Unlike English, comparative adjectives in Turkmen typically come at the end of comparative statements.

Bu üzümler şol üzümlerden **süýji**.
these grapes those grapes-from sweet.
Aşgabat Mary**dan uly**.
Meniň gyzym onuň oglundan **akylly**.
Biziň işimiz siziňkiden **kyn**.

These grapes are sweeter than those grapes.
Ashgabat is bigger than Mary.
My daughter is smarter than her son.
Our work is more difficult than yours.

Use of the “**-rak/-räk**” suffix implies that there is only a small degree of difference between compared objects. It can roughly be translated to “a little” or “a little more.”

Gyzlar oganlardan **akyllyrak**.
Bekrewe Herrikgaladan **owadanrak**.
Türkmenistanyň howasy Amerikanyň howasyndan **yssyrak**.
Meniň köwşüm seniň köýnegiňden azajyk **gymmadrak**.

Girls are a little smarter than boys.
Bekrova is a little more beautiful than Herrikgala.
Turkmenistan’s weather is hotter than America’s weather.
My shoes are a little more expensive than your dress.

The “**-rak/-räk**” ending is also commonly used to express an evaluative idea similar to the English “kind of” or “sort of”:

Meniň saglygym **gowurak**.
Şu gün **sowugrak**.
Onuň öýi **kiçiräk**.
Düýnki nanymyz **gatyarakdy**.
Türkmenistanyň howasy **gyzgynrak**.

My health is sort of good.
Today it’s kind of cold.
His house is kind of small.
Our bread was a little hard yesterday.
Turkmenistan’s weather is kind of hot.

The “**has**” modifier is used to express a greater degree of difference between compared objects. It can be roughly translated to “much” or “much more.” If used in a non-comparative statement, the implied meaning is that something is compared to something else; see the third example below:

Aşgabat Moskwadan **has kiçi**.
Men türkmençäni rusçadan **has gowy** bilýärim.
Olar geçen ay **has köp** işlediler.

Ashgabat is much smaller than Moscow.
I know Turkmen much better than Russian.
They worked much more last month.

To form the superlative, the words “**iň**” are added before the adjective. In English, it can be translated as “the most.”

Maral meniň **iň gowy** okuwçym.

Maral is my best pupil.

Sekizinji synplaryň iň ökde okuwçylaryny saýla!	Choose the brightest pupils of the eighth grade.
Orsýet dünýäde iň uly ýurtdyr.	Russia is the largest country in the world.
Meniň pikirimçe, Türkmen dili iň kyn dil.	In my opinion, Turkmen is the most difficult language.
Türkmen atlary iň owadan .	Turkmen horses are the most beautiful.

To form comparisons that express likeness (equivalent to the English “as... as...”) Turkmen uses the following structure:

Seniň şlýapaň hem onuňky ýaly gymmat.	Your hat is as expensive as hers.
Seniň itiň hem onuňky ýaly uly.	Your dog is as big as his.
Onuň okuwçylary hem biziňki ýaly gowy.	Their students are as good as ours.
Meniň ejem hem Madonna ýaly oňat aýdym aýdyp bilýär.	My mother can sing as well as Madonna.

The English structure “so ... that” (“so big that...” or “so long that...”) is formed in Turkmen with the words “**şeylebir**” and “**welin**” (optional) in the following way:

Şeylebir köp adam toýa geldi welin , nahar ýetmedi.	So many people came to the party that there wasn't enough food.
Şeylebir garaňky welin , men hiç zat görüp bilmedim.	It was so dark that I couldn't see anything.
Howa şeylebir yssy, daşary çykar ýaly däl.	The weather is so hot it's impossible to go outside.

Statements Expressing Time

Wagt Aňladylyşy

Habitual Action In the Past

Endik Bolan Hereketleriň Öten Zamanda Aňladylyşy

It is used to express a habitual action that began and finished in the past, similar to “used to” or “would” in English. It is formed as follows: verb stem + “-ýar/ýär” + appropriate past-tense ending.

Men öň köp palow **iýýärdim**.

Sen kiçikäň nemes dilini **okaýardyň**.

Ol Türkmenistanda ýaşan wagty, dutar **çalýardy**.

Ýaňky adam örän gowy **okadýardy**, indi pensiýa çykdy.

Biz kiçikäk, futbol **oýnaýardyk**.

Siz iňlis dilini her gün **öwrenýärdiňizmi**?

Olar her 5-nji gün metjide **barýardylar**.

I used to eat a lot of palow.

You used to study German when you were little.

He used to play the dutar when he lived in Turkmenistan.

That guy (who was just here) used to teach very well, then he retired.

We played football when we were little.

Did you use to learn English every day?

They used to go to the mosque every Friday.

To form the negative, insert “-ma/-me” before the “-ýar/-ýär” suffix, or suffix “-mokdym” after the verb stem.

Men kiçikäm gök-önümleri **halamokdym**.

Biz Amerkadakak, türkmençe **bilmeýärdik**.

While I was little I didn’t used to like vegetables.

While we were in America, we didn’t know Turkmen.

The above grammar is typically used in conjunction with statements about things that happened at particular times. There are three ways to construct such statements, as outlined in the following sections. Note that, unlike English, the first clauses of such statements are tenseless; the tense is provided by the second clause. In literal terms, there is no distinction in Turkmen between “when I go” and “when I went,” unless the full sentence is given.

Statements With “wagt”

“Wagt” Sözi bilen Belli bir Wagty Aňlatmak

It is possible to apply personal possessive suffixes to the Turkmen word for time, “wagt,” and add a descriptive word to specify which time. This form is only used when speaking of the past.

Men **ýaş wagty**m futbol oýnaýardym.

Ol **okan wagty** diňe başlik alýardy.

Biz **kiçi wagty**myz surat alýardyk.

When I was young, I used to play football.

When she studied, she used to get only fives.

When we were little, we used to take pictures.

Temporal Statements With “-ka/-kä”**Wagty “-ka/-kä” bilen Aňlatmak**

The suffix “-ka/-kä” can be added to other words to express that the action of the sentence happened at that time. It implies a continuous situation in the past, as opposed to a single event. To use this form correctly, add the appropriate personal ending to the suffix, as follows:

Men	-kam/käm
Sen	-kaň/-käň
Ol	-ka/-kä
Biz	-kak/käk
Siz	-kaňyz/-käňiz
Olar	-kalar/-käler

Sen **bäbekkäň** köp aglaýardyň.

While you were a baby, you used to cry a lot.

Ol **okuwçyka** hiç wagt okamaýardy.

While he was a student, he never used to study.

Biz **kiçikäk** nemis dilini öwrenýärdik.

While we were little, we used to learn German.

Olar **kiçikäler** bu ýerde köp ruslar bardy.

While they were small there were a lot of Russian people here.

When used in conjunction with a place, “-da/-de” is inserted between the place and the appropriate “-ka/-kä” suffix, as follows:

Men **uniwersitetdekäm** köp kitap okaýardym.

I used to read many books while I was in the university.

Ol **Türkmenistandaka** rus dilini hem öwrendi.

While she was in Turkmenistan, she also learned Russian.

Biz şu gün **mekdepdekäk**, gar ýagdy.

While we were at school today, it snowed.

When used in conjunction with a verb, the third-person present simple suffix “-ýar/-ýär” is inserted between the verb stem and the appropriate “-ka/-kä” suffix. As usual, the first clause is tenseless.

Ol Amerikada **ýaşaýarka**, Türkmenistan barada bilenokdy.

While he was living in America, he did not know about Turkmenistan.

Işden öýe **gelyärkäň** çörek getir.

While you’re coming home from work, bring bread.

Negatives are formed by replacing “-ýar/-ýär” with “**man/män**” as below. The actual meaning is similar to an English “before” clause, and carries the same meaning as the “-maz/-mez” form (see below).

Magtymguly köçä **ýetmäňkäň**, sag tarapda dükan bar.

The store is on the right side before you reach Magtymguly Street.

Men Türkmenistana **gelmänkäm**, şu kitaby

I read this book before coming to

okapdym.

Turkmenistan.

Constructing Time Clauses

Iki Hereketiň bir Wagtda Bolmagynyň Aňladylyşy

In English we form adverbial clauses that indicate a time at which an action occurs using the word “when.” In Turkmen, when the time indicated is shown in relation to another action (for example: “when I came” or “when she calls”) this information is expressed by adding an ending to the verb that defines the time. As with the “**wagt**” and “**-ka/-kä**” constructions outlined above, the time clause itself is tenseless. Structure is as follows: verb stem + “**-an/-en/-n**” + possessive suffix + “**-da/-de**.” Note that while the adverbial clause may begin with the word “Haçan-da” (equivalent to the English “when”), this word is generally dropped, especially in spoken Turkmen.

	asgyrmak/içmek (written form)	asgyrmak/içmek (spoken form)	to sneeze/to drink
Men	asgyranymda/içenimde	asgyramda/içemde	When I sneeze/drink
Sen	asgyranyňda/içeniňde	asgyraňda/içeňde	When you sneeze/drink
Ol	asgyranynda/içeninde	asgyranda/içende	When he sneeze/drink
Biz	asgyranymyzda/içenimizde	asgyramyzda/içemizde	When we sneeze/drink
Siz	asgyranyňyzda/içeniňizde	asgyraňyzda/içeňizde	When you sneeze/drink
Olar	asgyranynda/içeninde	asgyranda/içende	When they sneeze/drink

(Haçan-da) Men Türkmenistana **gelenimde**
Türkmen dilini öwrenip başladym.
Sen jaň **edeniňde**, men ýatyrdym.
Ol Aşgabatda **geleninde**, meniň öýüme gelýär.

When I came to Turkmenistan, I began to learn Turkmen.
When you called, I was sleeping.
When he comes to Ashgabat, he comes to my house.
When we take an exam, we get very tired.
While you were working in the yard, we were eating.

Biz eksamen **berenimizde**, gaty ýadaýas.
Siz howluda **işläniňizde**, biz nahar iýip otyrdyk

Statements With “Before” and “After”

“Öň” we “Soň”Sözleri bilen Belli bir Wagtyň Aňladylyşy

In Turkmen, the construction for expressing an action that comes before or after something else is unique and very important. If an action comes before something else, the structure is as follows: verb stem + “**-maz/-mez**” + possessive suffix + “**-dan/-den**” + “**öň**”:

	açmak/eşitmek	to open/to hear
Men	açmazymdan/eşitmezimden öň	Before I open/hear
Sen	açmazyňdan/eşitmeziňden öň	Before you open/hear
Ol	açmazyndan/eşitmezinden öň	Before he opens/hears
Biz	açmazymyzdan/eşitmezimizden öň	Before we open/hear
Siz	açmazyňyzdan/eşitmeziňizden öň	Before you open/hear
Olar	açmazyndan/eşitmezinden öň	Before they open/hear

Men **ýatmazymdan öň** öý işlerimi gutarypdym. I finished my homework before I slept.

Men Türkmenistana **gelmezimden öň** şu kitaby okapdym.

I read this book before I came to Turkmenistan.

If you specify the subject or it is implied elsewhere, the possessive suffix is not necessary. For example:

Ol işe **gitmezden öň**, suwa düşüpdür.

She took a shower before she went to work.

Telefonda **gürleşmezden öň**, tölemeli.

(You) must pay before you speak on the telephone.

Men Aşgabada **gaýtmazdan öň**, maşgalam antenna satyn aldy.

Before I returned to Ashgabat, my family bought a satellite dish.

If an action comes after something else, the structure is as follows: verb stem + “-an/-en” + possessive suffix + “-dan/-den” + “soň”:

Men **ýatyp turanymdan soň** işlerimi gutararyn.

I will finish my work after I sleep.

Men Türkmenistana **gelenimden soň** şu kitaby okapdym.

I read this book after I came to Turkmenistan.

Telefonda **gürleşip bolanyňdan soň** tölemeli.

You must pay after you finish speaking on the telephone.

Men naharymy **iýip bolanymdan soň** bararyn.

I will go after I finish eating.

Expressing lengths of time

Hereketiň Dowamlylygynyň Aňladylyşy

To express the length of time for a noun, the suffix “-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük” is sometimes used.

bäş minut**lyk** iş
üç gün**lük** rugsat

(5 minutes of work)
(3-day vacation)

In a similar way, the time duration of verbs can also be expressed using the above suffix, similar to English use of “for.” However, the suffix should not be used with verbs that occur over a length of time; it should only be used with verbs that occur at a single moment (**gitmek, gelmek, almak, bermek**).

Iki ýyl**lyk** geldim.

(I came for 2 years.)

Dört aý**lyk** gitdi.

(He left for four months.)

Hassahanada üç sagat boldyk.

(We were at the hospital for 3 hours.)

~~Hassahanada üç sagat**lyk** boldyk.~~

If the verb does occur over a length of time, the suffix “-lap/-läp,” may be used, although it is optional. Note that the action could still be taking place, or it may have ended:

Ol on bäş ýyl**lap** gitara çaldy.

He played (has been playing) guitar for 15 years.

Men posylka bäş gün**läp** garaşdym.

I waited for the package for 5 days.

Sen on ýyllap mekdepde okadyňmy?
Gahrymanlar üç günläp suw içmändirler.

Did you study for 10 years?
The heroes drank no water for three days.

To communicate the idea of having done something since a specific moment in time in the past, Turkmen uses the present tense in combination with the instrumental case and the postposition “**bäri**” (similar to the English “since”):

Olar sagat ondan **bäri** ýygnaýda.

They have been in the meeting since 10 o'clock.

Men Turkmenistana gelenimden **bäri** Türkmençe öwrenýän.

I have been learning Turkmen since I came to Turkmenistan.

Ol on baş ýaşyndan **bäri** dutar çalýar.

He has been playing dutar since he was 15 years old.

Ol on baş ýyl(dan) **bäri** dutar çalýar.

He has been playing dutar for 15 years.

Statements With “-ça/-çä”

Wagtyň “-ça/-çä” bilen Aňladylyşy

The English prepositions “until” or “while” can be expressed in Turkmen with the suffix “-ça/-çä.” Structure is as follows: verb stem + “-ýan/-ýän” + “-ça/-çä” + possessive suffix:

Bolýar Döwlet, men gitdim, **görüşýänçäk**.

Okay Dowlet, I'm gone, until we see each other again.

Nahar **bişýänçä** maňa kömekleşsene!

Until the food is done, please help me!

Sapak **başlaýança** kart oýnadyk.

Until the lesson began, we played cards.

Garaňky **düşýänçä** men daşarda oturjak.

Until it gets dark, I'm going to sit outside.

Sen zzyňa **gelyänçän** men ýataryn.

Until you come back, I'm going to sleep.

Siz şähre **gidýänçäňiz** maňa azajyk kömek edäýiň.

Before you go to the city, please help me a little bit.

While the “-ça/-çä” ending may be translated as “until,” note that when referring to times, dates, or other numbers (e.g. “until 6 o'clock”), the postposition “**çenli**” is used:

Men sagat sekize **çenli** mekdepde galmaly.

I have to stay at the school until 8 o'clock.

Ol 6-njy klasdan 9-nji klasa **çenli** okadýar.

He teaches 6th through 9th grades.

Biz ona **çenli** öýe gelmedik.

We didn't come home until 10 o'clock.

Sagat üçe **çenli** öý işleriňi işle.

Do your homework by (until) 3 o'clock.

Mekdep wagta **çenli** nahar bişireris.

We'll cook until it's time for school.

Mekdep wagta **çenli** nahar bişmeli.

The food must be ready by the time school starts.

Gerunds and Infinitives

Işliklerden Ýasalan Atlar we Işligiň Nämälim Formalary

In Turkmen, verbs are sometimes used as nouns, akin to the English use of infinitives and the “-ing” form of verbs. For example:

Ony tapmak kyn.	Finding her is difficult. (It is difficult to find her.)
Käşir iýmek peýdaly.	Eating carrots is healthy. (It is healthy to eat carrots.)
Taryh barada kitap okamak gyzykly.	It is interesting to read books about history.

The difference is that, in Turkmen, cases can then be applied:

Men almany halaýan.	I like apples.
Men ýatmagy halaýan.	I like sleeping. (to sleep)
Işlemegi dowam et!	Continue working! (to work)
Iňlis dilinde geplemegi öwreniň.	Learn to speak in English.
Mekdebimiziň okuwçylary kuşt oýnamakda utuldylar.	Our school’s students lost at playing chess.
Işlemekden ýadadym.	I am tired from working.

Possessive suffixes may also be added:

Bize kömekleşmegiň gerek.	We need your help.
Iňlis dilinde geplemegi öwreniň.	Learn to speak in English.
Şu gün işe gelmegimiz hökman däl.	Today our going to work is unnecessary.

Applying Dative Case to Verbs: -maga/-mäge

Ýöneliş Düşümiň Işlikler bilen Ulanylyşy

On account of sound assimilation, a ‘k’ changes to a ‘g’ when followed by other letters, and the infinitive changes accordingly. In these cases, “-a/-e” is added to the infinitive, showing directional action. It is used to express that someone “went,” “came,” or “entered” in order to do something else. Note that in speech (but never in writing), “-maga/-mäge” is often pronounced “-mana/-mäne.”

Men mekdebe doganymy tapmaga gitdim.	I went to school to find my sister.
Men bazara iýmit almaga gidýärim.	I’m going to the bazaar to buy food.
Sen uniwersitete Türkmen dili okamaga girjekmi?	Will you enter the university to study Turkmen language?
Biz iňlis dilini we saglyk barada okatmaga geldik.	We came to teach English language and about health.
Biz çykyşy görmäge gidýäris.	We are going to see the performance.
Olar nahary iýmäge gidipdirler.	They have gone to eat dinner.
Siz ol ýere kino görmäge barýarsyňyzmy?	Are you going there to see a movie?
Olar sapaklarymyzy barlamaga gelerler.	They will come to review our lessons.
Sen Ahal-teke atlary münmäge gidýärsiňmi?	Are you going to ride the Ahal-teke horses?

Men 3-de suratlaryňy **görmäge** barjak.
 Ol biziň täze doglan bäbegimizi **görmäge** geldi.
 Olar aýda bir gezek pul **almaga** banka barýarlar.

I'll come to see your pictures at 3.
 He came to see our new-born baby.
 They go to the bank once a month to take money.

Many grammatical structures that initially seem complicated are simply applications of cases, and can be more easily absorbed upon realization of this.

Gerunds with “-yyş/-ýiş/-yş/-iş/-uş/-üş”

Işliklerden At Ýasalyşy

Another way of forming gerunds in Turkmen uses the endings “-yyş/-ýiş/-yş/-iş/-uş/-üş”:

Köp adam onuň **ýazyşyny** halaýalar.
 Men onuň tort **bişirişini** öwrendim.
 Biziň futbol **oýnaýşymyzy** görjekmi?
 Ene-atalarymyz biziň **okaýyşymyz** bilen gyzyklanýalar.

Many people like her writing.
 I learned his cake-baking.
 Do you want to watch our soccer playing?
 Our parents take an interest in our studies.

Imposing Desires on Others: -magyny/-megini

Başganyň Ýerine Ýetirmegine Bagly Isleg

The following structure expresses one's desire or need for someone else to do something. In Turkmen, this unique structure links the possessive pronoun to the intended action. This form is more formal and, therefore, more common in writing. In these statements, there are two people: the person who desires or wants the action, and the person who they want to do the action. The structure is as follows: the director + whose action they desire or need (in genitive form) + the desired action (verb infinitive + possessed form + accusative case) + want/request/wait. Note that, when speaking, reported speech is almost always used in place of this grammar (“My father told me to study,” not “My father wants me to study.”).

Men	seniň	tort	äkelmegiňi	isleyärin.
I	your	cake	(to bring + iň + i)	(I) want.

I want you to bring a cake.

Sen	meniň	tort	äkelmegimi	isleyärsiň.
You	my	cake	(to bring + im + i)	(you) want.

You want me to bring a cake.

Ol	olaryň	tort	äkelmegini	isleyär.
She	their	cake	(to bring + i +ni)	(she) wants.

She wants them to bring a cake.

Biz	siziň	futbol	oýnamagyňyzy	haýyş edýäris.
We	your	football	(to play + ýňyz + y)	(we) request.

We request that you all play football.

Siz	olaryň	futbol	oýnamagyny	haýyş edýärsiňizmi?
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You their football (to play + y + ny) (you) request?
Are you requesting that they play football?

Ol **seniň diňlemegiňi** isleýär.

She wants you to listen.

Onuň şeýle **etmegini** haýyş etdim.

I asked her to do it like that.

Onuň gelmegini isleýärin.

I want him to come.

Men **seniň gelmegiňi** haýyş edýärin.

I request that you come.

Men **seniň gelmegiňe** garaşýaryn.

I await your arrival.

Because of the conjugation of the main verb, the first pronoun is not always necessary. Compare the first sentence with the second.

Postpositions

Ugur Görkeziji Kömekçi Sözler

Postpositions, the Turkmen equivalent of English prepositions, differ from their English counterparts not only in that they occur after a noun rather than before it, but also in that they employ a special possessive structure. When saying where something is, you must describe its location as possessed by another object. For example, “the book is on the table” is literally “the book is on the table’s top” in Turkmen. Some examples:

Kitabyň gapdalynda depder dur.

(book’s side-at notebook standing.)

Türkmenistanyň günbatarynda Hazar deňzi
ýerleşýär.

(Turkmenistan’s west-at Caspian Sea located)

Mekdebiň ýokarsynda baýdak parlap dur.

Buludyň yzynda gün şöhle saçyp dur.

Mugallym okuwçylaryň önünde dur.

Bu gürrüň ikimiziň aramyzda galsyn.

Direktor mekdebiň içinde.

Pulumy stoluň üstünde goýdum.

Meniň üstümde oturmasana!

There is a notebook beside the book.

The Caspian Sea is located to the west of
Turkmenistan.

The flag is waving above the school.

The sun is shining behind the clouds.

The teacher is standing in front of the
students.

Let this conversation stay between you
and me.

The director is inside the school.

I put my money on the table.

Please don’t sit on me!

A handful other common postpositions, however, do not employ this structure. Examples of these include “üçin” (for), “bilen” (with), and “barada” and “hakda” (both meaning “about”). Note that when some of these postpositions (such as “üçin” and “bilen”) are used in combination with pronouns, the pronouns usually appear in the genitive case:

“Meniň üçin” or “meň üçin,” “onuň üçin” or “oň üçin,” “biziň üçin” or “biz üçin” (but never “olaryň üçin,” only “olar üçin”); “meniň bilen,” “seniň bilen,” or “siziň bilen,” (but not “olaryň bilen,” only “olar bilen”).

Other Important Grammatical Points

Beýleki Möhüm Grammatiki Bölümler

Bar and Ýok

Bar we Ýok

When English employs the verb “to have” or “to exist,” as well as various other structures such as “there is/are,” Turkmen employs the half-verb “**bar**,” and as a negation, its opposite, “**ýok**.” When used in combination with the genitive case and sometimes the locative case, “**bar**” is usually most closely translated into English as the verb “to have”:

Meniň Ejem **bar**.

I have a mother.

Biziň erkek doganymyz **ýok**.

We don't have a brother.

Merediň maşyny **bar**.

Meret has a car.

Meretde maşyn **bar**.

Meret has a car.

Often when **bar** is used in combination with the locative or nominative cases, it does not indicate ownership, but only existence and/or location of an object:

Gülşatda açar **bar**.

Gushat has a key.

Mekdepde iki kompýuter **bar**.

In the school there are two computers.

Howluda it **ýok**.

There's no dog in the yard.

Bärde restoran **ýokmy**?

There's no restaurant here?

Şaşlyk **barmy**?

Is there any shashlyk?

Barmy Maksat?

Is Maksat here?

To use “**bar**” or “**ýok**” in the past tense, simply add the simple past tense endings:

Men şol otaga girjekdim, ýöne ol ýerde ýygnak **bardy**.

I was going to enter that room, but there was a meeting there.

Olaryň toýynda arak **ýokdy**.

There was no vodka at their party.

Biziň maşynymyz **bardy**, ýöne satdyk.

We had a car, but we sold it.

Note, however, that in the future and conditional tenses, “**bar**” and “**ýok**” are replaced by the verb “**bolmak**” (see below). Also note that there is a verb “**barmak**,” which means “to be going somewhere,” or “to arrive,” and it should not be confused with the half-verb “**bar**.”

The Verb “Bolmak”

“Bolmak” işligi

One point of confusion faced by English speakers when first learning Turkmen is the frequent omission of a verb when in English the verb “to be” is required. While there is a Turkmen equivalent of the verb “to be” (“**bolmak**”), it is used in a variety of ways that often differ from the uses of the English variant. First note that it is not usually used as a connecting verb in the present tense, as the English verb “to be” is:

Türkmenistan owadan.

Turkmenistan is beautiful.

Men mugallym.

I am a teacher.

However, when describing a state of being that is regularly or always true, “**bolmak**” may be used in the present tense. Note the contrast in the following two examples:

Bu gün yssy.
Tomus yssy **bolýar**.

Today it’s hot.
It’s hot in the summer.

“**Bolmak**” may also be used as a connecting verb in the past tense.

Bu ýyl tomus yssy **boldy**.
Kino gaty gyzykly **boldy**.
Biz barjakdyk, emma giç **boldy**.

Summer was hot this year.
The movie was very interesting.
We would have gone, but it was late.

While in many cases, Turkmens simply apply past tense endings to an adjective or noun to communicate this idea, note that sometimes both options are possible, and there can sometimes be a slight difference in meaning. This difference has to do with whether or not what is being described is still true:

Toýda adam köpdi.
Toýda köp adam **boldy**.

There were many people at the party (and they may or may not be there anymore).
There were many people at the party (but not anymore).

Note also that in the above examples, instead of “**boldy**” or simply using the past tense endings, the half-verb “bar” may also be used in combination with past tense endings to express the same idea:

Toýda köp adam bardy.
Onuň ýetirlik puly bardy.

There were many people at the party.
She had enough money.

However, in the future tense and in the conditional tense, “**bolmak**” serves both as a connecting verb and in place of “bar,” although it is sometimes acceptable to use “bar” and “bolmak” together in a conditional phrase:

Men Parahatçylyk Korpusynyň Meýlitiňçisi
boljak.
Şäherde maşyn kän **bolar**.
(Şäherde maşyn kän ~~bar~~ **bolar**.)
Nahar süýji **bolmasa**, az iýerin.
Wagtym **bolsa**, saňa kömek ederin.
Wagtyňyz **bar bolsa**, bize kömek ediň.
Mugallym **bolmasa**, sapak **bolmaz**.
(Mugallym **ýok bolsa**, sapak ~~ýok~~ **bolar**.)

I’m going to be a Peace Corps Volunteer.
There will be a lot of cars in the city.
If the food isn’t good, I won’t eat a lot.
If I have time, I’ll help you.
If you have time, help us.
If there’s no teacher, there won’t be a lesson.

The use of “**bolmak**” is also necessary in various command forms:

Akylyly bol !	Behave yourself! (literally: Be smart!)
Sag boluň .	Thank you /goodbye (lit: Be well!).
Ýaşy uzyn bolsun !	May he have long life! (lit: May his years be long!)
Bol !	Go! /It's your turn! /Finish!

At times, the verb “**bolmak**” is used in a sense similar to “gutarmak,” to finish, especially in combination with a second verb in the **-ip/-yp/-up/-üp/-p** form:

Bolduňmy?	Are you done?
Ol bu kitaby okap boldumy?	Has she finished reading this book?

In other cases, “**bolmak**” may carry a meaning similar to the English verb “to happen”:

Näme boldy?	What happened?
Oňa näme bolýar?	What's the matter him?
Kinoda näme bolup dur?	What's going on in the movie?

A final use of “**bolmak**” is in various colloquial expressions:

Bolýarmy? (Bormy?)	Okay?
Boljak.	It'll do.
Boldy.	Done. That's all.
Bolmaz.	It won't work.
Bolanok.	It's not correct./I'm not agree with you.

“In Order To”

Üçin / Yaly

Gerunds can be used with the accusative case to convey that one action was performed in order to complete another, separate action (see p.689). To express similar statements that lack directional action (sentences with verbs that do not take the dative case), the construction is different. The Turkmen construction can be literally translated as “for” or “in order to do” something. Structure is as follows: verb infinitive + “**üçin**”:

Men 5-lik almak üçin ýazdym.	I wrote in order to get a five.
Ol bilimli bolmak üçin oňat okady.	He studied in order to be knowledgeable.
Biz şu Türkmen el işlerini öýümüzäkilere bermek üçin satyn aldyk.	We bought these Turkmen handicrafts to give to our family (those at our home).
Sen teatra girmek üçin töledinmi?	Did you pay to get into the theater?

Below is an alternative construction to express the equivalent of the English “so that” or “in order to,” which is especially common in conversation. Structure is as follows: desired outcome

with verb in third-person singular, indefinite future tense + “**ýaly**” + action being performed in order to achieve the outcome:

Men kitaby gowy **okar ýaly** äýnek dakynýaryn.

I wear glasses so that I can read books well.

Joram gowy iş **tapar ýaly** iňlis dilini öwrenýär.

My friend studies English in order to find a good job.

Günün ýagtysy **girmez ýaly** tutyny ýapyp bersene.

Please close the curtain so that the sun's light won't come in.

Biz saglygymyz oňat **bolar ýaly** ýagly nahar iýemizok.

In order that our health will be good, we don't eat fatty food.

Sen rugsat **alar ýaly** bilim bölümüne barmaly.

In order to get permission you must go by the Education Department.

Seniň dişiň ak **bolar ýaly** günde iki gezek dişiňi ýuwmaly.

You should brush your teeth twice a day so that your teeth will be white.

Wondering

“-myka/-mikä;-ka/-kä” bilen Soralyşy

The suffixes “-ka/-kä” are added to the final word of a question sentence to emphasize wonder or a desire to know something that is uncertain. In some cases it is similar to the English “I wonder,” though usually the speaker expects an answer from someone else. Construction is as follows: question + “-ka/-kä” + possessive suffix:

Serdar barmy**ka**?

Can you tell me if Serdar is there?

Ejeň şähre gitdimi**kä**?

Can you tell me if your mother went to the city?

Haçan geleri**kä**?

Can you tell me when she'll come?

Şu taýda saklap bolmazmy**ka**?

(I wonder) would it be possible to stop here?

Amerikanyň ilçihanasynyň nirededigini aýdyp bilmezmi**käňiz**?

Could you tell me where the American Embassy is?

Konferensiýa haçan**ka**?

(I wonder) when is the conference?

Biz ertir şähre gidip bilerismi**käk**?

Will we be able to go to the city tomorrow?

Men seniň bilen teatra gidip bilermi**käm**?

I wonder if I can go with you to the theater.

Uly klaslary okadyp bilermi**käňiz**?

Can you teach big classes?

Note that, as the examples illustrate, the “-ka/-kä” suffix itself can imply the subject of the statement.

Causing

Sebäpli/üçin

As in English, it is possible to relate an explanation for the outcome of a situation, similar to the use of “because of” (“sebäpli”). However, in Turkmen, “**üçin**” may also be used to convey the same meaning. When the reason contains a verb, the ending of the verb changes slightly. For

past tense, construction is as follows: verb stem + “-an/-en” + “-lygy/-ligi” + “sebäpli” + result clause. For present tense, replace the “-an/-en” with “-ýan/-ýän”:

Ýagys ýaganlygy sebäpli, uçar wagtynda uçmady.
Kurorta gidýänligiňiz üçin bir aý rugsat almaly bolarsyňyz.

Because it rained, the plane didn't take off on time.
You will have to ask for one month (of vacation) in order to go to the spa.

For negative statements in the present tense, add “-ma/-me” after the verb stem; for past tense, change the “-an/-en” to “-man/-män.”

Siziň kasseta getirmänliginiňiz üçin kino görüp bilmeris.
Ýaramaýanlygym sebäpli şu gün okuwa gidip bilmedim.

Because you didn't bring the cassette, we will not be able to watch the movie.
Because I am sick, I couldn't go to school today.

Reported Speech

Başganyň Sözüniň Üçünji Yöňkemedede Berilmegi

The “-dyk/-dik” endings, when added to a word, are similar to the English “that” and create a dependent clause or show indirect speech in a sentence. To use “-dyk/-dik,” add the suffixes to the conjugated verb that belongs in the dependent clause and add the appropriate possessive suffix (-ym/-im, -yň/-iň, -yn/-in, -ymyz/-imiz, -yňyz/-iňiz, -yn/-in) in the accusative case (-y/-i). The “-dyk/-dik” endings may also be added directly to a noun, adjective, or question word.

Men	oňa	altyda	geljekdigimi	áýtdym.
I	to him	at 6:00	(will come + that + m + i)	(I) told.

I told him that I would come at 6:00.

The following examples show how to express such statements in different tenses:

Ol özüniň günde telewizor görýändigini áýtdy.	He said that he watches television everyday.
Ol özüniň günde telewizor göreňdigini áýtdy.	He said that he watched television every day.
Ol özüniň günde telewizor görjekdigini áýtdy.	He said that he would watch television every day.
Siz maňa näme isleýändigini aýdyň.	Tell me what you want.
Ol maňa köp zat öwrenýändigini áýtdy.	He told me that he's learning a lot.
Ol maňa seniň gelendigiňi áýtdy.	She told me that you came.
Köwşüň bahasynyň näçedigini áýdyp bilersiňmi?	Can you tell me how much your shoes cost?
Mugallymyň nirededigini bilýärsiňizmi?	Do you know where the teacher is?
Men ol gyzyň menden ulydygyny bilýärin.	I know that girl is taller than I.
Men seniň kitabyň meniňkiden gowudygyny bilýärin.	I know that your book is better than mine.
Biz şu kitabyň sözlükdigini bilýäris.	We know that this book is a dictionary.

Men toýuň nirede geçiriljekdigini bilemok.
Men toýuň nirede bolýandygyny bilemok.
Men mugallymyň nirededigini bilemok.

I don't know where the party will be held.
I don't know where the party is.
I don't know where the teacher is.

In spoken Turkmen, if the last word of the dependent clause is a verb, the “-dyk/-dik” part of the ending is frequently dropped:

Men toýuň nirede bolýanyňy bilemok.
Ol maňa seniň geleniňi aýtdy
Ol (özüniň) günde telewizor görjegini aýtdy.

I don't know where the party is.
She told me that you came.
He said that he would watch television everyday.

Expressing Hearsay and Rumor: -myş/-miş *Eşitmiş*

These endings indicate that something has been overheard or is rumored to be true. Typically, it is used informally to gossip, with a meaning similar to “I heard that” or “they say that”. In the present tense, simply add “-myş/-miş” to the end of the sentence, according to vowel harmony. Because the structure is used almost exclusively when speaking in the third person, conjugations for first and second person have been omitted.

Ol inlisçe kitaplary okaýarmyş.
Ol köp iýýärmiş.
Daşary ýurtlarda biziň dogan-garyndaşlarymyz barmyş.
Serdar agşamlaryna işleýärmiş.

(They say that) she reads English books.
(I heard that) she eats a lot.
(It's been said that) we have relatives in foreign countries.
(They say that) Serdar works in the evenings.
(People are saying that) boys must pay \$3,000 in order to marry a girl.

Oglanlar gyz almak üçin 3.000 dollar tölemelimiş.

To express this kind of statement in the past-tense, add either the “-an/-en/-n” past-tense ending or the “-yp/-ip/-p” participial ending to the verb stem, followed by the “-myş/-miş” suffix:

Gyzyň synaglardan 5-lik alanmyş.
Nýu -Ýorkda baş günläp gar ýagypmyş.
Toý 5-de başlanmyş.

(They told me) your daughter got fives on the exams.
(They say that) it snowed for five days in New York.
(It's rumored that) the wedding began at 5.

To express this kind of statement in the future tense, simply add one of the definite future-tense suffix “-jak/-jek” to the verb stem, followed by “-myş/-miş.”

Gülşat indiki aý toý etjekmiş.
Şu ýyl Amerikada täze Prezident saýlanjakmyş.

(I've heard that) Gulshat will get married next month.
(I hear) a new president will be chosen in America this year.

Indiki aý Bil Klinton täze kitaby neşir edjekmiş. (It's rumored that) Bill Clinton will publish a new book next month.
Myhmanlar 7-de barjakmyş. (She says) the guests will come at 7.

To Get The Attention “Bara”

“Bara”-Kömekçi Sözi

The Turkmen word “**bara**” is used to bring attention to a specific person, place, or thing. Although English doesn't use a similar word, it can be translated roughly as, “You know...” or “Take...for example.”

Ýañky aýal bara, ol meniň ejemiň jorasy. You know the woman who was just here;
she's my mother's friend.

In Turkmen, “**ýañky aýal**” literally means “the last woman” or “the woman who was just here.” The word “**bara**” emphasizes that the speaker wishes to bring the listener's attention to a specific woman and that a statement about that woman will follow.

Şu kitap bara, biziň direktorymyzyň ýazan You know this book—it's the book that
kitaby. our director wrote.
Biziň goňşumyz bara, dünýň maşynyny satypdyr. You know our neighbors—yesterday they
sold their car.
Poçtadaky aýallar bara, seni sorady. You know the women at the Post Office—
they asked about you.
Jemal bara, geçen hepde okuwa girdi. You know Jemal—she started school last
week.

However, note that the word *bara* often has no meaning at all, and is simply used to get the attention of others when one begins speaking, as in “Men bara...” or “Sen bara...”

Verb Suffixes

Işlik Goşulmalary

One very crucial part of knowing Turkmen is learning to use and understand the complex system of suffixes. Simply defined, suffixes, or “**goşulmalar**” are endings added to verb stems to change the verbs’ usage and function.

Passive: -yl/-il, -ul/-ül, -l

Işligiň gaýdym derejesi

Adding the following “**goşulmalar**” changes the verb from the active voice to the passive voice. As in English, it is employed when the subject is unknown or unimportant.

ýýmek
ýýlmek

to eat
to be eaten

Meniň ejem uly halyny dokady.
Şu haly ýününden **dokaldy**.

My mother wove a big carpet.
This carpet **was woven** from wool.

Şu ýyl ýazyjylar täze hekaýalary döretdiler.
Ýaňy-ýakynda şäherimiz hakynda täze goşgy
döredildi.

This year, writers created new stories.
Recently a new poem **was written** about
our city.

Ol hemişe bize sowgat berýär.
Tok, duz, gaz, we suw mugt **berilýär**.

He always gives us gifts.
Electricity, salt, gas, and water **are given**
for free.

Onuň bilen şertnama **baglaşyldy**.
Geçen hepde gyzykly kino **görkezildi**.

A contract was signed with him.
Last week an interesting film **was shown**.

Güljan dişleriniň **bejerilmegini** isledi.

Guljan wanted to have her teeth fixed.

Reflexive: -yn/-in, -un/-ün, -n

Işligiň özlük derejesi

Adding the following “**goşulmalar**” makes the verb reflexive so that the subject of the sentence is acting upon itself.

ýuwmak
ýuwunmak

to wash
to wash oneself

Men günde joralarymy görýärim.
Ol işe **görnüp** gaýtdy.

I see my girlfriends everyday.
He showed himself at work and left.

Kakam paltany maşyna söýedi.
Ol diwara **söýendi**.

My father leaned the axe against the car.
He leaned (himself) against the wall.

Jemal, nirä gitdiň? **Görneňok!**

Jemal, where did you go? You haven’t
shown yourself! (I haven’t seen you!)

Reciprocal: -yş/-iş, -uş/-üş, -ş**Özara, Ikitaraplaýyn Hereket**

Adding these “**goşulmalar**” expresses that the action is exchanged between two people or groups. To express reciprocal action in English we often say “each other” or “one another.”

geplemek gepleşmek	to speak to converse
Maral jigisini gujaklady. Dostlar gujaklaşdylar we ogşaşdylar . Sen Selbini gördüňmi? Biz görsüp salamlaşdyk . Sag boluň, görüşýänçäk . Jemal we Jeren täze ýylda sowgatlar berşerler . Güljan bilen goňşulary günde salamlaşýar . Okuwçylar sorag-jogap alyşdylar .	Maral hugged her little brother/sister. The friends hugged and kissed each other. Did you see Selbi? We saw and greeted each other. Good-bye, until we see each other (again). Jemal and Jeren will give each other presents on New Years. Guljan and her neighbors greet each other every morning. The students exchanged questions and answers.

However, note that with some verbs, this ending is not necessarily reflexive (“kömekleşmek,” “bişirişmek,” “göterişmek,” “ýazyşmak,” or sometimes even the verbs in the above examples). In these cases, the meaning is that one person helped another do something.

Men oňa kitap ýazyşdym . Ol jigisine öý işini işleşdi .	I helped her write a book. He helped his little bother do his homework.
--	--

Causative: -dyr/-dir, -dur/-dür, -yr/-ir, -ur/-ür, -uz/-üz, -ar/-er, -dar/-der, -t
Işligiň täsirini geçirme

Adding these “**goşulmalar**” makes the subject of the verb also the cause of an action or state, for example making someone do something.

düşünmek düşündürmek	to understand to explain (to make understood)
okamak okatmak	to learn to teach (to make someone else learn)
Men şu kitap bilen gyzyklanamok. Meni mugallym şu kitap bilen gyzyklandyrdy . Mergen öýe gelip derrew ýatdy. Gülşat çagalaryny giç ýatyrdy .	I am not interested in this book. The teacher got me interested in this book. Mergen came home and went to sleep right away. Gulshat put her children to bed late.

Men Aýnabady görenimde güldüm.
Ol gülkünç degişme aýdanynda, dostlaryny
güldürdi.

When I saw Aynabat, I laughed.
He made his friends laugh when he told a
funny joke.

Tomsuna hemme adamlar ir turýarlar.
Sagat 10-da meni **turuzsana!**
Ol işledi.
Ol meni howlusynda **işletdi.**

Everyone wakes up early in the summer.
Wake me up at 10 o'clock!
He worked.
He made me work in his yard.

Ol şu gün ýalňyşyna düşüdi.
Mugallym täze mowzugy **düşündirdi.**

Today he realized he had made a mistake.
The teacher explained a new topic.

Only “**görmek**” (to see) uses the “**goşulma**” “**-kez**” in its causative form:

Olar bizi köçede gördüler.
Men suratlarymy jorama **görkezýärim.**

They saw us on the street.
I am showing my friend my pictures.

Important Suffixes and Prefixes

Möhüm Öň we Soň Goşulmalary

-la/-le

The suffix “**-la/-le**” is often used to form a verb from a noun or adjective.

gep	speech	iş	work	yssy	hot
geplemek	to speak	işlemek	to work	yssylamak	to become hot
el	hand	göz	eye	täze	new
ellemek	to touch	gözlemek	to look for	täzelemek	to renew

-çy/-çi,-ýjy/-ýji,-yjy/-iji,-üji/-ujy

The suffix “**-çy/-çi**” can be added to nouns and functions like “**-ist**” or “**-er**” in English, denoting occupation, profession, or position.

iş	work	okuw	school	surat	picture
işçi	worker	okuwçy	pupil	suratçy	artist
gep	talk				
gepçi	talker (blabbermouth)				

In cases where verbs are made into nouns, the suffix becomes “**-yjy/-ýjy/-ýji/-iji/-üji/-ujy**”:

diňlemek	to listen	okamak	to read	ýasamak	to craft
diňleýji	listener	okyjy	reader	ýasaýjy	artisan
ýazmak	to write	sürmek	to drive	satmak	to sell
ýazyjy	writer	sürüji	driver	satyjy	seller

-dar

The suffix “**-dar**” can make personal nouns out of other nouns. It is unaffected by vowel harmony.

bergi	debt	tarap	side
bergidar	debtor	tarapdar	supporter

-keş

The suffix “**-keş**” personalizes certain nouns indicative of a particular custom or habit. It is unaffected by vowel harmony.

gybat	gossip	nas	green chewing tobacco
gybatkeş	gossiper	naskeş	tobacco chewer (habitual)
çilim	cigarette	çaý	tea
çilimkeş	chain smoker	çaýkeş	tea-lover

-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz

The suffix “**-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz**” is similar to “un-,” “-less,” or “without” in English.

tertip	behavior	howp	danger	adalat	justice
tertipsiz	poorly-behaved	howpsuz	safe	adalatsyz	unfair
akyl	intelligence	garaş	wait		
akylsyz	unintelligent	garaşsyz	independent (without waiting)		

-ly/-li

The suffix “**-ly/-li**” forms an adjective in the same way as “**-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz**,” but with an affirmative meaning rather than a negative one.

tertipli	well-behaved	howply	dangerous	adalatly	just
akylly	intelligent	garaşly	dependent		

bi-

The prefix “**bi-**” expresses the idea of “without.” It does not affect, nor is it subject to, vowel harmony.

tarap	side	günä	sin	kanun	law
bitarap	neutral	bigünä	innocent	bikanun	lawless

-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük

The suffixes “**-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük**” function to create abstract nouns, like the suffixes “**-hood**,” “**-ness**,” or “**-ity**” in English. They adhere to vowel harmony.

gözel	beautiful	çaga	child
gözelliik	beauty	çagalyk	childhood
köp	much, many	dost	friend
köplük	plurality	dostluk	friendship

This suffix can also make nouns and adjectives from numerical expressions.

bäş	five	bir ýyl	one year	on üç	thirteen
bäşlik	a five (money)	bir ýyllyk	a year's worth	on üçlük	(bus) #13

This suffix can also make nouns and adjectives which show purpose.

günde	everyday	ýetmek	to suffice	el	hand
gündelik	diary	ýeterlik	enough	ellik	glove

Multiple suffixes may also be combined:

<u>bitaraplyk</u>	neutrality	<u>bigünälik</u>	innocence
<u>howpsuzlyk</u>	safety	<u>adalatlylyk</u>	justness
<u>mugallymcylyk</u>	pedagogy	<u>bergidarlyk</u>	indebtedness

Diminutives

Atlaryň we Sypatlaryň Söýgülik Derejesi

In Turkmen, it is possible to make a diminutive form of both adjectives and nouns. To create a diminutive adjective, add the suffix “-ja/-je” or sometimes “-jak/-jek/-jyk/-jik”:

sary	yellow	sowuk	cold
saryja	little (cute) yellow	sowujak	nice and cold
kiçi	little	bir	one
kiçijek	little/tiny	birje	just one little...

To create a diminutive noun, add the suffix “-jyk/-jik,” or sometimes “jagaz”:

oglan	boy	depder	notebook
oglanjyk	little boy	depderjik	little notebook
gyz	girl	gül	flower
gyzjagaz	little girl	güljagaz	(just one) little flower

The “-da/-de” ending as “also”

“-da/-de” Ownuk Bölegi “Hem” Manysynda

If a hyphen precedes the “-da/-de” ending on a word, it is not the locative case, but rather can indicate several things, the most common of which is the meaning “and,” “also,” or, in combination with conditional statements, “even though”:

Bu-**da** dogry.
Çyra ýansa-**da** otagyň içi garaňky.

This is also correct.
Even if the light on, inside the room it is dark.

Some Common Mistakes Made by English Speakers

İňlisçe Gepleýänleriň Türkmen Dilinde Goýberýän Umumy Ýalňyşlary

The Double Negative

Sözlemde Iki Gezek Ýokluk Ulanylyşy

One common point of confusion among English speakers when speaking Turkmen is the difference between “ýok” and “däl.” While “däl” negates adjectives, nouns, and certain verb structures in a way similar to the English “not,” “ýok” communicates the idea that something does not exist, and therefore applies only to nouns:

Men gitjek däl . (Men gitjek ýok.)	I'm not going to go.
Mende pul ýok . (Mende pul däl.)	I don't have money.
Şol dogry däl . (Şol dogry ýok.)	That's not correct.
Ol Amerikan däl . (Ol Amerikan ýok.)	He's not American.

Also remember that most verb tenses have a negative form that does not require the use of “däl.”

Men kömek etmedim. (~~Men kömek etdim däl.~~) I didn't help.

In addition, note that in many cases of negation, Turkmen requires a double negative, unlike English. This applies only when using an absolute negative such as “**hiç kim**” or “**hiç zat**”:

Hiç kim jaň etmedi. (Hiç kim jaň etdi.)	No one called.
Bazarda hiç zat ýokdy . (Bazarda hiç zat bardy.)	There was nothing at the bazaar.
Ol hiç haçan mekdebe gelenok. (Ol hiç haçan mekdebe gelýär.)	He never comes to school.
Bärde hiç zat arzan däl . (Nothing is cheap here.)	Nothing here is cheap.

“Eger,” “Haçan,” and Conditionals

İşligiň Şert Formasy

Many English speakers make the mistake of using the English structure for conditional statements rather than the correct Turkmen structures, which are significantly different. The most common error is using the words “**eger/eger-de**” and “**haçan**” in the way we do in English. In many cases, Turkmen employs a structure that does not use these words, and when they are used, they are frequently dropped in spoken Turkmen:

Bazarda pomidor arzan bolsa , men köp alaryn. (Eger-de bazarda pomidor arzan, men köp alaryn.)	If the tomatoes are cheap, I'll buy a lot.
(Haçan-da) Men suraty görenimde , güldim. (Haçan men suraty gördim, güldim.)	When I saw the photograph, I laughed.
Biz kiçikäk her gün futbol oýnaýardy.	When we were little, we played soccer every

(~~Haçan~~ biz kiçi boldyk, ~~her gün~~ futbol day.
~~oýnaýardyk.~~)
Haçan-da jaň **kakylsa**, biz öýe gidip bilýäris. When the bell rings, we can go home.
(~~Haçan~~ jaň etjek, ~~biz öýe~~ gidip bilýäris.)

Definite vs. Indefinite Future

Mälim we Nämälim Geljek Zamanyň Ulanylyşy

When learning Turkmen, there is a tendency to overuse the Definite Future Tense (“-jak/-jek”) because it is so easy to form. While this may be helpful in the beginning, and while Turkmen will understand, Turkmen themselves use the Indefinite Future Tense more frequently. In many cases, it is not correct to use the Definite Future Tense, especially when speaking in the second or third person:

Şirin haçan geler? (~~Şirin haçan geljek?~~) When is Shirin going to come?
Sen işlärsiň. (~~Sen işlejek.~~) You are going to work.
Ol bizden sorarmy? (~~Ol bizden sorajakmy?~~) Is he going to ask us?

“Nähili?” vs. “Nädip?”

“Nähili?” we “Nädip?” Sorag Sözleriniň Ulanylyşy

“Nähili” and “nädip” are both question words. “Nähili” means “how” and “what kind,” and is usually used for questions about nouns:

Sen nähili ?	How are you?
Howa nähili ?	How is the weather?
Nähili tort?	What kind of cake is it?
Gapynyň reňki nähili ?	What color is the door?
Sen nähili nahary gowy görýäň?	What kind of food do you like?
Öýdäkileriň saglygy nähili ?	How is the health of everyone at home?
Seniň maşynyň belgisi nähili ?	What brand is your car?
Nähili adam ol?	What kind of person is he?
Gör! Olar nähili owadan!	Look! How beautiful they are!

“Nädip” also means “how,” but is applied to verbs and connotes ability:

Men nädip almaly pirog bişireýin?	How can I bake an apple pie?
Sen nädip tapdyň?	How were you able to find it?
Sen kompýuteri nädip bejerdin?	How did you fix the computer?
Telewizory nädip açmaly?	How do I turn on the TV?
Şu sözlemi nädip terjime etmeli?	How should I translate this sentence?
Bu owadan jaýy nädip gurduň?	How did you build this beautiful house?
Bu gymmat göwheri nädip satyn alyp bildiň?	How were you able to buy this costly diamond?

Case Mix-ups

Düşümleri garyşdyrmak

Another point of difficulty in Turkmen is remembering which case to use when, since the case system in English is not as highly developed as that of Turkmen. While at many times, the needed case may be obvious, at other times the case depends entirely on which verb or half-verb is used. One must simply remember which verbs take which case. Some common errors:

Men ondan soradym. (Men oňa soradym.)	I asked him.
Maňa kömek gerek. (Men kömek gerek.)	I need help.
Men ony halamok. (Men ol halamok.)	I don't like it.
Ol maňa düşünmedi. (Ol meni düşünmedi.)	He didn't understand me.
Aman ol gyzy söýýär. (Aman ol gyza söýýär.)	Aman loves that girl.
Biz otagdan çykdyk. (Biz otagy çykdyk.)	We left the room.