

Glossary of Turkish words used in the text of
Travels in Turkey
by
Keith Gascoigne

Turkish words, with English meanings, found in this book:

afiyet olsun - may it do you good (and also) it is good for you, said before and after a meal

ağa - master

ak - white

anne - mother

ayran - drink made from yogurt diluted with water and salt added

baklava - sweet sweet, a cake with sugar syrup

Baylar (or *Bay*) - men's toilets (*Bayanlar* - women's toilets)

Ben inglizim - I am English

beyaz peynir - white cheese

bilet - ticket

bira - beer

bulvar - boulevards, wide roads often (or not) with lines of trees

burka - clothing for women covering legs and arms and often the head

cadde - road (or street), abbreviated to *cad.*

çardak - covered area for sitting

çay - tea *elma çay* - apple tea

çayhane - tea houses, mostly frequented by men

cezve - small coffee making pot with long handle

çok güzel - very good

dağ - mountains *dağı* - (specific) mountain

deniz - sea

derviş - someone belonging to a religious order

dolmuş - minibus. Often stuffed full

domates - tomatoes

Eau de Kolonya - alcoholic cleansing liquid (there are many French borrowings)

efendi - Mr

efendim - Mr, please. Also used as a question asking for a reply – *efendim?*

ekmek - bread

elma - apple

eş - wife

ev - house

evet - yes

gecekondu - squatter house put up in one day, also the area

gulet - boat, (reproduction, tourist).

Günaydın - good day

hacı - pilgrim

han - caravanserai, large, old hotel to accommodate traders and camels

hanım - Mrs

hayır - no

helva - sweet concoction made from tahini, sesame seeds, chopped walnuts

Hoş geldiniz. Hoş bulduk - greeting, Welcome (to our place). We find you well.

iki - two

ırmak - river

iyiyim - I am fine

kaç lira - how much (lira)?

kahvaltı - breakfast

kahve - coffee. *Kafe* coffee house

kale - castle

kara - black

kilim - hand-woven wool rugs often with tribal designs

kızıl - red

lokanta - café *lokantalar* – plural of *lokanta*

lokum - Turkish Delight, sweet

lütfen - please

müezzin - caller to prayer

nasılsınız? - are you well?

öğretmen - teacher

otel - hotel

otogar - coach station

oud - stringed instrument, forerunner of the lute

özür dilerim – I am sorry

pansiyon - pension or B&B

petit buerre - my favorite French biscuit borrowing

pide - lamb, tomato, cheese and herb topping on bread base

pideci - small food shop selling *pide* and snacks

restoran - restaurant

riz - rice

salatalık - small cucumbers, salad things.

şalvar - traditional baggy black trousers

şeker bayramı - sugar (sweet) festival

simit - annular bread with sesame seeds

site – housing-estate (condominium)

sokak - street (or road)

taksi - taxi, city, ubiquitous, yellow.

tekke - monastery

teşekkürler - thanks

tost - toasted, filled (often with cheese) sandwiches

vadi - valley

yakut - ruby and also the name of a good, state-produced, red wine.

yufka ekmek - sheet bread, for filled rolls or topped with lamb, cheese mixture

yumarta - eggs

zeytin - olives

Pronunciation Guide
for Turkish words used in the text of
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Approximations to help readers pronounce the Turkish words found in this book.

Unless detailed below, all consonants are the same as in the English language. (*g* is hard as in ‘gate’ - *giderim, Günaydın.*)

Vowels are normally short and pronounced individually as in *müezzin* which sounds like mu/e/zin.

The ‘a’ is pronounced often as the ‘a’ in ‘hat’ but sometimes as the ‘e’ in ‘the’.

Sounds

symbol	sound	example	meaning
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c - as the ‘j’ in ‘jam’, as in *caddesi* (road)

ç - as the ‘ch’ in ‘chop’, as in *çay* (tea)

ş - as the ‘sh’ in ‘she’, as in *dolmuş* (minibus)

ğ - none; lengthens preceding vowel as in *öğretmen* (teacher)

ö - as the ‘i’ in ‘irk’, as in *dört* (four)

ü - as the ‘u’ in ‘cure’, as in *teşekkürler* (thanks)

ı - as the ‘e’ in ‘the’, as in *rakı* (aniseed spirit drink)

w - as the ‘v’ in ‘vat’, as in *viski* (whisky)

See my website for images of Turkey taken during the trips

www.yoruk.co.uk

There is also information about my other books and also quite a lot about my interests – what drives me.