

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](http://www.yoruk.co.uk)

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