

Language Intros

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Chapter 1

German

1.1 Grammar

Orthography and Phonology

German is one of those languages (like Spanish or Italian) whose phonology very closely matches the way words are spelled (the orthography).

I will update this section in the future; perhaps.

The cases

German, like many European languages (particularly Slavic and Northern German languages), has a rather complicated system of declensions whereby the shape of a noun changes depending on its role in the sentence. For example, in English, when we say

A shark ate Peter.

the grammar of the English language forbids us from making a lot of change to the structure of this sentence and we have to do some language gymnastics to get the same meaning across, for example,

Peter a shark ate.

whereas,

Peter ate a shark.

has a completely different meaning from the first sentence.

However, in German, this ambiguity is resolved by its use of a case system. For example, we might translate the sentence above as

Peter hat ein Hai gegessen.

That is, a shark ate Peter or more clearly

Ein Hai hat Peter gegessen.

Whereas

*Peter hat **einen** Hai gegessen.*

The Nominative

The nominative case is

The Accusative

The accusative

Chapter 2

French

2.1 Grammar

Chapter 3

Russian

3.1 Grammar

Chapter 4

Farsi

4.1 Grammar

Chapter 5

Turkish

5.1 Grammar

This is a primer on Turkish grammar. Most of the material is taken from the web, but especially from the site Manisa Turkish:

<http://www.turkishlanguage.co.uk/>.

This is for personal use and especially for those times when I don't have access to the internet and want to brush up on my grammar.

Turkish verbs

Here we talk about Turkish verbs, their use, their conjugation and the cases that they take.

First, let us talk about the infinitive form

The infinitive

To form the infinitive of a Turkish verb, you must add the suffix **-mek/-mak** to the stem of the verb: **gel** → **gelmek** – *to come*; **al** → **almak** – *to take, buy*. The choice of adding **-mek** or **-mak** abides by the laws of vowel harmony.

The negative infinitive

The negative of a verb has a separate infinitive form formed by first attaching the negative suffix **-me/-ma** to the stem of the verb and then adding the infinitive suffix: **gel** → **gelme** → **gelmemek** – *to not come*; **al** → **alma** → **almamak**.

Here are some more examples of infinitives and negative infinitive forms:

- **vermek** – *to give*; **vermemek** – *to not give*;
- **bilmek** – *to know*; **bilmemek** – *to not know*;
- **görmek** – *to see*; **görmemek** – *to not see*;
- **gülmek** – *to laugh*; **gülmemek** – *to not laugh*;

- **yapmak** – *to do, make, perform*; **yapmamak** – *to not do*;
- **ağrımak** – *to ache*; **ağrımamak** – *to not ache*;
- **kopmak** – *to snap*; **kopmamak** – *to not snap*;
- **kurumak** – *to dry*; **kurumamak** – *to not dry*.

Turkish infinitive as the object of a verb

When used in combination with other verbs, the infinitive is nominalized and takes case and personal endings like other nouns:

- Geçen hafta ödevimi yapmayı unuttum.
I forgot to do my homework last week.
- Garajdan arabamı almayı unuttum.
I forgot to pick up (lit. take) my car from the garage.
- Ali, sana söylemeyi unuttu.
Ali forgot to tell you.
- Affedersin, seni aramayı unuttuk.
We're sorry, we forgot to call you.
- Filmi izlemeyi unuttum.
I forgot to watch the film.
- Kediye beslemeyi unuttum.
I forgot to feed the cat.
- Mehmet'i sormayı unuttunuz.
You forgot to ask Mehmet.
- Kapıyı unuttum.
I forgot to close the door.
- Pencereyi açmayı unuttular.
They forgot to open the window.
- Pencereyi açmamayı unuttular.
They forgot not to open the window.

Verbal objects in the dative

Although most Turkish verbs take the accusative form in combination, some verbs require the dative form: **yazmaya başladı** – *she started to write/she started to (the) writing*.

Exception – istemek

The one exception to the above rules is the verb **istemek** – *to want* which requires that the verb stay in the infinitive form if the desire to act is being conveyed and if the subject of both **istemek** and the verb it governs are the same:

- Yazmak istiyorum.
I want to write.
- İçmek istiyorlar.
They want to drink.
- Kalmak istemedin.
You didn't want to stay.
- Çalışmak istemeyecekler.
They will not want to work.

Otherwise, **istemek** the verb being governed by **istemek** is nominalized and takes the appropriate personal suffix plus the accusative:

- Kalmamanızı istiyoruz.
We want you to not stay.
- Kalmanızı istemiyoruz.
We do not want you to stay.
- Kalmasını istemiyorlar.
They do not want him to stay.
- Kalmamalarını istemiyorum.
I don't want them to not stay.

Examples of suffixed Turkish infinitives

Vowel harmony and consonant mutation rules for Turkish must be followed when adding the standard suffixes. In addition to this, the buffer letter **-y** is used to keep the vowels introduced by the suffixes apart.

- Gelmeye çalıştı.
He tried to come.
- Yüzmeyi severim.
I like to swim.
- Onu yapmaktayım.
I am just doing it.
- Sigara içmeyi bıraktım.
I have just quit (given up) smoking.

Extended Turkish infinitive forms

Here is a table of the different forms the nominalization of the verb **gelmek** can take:

positive form			ne
gelmek	to come		g
to not come			
gelmeye	to come		g
to not come			
gelmeyi	to come (obj.)		g
to not come (obj.)			
gelmekte	in coming		g
not in coming			
gelmekten	from coming		ge
from not coming			
gelmekle	by/with coming		g
by/with not coming.			

- Kesmeyi bıraktı.
He stopped cutting.
- Sürmeyi öğreniyorum.
I am learning to drive.
- Gülmemeye çalışıyorlar.
They are trying not to laugh.

Chapter 6

Chinese

6.1 Grammar

Chapter 7

Japanese

7.1 Grammar

Chapter 8

Korean

8.1 Grammar

안녕하세요여로분.