75 SHORT STORIES IN TURKISH



CRAFTED BY SKRIUWER

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LETTER TO THE READER

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this enchanting collection of stories, where magic whispers through every page and adventure awaits in the simplest of places. Whether you are a young explorer dreaming of faraway lands or an adult rediscovering the wonders of childhood, these tales are designed to spark your imagination and warm your heart.

Each story has been lovingly adapted for beginners, made more exciting with thrilling twists and turns, and translated into English and Turkish to support your language journey. As an English-speaking learner of Turkish, you will find the vocabulary exercises a fun way to connect words across languages – like bridges, just like the stories themselves. You will find the answers to the exercises at the end of the book.

May these pages bring you joy, lessons in courage and kindness, and a reminder that the world is full of hidden magic – if only we take the time to listen and look. Thank you for joining us on this adventure. Turn the pages and let the stories carry you away.

With warm regards,

Skriuwer

INTERESTING UNKNOWN FACTS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND TURKISH

- Both languages stem from completely different language families. English belongs to the Indo-European family (Germanic branch), while Turkish belongs to the Turkic family. They are therefore not related at all genetically, making them linguistic “strangers” despite both being spoken in or near Europe.

- Only about 5–10 % of English and Turkish words have any lexical similarities, mostly through modern international loanwords from English into Turkish or a few shared words from Arabic, Persian, or French origins; the core vocabularies are almost entirely unrelated.

- Turkish has borrowed a large number of words from English in recent decades, especially in the fields of technology, business, pop culture, sports, and everyday modern life (e.g. “computer”, “internet”, “smartphone”, “marketing”, “weekend”, “goal”, “team”). Historically, Turkish borrowed heavily from Arabic, Persian, and French.

- English speakers can rarely recognise Turkish words (and vice versa) without prior study; mutual intelligibility is virtually non-existent in both spoken and written form.

- Turkish sounds quite different from English — it has a clear, rhythmic, and flowing quality due to its strong first-syllable stress, vowel harmony (vowels in a word must “harmonize” in frontness/backness), and distinctive soft “ğ” sound. Many people describe it as melodic and energetic.

- For centuries, English and Turkish had limited direct contact, but indirect influence occurred through trade, the Ottoman Empire, and later through migration and globalization. In modern times, English has had a major impact on Turkish, especially since the late 20th century.

- Both languages use complex systems to express the past, but Turkish is agglutinative and relies on suffixes added to verb stems rather than auxiliary verbs, which makes its grammar significantly more challenging for English learners than English tenses are for Turkish speakers.

- English has no grammatical gender for nouns, whereas Turkish has no grammatical gender at all (neither masculine, feminine, nor neuter exists in Turkish nouns).

- English and Turkish share very few similar words, but some international borrowings look alike, such as “music” and “müzik”, which have the same meaning. Other shared international terms include “telefon” (telephone) and “internet”.

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How do you pronounce Turkish sounds?

- **ğ (soft g):** *A very soft, almost silent sound – it lengthens the preceding vowel and creates a slight glide or "y" feeling (like a very gentle "gh" or nothing at all in fast speech).*
  Example: "dağ" (mountain) – pronounced roughly "dah" (with a lengthened "a")
- **ş:** *Sounds like "sh" in "shoe".*
  Example: "şeker" (sugar) – "SHEH-ker"
- **ç:** *Sounds like "ch" in "church" or "cheese".*
  Example: "çay" (tea) – "chy"
- **ı (dotless i):** *A close central unrounded vowel, like the "i" in the English word "bird" or "roses" (a neutral, muffled "uh" sound). No exact English equivalent.*
  Example: "ışık" (light) – "uh-SHUK"
- **ö:** *Sounds like the "ur" in "hurt" or "bird" with rounded lips (very similar to German "ö" or French "eu" in "peur").*
  Example: "göz" (eye) – "gurz"
- **ü:** *Like "ee" in "see", but said with tightly rounded lips (identical to French "u" in "lune" or German "ü").*
  Example: "gül" (rose) – "gül"
- **r:** *A clear rolled or tapped "r" with the tongue tip (like Spanish single "r").*
  Example: "Türk" (Turkish) – "türk"
- **h:** *Always clearly pronounced and aspirated (like "h" in "house"), never silent.*
  Example: "hayır" (no) – "hah-yuhr"
- **c:** *Always sounds like "j" in "jam".*
  Example: "can" (soul/life) – "jahn"
- **Vowels (a, e, i, ı, o, ö, u, ü):** *Very pure and clear with no gliding or reduction. Turkish has strict vowel harmony – vowels in a word must match in front/back quality.*
  Example: "ev" (house) – short, clear "e"
- **Stress**: *Usually falls on the last syllable of the word, but can shift with certain suffixes.*
  Example: "Merhaba" (hello) – mer-ha-BAH
  e.g. "teşekkür ederim" (thank you) sounds roughly like "teh-SHEK-koor eh-deh-REEM" with a soft ğ (lengthening the vowel), rolled r, pure clear vowels, and stress on the final syllables.

Please note that this pronunciation guide provides a simplified representation of Turkish pronunciation based on comparisons with the English language. The actual Turkish sounds may differ in their subtleties and context-dependence. This guide serves as a basic starting point and does not replace more detailed and specific language training.

STORY 1: THE MAGICAL CIRCUS ORCHESTRA

In a big square in Paris, France, the Bright Circus comes every spring. Colorful wagons stop there. Fun music calls to all the children and grown-ups. Kids chase happy clowns while parents buy sweet treats.

This year, a special band plays beautiful songs. The animals love to dance! Oliver the monkey wears a little red coat. He waves his baton with care. Lions jump to the beat. Elephants lift their trunks high. Even the mice turn and spin to the violins.

Everyone stares in wonder. The air feels full of magic.

One evening before the big show, Oliver feels sick. The band does not know what to do.

Then Emma, a girl who loves music so much, runs to help. She steps on the stage. She takes the baton and leads the band with joy.

The show is a big success! The circus is happy again. Oliver can rest. The crowd claps and cheers.

Emma smiles big. She learns that a brave heart can make wonderful things happen.



HİKAYE 1: SİHİRLİ SİRK ORKESTRASI

Fransa'nın Paris kentindeki büyük bir meydanda, her bahar “Parlak Sirk” kurulur. Renkli vagonlar buraya gelir. Neşeli müzik, tüm çocukları ve yetişkinleri kendine çeker. Çocuklar neşeli palyaçoların peşinden koşarken, ebeveynler tatlı ikramlar alır.

Bu yıl, özel bir orkestra güzel şarkılar çalıyor. Hayvanlar dans etmeyi çok seviyor! Maymun Oliver küçük kırmızı bir ceket giyiyor. Batonunu özenle sallıyor. Aslanlar ritme göre zıplıyor. Filler hortumlarını yükseğe kaldırıyor. Fareler bile kemanların sesine göre dönüp duruyor.

Herkes hayranlıkla izliyor. Hava sihirle dolu gibi.

Büyük gösteriden önceki bir akşam, Oliver kendini hasta hisseder. Orkestra ne yapacağını bilemez.

Sonra müziği çok seven Emma yardım etmek için koşar. Sahneye çıkar. Batonu alır ve neşeyle orkestrayı yönetir.

Gösteri büyük bir başarıdır! Sirk yeniden mutludur. Oliver dinlenebilir. Kalabalık alkışlar ve tezahüratlar yapar.

Emma kocaman gülümser. Cesur bir kalbin harika şeyler gerçekleştirebileceğini öğrenir.

Match the English words with the Turkish ones

1. circus -------
2. wagons -------
3. music -------
4. clowns -------
5. treats -------
6. band -------
7. monkey -------
8. baton -------
9. stage -------
10. brave -------

STORY 2: THE DREAM BAKERY

In the charming town of Bakewell in England, the streets are always filled with the delicious smells of chocolate and vanilla. People love visiting Mrs. Emma's bakery because her cakes are the best around.

One morning, Mrs. Emma launches an exciting competition. She says, “Bake a cake that makes everyone smile!” The children get very excited and start thinking of wonderful ideas to win the special prize. But dark clouds appear and a storm threatens to ruin everything.

I am Noah, a shy boy who loves to paint. I imagine a beautiful cake shaped like a princess castle, decorated with sweet red berries and soft cream. My neighbour Ava wants to create a funny cake with bright, colourful clown faces on top.

All week long, Mrs. Emma's bakery becomes a lively creative workshop. We mix the flour, beat the eggs, and add special touches with care and imagination.

On the day of the competition, the tables are covered with amazing cakes, and the sweet smells fill the entire room. The judges taste each cake with big smiles. In the end, my cake wins the prize, not just for how it looks, but because of the big smiling sun hidden inside it.

Everyone in town is amazed by this wonderful surprise. They see the sign of inner joy beneath the pretty icing. I learn that even when you feel shy, showing courage can bring true happiness.

From then on, Mrs. Emma's bakery is called “The Dream Bakery,” where every cake tells a happy story.



HİKAYE 2: RÜYA FİRİNİ

İngiltere'nin büyüleyici Bakewell kasabasında, sokaklar her zaman çikolata ve vanilyanın enfes kokularıyla doludur. İnsanlar Bayan Emma'nın fırınını ziyaret etmeyi çok severler çünkü onun pastaları bölgedeki en iyisidir.

Bir sabah, Bayan Emma heyecan verici bir yarışma başlatır. "Herkesi gülümsetecek bir pasta yapın!" der. Çocuklar çok heyecanlanır ve özel ödülü kazanmak için harika fikirler üretmeye başlarlar. Ancak kara bulutlar belirir ve bir fırtına her şeyi mahvetmekle tehdit eder.

Ben Noah, resim yapmayı seven utangaç bir çocuğum. Tatlı kırmızı meyveler ve yumuşak krema ile süslenmiş, prenses kalesi şeklinde güzel bir pasta hayal ediyorum. Komşum Ava ise üstünde parlak, renkli palyaço yüzleri olan komik bir pasta yapmak istiyor.

Bütün hafta boyunca Bayan Emma'nın pastanesi canlı ve yaratıcı bir atölyeye dönüşür. Unu karıştırır, yumurtaları çırpar ve özenle ve hayal gücümüzle özel dokunuşlar ekleriz.

Yarışma günü, masalar muhteşem pastalarla kaplanır ve tatlı kokular tüm odayı doldurur. Jüri üyeleri her pastayı kocaman gülümsemelerle tadarlar. Sonunda, pastam ödülü kazanır; sadece görünüşü nedeniyle değil, içinde saklı olan kocaman gülümseyen güneş sayesinde.

Kasabadaki herkes bu harika sürprize hayran kalır. Güzel kremanın altında yatan içsel neşenin işaretini görürler. Utangaç hissetsen bile cesaret göstermenin gerçek mutluluğu getirebileceğini öğrenirim.

O günden sonra, Bayan Emma'nın pastanesi, her pastanın mutlu bir hikaye anlattığı "Rüya Pastanesi" olarak anılır.

Match the English words with the Turkish ones

1. charming -------
2. bakery -------
3. competition -------
4. prize -------
5. storm -------
6. shy -------
7. paint -------
8. castle -------
9. workshop -------
10. courage -------

STORY 3: THE MYSTERIOUS TREASURE ISLAND

In the beautiful highlands of Scotland, near the famous Loch Lomond, Oliver and his cousin Charlotte sailed in their small wooden boat in search of adventure. They had discovered an old map in their grandfather's attic that showed a secret island in the middle of the large sparkling lake. The cousins hoped to find a legendary treasure there. The sun sparkled on the water and a light wind filled their sails as they sailed across. However, a dark storm was looming menacingly on the horizon.

After many hours, they finally saw the island surrounded by sharp rocks and tall trees. The beach was quiet and peaceful, with only the occasional call of a bird. Carefully, they found a narrow path leading into a mysterious cave. Inside the cave, the light from their lanterns reflected off walls covered with ancient symbols. With his heart pounding with excitement, Oliver followed the clues carved into the stone. Soon they came upon a tricky riddle that challenged them: solve it or lose everything!

Working together, the cousins solved the riddle and continued deeper. At the end of the cave stood an old wooden chest covered with colourful shells. When they opened it, they were surprised to find no gold or jewels. Instead, they discovered valuable old books filled with the history of the lake and its people.

Touched by this special discovery, Oliver and Charlotte realised that true wealth is knowledge that can be shared and grows with time. They returned home safely with the books before the storm arrived. At home, they proudly handed the precious books over to Grandpa. The family was happy to have saved this wonderful treasure, and the cousins were glad they had learned something new and important that day.



HİKAYE 3: GİZEMLİ HAZİNE ADASI

İskoçya'nın güzel dağlık bölgelerinde, ünlü Loch Lomond Gölü'nün yakınlarında, Oliver ve kuzeni Charlotte macera arayışında küçük tahta tekneleriyle denize açıldılar. Büyükbabalarının tavan arasında, parıldayan büyük gölün ortasında gizli bir adayı gösteren eski bir harita bulmuşlardı. Kuzenler, orada efsanevi bir hazineyi bulmayı umuyorlardı. Güneş suda parıldıyordu ve hafif bir rüzgar yelkenlerini şişirirken onlar karşıya doğru yelken açtılar. Ancak ufukta tehditkar bir şekilde kara bir fırtına beliriyordu.

Saatler sonra nihayet keskin kayalar ve uzun ağaçlarla çevrili adayı gördüler. Kumsal sessiz ve huzurluydu, ara sıra bir kuşun cıvıltısı duyuluyordu. Dikkatlice ilerlediklerinde gizemli bir mağaraya giden dar bir yol buldular. Mağaranın içinde, fenerlerinin ışığı eski sembollerle kaplı duvarlardan yansıyordu. Heyecandan kalbi çarpan Oliver, taşa oyulmuş ipuçlarını takip etti. Kısa süre sonra, onları zorlayan alengirli bir bilmeceyle karşılaştılar: ya çözerlerdi ya da her şeyi kaybederlerdi!

Kuzenler birlikte çalışarak bilmeceyi çözdüler ve daha derine doğru ilerlediler. Mağaranın sonunda, renkli deniz kabuklarıyla kaplı eski bir tahta sandık duruyordu. Sandığı açtıklarında, içinde altın ya da mücevher bulamadıklarına şaşırdılar. Bunun yerine, gölün ve halkının tarihiyle dolu değerli eski kitaplar keşfettiler.

Bu özel keşiften etkilenen Oliver ve Charlotte, gerçek zenginliğin paylaşılabilen ve zamanla büyüyen bilgi olduğunu fark ettiler. Fırtına gelmeden kitaplarla birlikte sağ salim eve döndüler. Evde, değerli kitapları gururla büyükbabalarına teslim ettiler. Aile, bu harika hazineyi kurtardıkları için mutluydu ve kuzenler de o gün yeni ve önemli bir şey öğrendikleri için sevinçliydiler.

Match the English words with the Turkish ones

1. highlands -------
2. sailed -------
3. adventure -------
4. map -------
5. island -------
6. cave -------
7. riddle -------
8. chest -------
9. knowledge -------
10. books -------

STORY 4: THE GREAT KITE COMPETITION

Every year at the beginning of summer, a wonderful kite competition takes place on the wide sandy shores of Venice Beach in California. Families from near and far bring their colourful creations with them. Some kites look like giant birds soaring high, while others resemble fierce fire-breathing dragons.

Liam is a ten-year-old boy who has long dreamed of taking part in this exciting event. His father teaches him how to build a sturdy kite using bamboo sticks and thin paper.

All week long, Liam works carefully painting beautiful waves and bright fish all over his kite. His mother helps him attach a long fabric tail that will swing gracefully in the wind.

On the day of the competition, the sky is clear and the sun shines brightly. Liam's heart beats faster when the starting signal sounds. Suddenly, the wind dies down and a wave of panic rises inside him!

Liam runs quickly across the soft sand, holding the string tightly in his hands. Then, to his great joy, the kite rises up and floats elegantly high above the beach. The spectators clap and cheer as the bright colours dance in the sky.

In the end, Liam wins the prize for the most beautiful design. Proud and happy, he thanks his parents for all their help. At that moment, he learns that passion and perseverance can turn dreams into reality, even when unexpected obstacles appear.



HİKAYE 4: BÜYÜK UÇURTMA YARIŞMASI

Her yıl yazın başında, Kaliforniya'daki Venice Beach'in geniş kumlu sahillerinde muhteşem bir uçurtma yarışması düzenlenir. Yakın ve uzak yerlerden gelen aileler, yanlarında renkli uçurtmalarını getirirler. Bazı uçurtmalar yükseklere süzülen dev kuşlara benziyor, bazıları ise ateş püskürten vahşi ejderhalara.

Liam, uzun zamandır bu heyecan verici etkinliğe katılmayı hayal eden on yaşında bir çocuktur. Babası ona bambu çubuklar ve ince kağıt kullanarak sağlam bir uçurtma yapmayı öğretir.

Liam, bütün hafta boyunca uçurtmasının her yerine güzel dalgalar ve parlak balıklar çizerek özenle çalışır. Annesi, rüzgarda zarifçe sallanacak uzun bir kumaş kuyruğu takmasına yardım eder.

Yarışma günü, gökyüzü açık ve güneş parlak bir şekilde parlıyor. Başlangıç sinyali çaldığında Liam'ın kalbi daha hızlı atıyor. Aniden rüzgâr kesiliyor ve içinde bir panik dalgası yükseliyor!

Liam, ipi ellerinde sıkıca tutarak yumuşak kumların üzerinde hızla koşuyor. Sonra, büyük bir sevinçle, uçurtma yükseliyor ve plajın üzerinde zarifçe süzülüyor. Parlak renkler gökyüzünde dans ederken seyirciler alkışlıyor ve tezahürat ediyor.

Sonunda Liam, en güzel tasarım ödülünü kazanır. Gururlu ve mutlu bir şekilde, tüm yardımları için anne ve babasına teşekkür eder. O anda, beklenmedik engeller ortaya çıksa bile tutku ve azmin hayalleri gerçeğe dönüştürebileceğini öğrenir.

Match the English words with the Turkish ones

1. kite -------
2. competition -------
3. bamboo -------
4. waves -------
5. fish -------
6. tail -------
7. wind -------
8. panic -------
9. spectators -------
10. perseverance -------

STORY 5: THE JOURNEY OF THE LOST ACCORDION

I was a wandering musician named Jack who travelled from village to village across the beautiful hills of Wales playing my accordion. People would always gather around me, dancing and singing joyfully wherever I stopped.

One bright afternoon, I paused on a steep mountain path in Snowdonia to enjoy the stunning view of the green valleys. Suddenly, there was a loud rockfall. I ran to safety as quickly as I could, but in my hurry I left my precious accordion behind.

Soon a wild storm arrived with heavy rain and strong winds, making the search very dangerous.

When I reached the next village, I realised with horror that my instrument was missing. I felt heartbroken because it meant so much to me. Determined to recover it, I tried to return the next day, but large rocks now blocked the path completely.

Feeling discouraged, I shared my sad story with the friendly villagers. Moved by what had happened, they wanted to help. A brave young boy named Lucas, who knew the mountains very well, offered to climb a difficult steep path to the place where I had lost it.

After a long and tiring climb, Lucas found my accordion safely tucked between two big rocks. He carefully freed it and carried it safely back down to the village. When he gave it back to me, I was overjoyed and thanked him warmly from the bottom of my heart.

To celebrate and show my gratitude, I gave a special concert for all the villagers that evening. Everyone was delighted by the cheerful music. The residents danced happily under the stars until late into the night.I continued my journey the following day feeling very grateful. I had learned that when people come together and help each other, they can overcome even the hardest obstacles.



HİKAYE 5: KAYBOLAN AKORDEONUN YOLCULUĞU

Ben, Galler'in güzel tepelerinde köy köy dolaşarak akordeonumu çalan, Jack adında gezgin bir müzisyendim. Nerede dursam durayım, insanlar her zaman etrafımda toplanır, neşeyle dans eder ve şarkı söylerdi.

Parlak bir öğleden sonra, yeşil vadilerin muhteşem manzarasının tadını çıkarmak için Snowdonia'daki dik bir dağ yolunda mola verdim. Aniden, gürültülü bir kaya düşmesi oldu. Mümkün olduğunca çabuk güvenli bir yere koştum, ama aceleyle değerli akordeonumu geride bıraktım.

Kısa süre sonra şiddetli yağmur ve rüzgarla birlikte şiddetli bir fırtına başladı, bu da aramayı çok tehlikeli hale getirdi.

Bir sonraki köye vardığımda, enstrümanımın kaybolduğunu dehşetle fark ettim. Benim için çok değerli olduğu için kalbim parçalandı. Onu geri almaya kararlıydım, ertesi gün geri dönmeye çalıştım, ama büyük kayalar artık yolu tamamen kapatmıştı.

Cesaretim kırılmış bir halde, bu üzücü hikayemi dost canlısı köylülerle paylaştım. Olanlardan etkilenen köylüler yardım etmek istedi. Dağları çok iyi bilen cesur bir genç çocuk olan Lucas, enstrümanımı kaybettiğim yere giden zorlu ve dik bir patikadan tırmanmayı teklif etti.

Uzun ve yorucu bir tırmanışın ardından Lucas, akordeonumu iki büyük kayanın arasına sıkışmış halde buldu. Onu dikkatlice kurtardı ve güvenli bir şekilde köye geri taşıdı. Akordeonu bana geri verdiğinde sevinçten havalara uçtum ve ona içtenlikle teşekkür ettim.

Bunu kutlamak ve minnettarlığımı göstermek için o akşam tüm köylüler için özel bir konser verdim. Herkes neşeli müziğe bayıldı. Köylüler gece geç saatlere kadar yıldızların altında mutlu bir şekilde dans ettiler. Ertesi gün çok minnettar hissederek yolculuğuma devam ettim. İnsanlar bir araya gelip birbirlerine yardım ettiklerinde en zor engelleri bile aşabileceklerini öğrenmiştim.

Match the English words with the Turkish ones

1. wandering -------
2. musician -------
3. accordion -------
4. rockfall -------
5. storm -------
6. villagers -------
7. climb -------
8. grateful -------
9. togetherness -------
10. obstacles -------