ÜNİTE 0 – ABC

0A – ABC / ALFABE *(THE ALPHABET)*

- **Türkçe ABC** *(The Turkish Alphabet)*

The Turkish alphabet can be seen as a variant of the Latin alphabet. Turkey has produced its own alphabet by adding its own sounds to the Latin alphabet and removing the ones that does not exist in Turkish, such as adding **"ç"** and **"ş"** sounds and removing **"x"** sound. In addition to the Latin alphabet, there are letters unique to Turkish.

Unique letters in the Turkish Alphabet:
ç – ş – ğ – ö – ü – ı

Consonants: **b, c, ç, d, f, g, ğ, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, ş, t, v, y, z**

Vowels: **a, e, ı, i, o, ö, u, ü**

In conclusion, Turkish alphabet consists of **29 letters**, including **21 consonants** and **8 vowels**.

Vowels in Turkish are categorized according to **where the sounds are produced** in our mouth.

They can be **front** (e, i, ü, ö) or **back** vowels (a, ı, o, u) and **round** (ü, ö, u, o). The roundness is determined by whether the lips are rounded while producing the sounds. In this case, you'll certainly feel your lips are rounded when you try to produce the 'o' sound.

Turkish Vowels Chart

	Unround	Round
Back	a, ı	o, u
Front	e, i	ö, ü

You can also remember them as **soft** and **hard** vowels as we categorize them in the Turkish language differently than in English translation. This will be useful in the next chapters when we learn the vowel harmony. So, keep that in mind:

Hard vowels: a, ı, o, u
Soft vowels: e, i, ö, ü

IMPORTANT ✍

Ğ,ğ (soft g) does not have a sound. It **lengthens** the preceding vowel. No word in Turkish begins with the soft g (Ğ/ğ).

- **Uluslararası Fonetik Alfabe** *(International Phonetic Alphabet)*

International Phonetic Alphabet is the standard alphabet created to display sounds on paper. It is a system of signs and symbols created to encode speech sounds in all languages in a uniform manner. Below you will see the equivalents of Turkish letters according to the International Phonetic Alphabet and the English Approximations.[1]

Turkish Letters	IPA	English Approximation	Turkish Example
A a	[ɑ]	father	at
B b	[b]	about	baba
C c	[dʒ]	jump	cam
Ç ç	[tʃʰ], [tʃ]	church, cheap	çiçek, saçma
D d	[d]	day	dün
E e	[e], [ɛ]	may, fat	el, ben
F f	[f], [ɸ]	food, pfft	kafa, ufuk
G g	[g], [ɟ]	good, argue	gazete, rüzgar
Ğ ğ	[ː], [j]	-	yağmur, değil
H h	[h], [x], [ç]	help	hayır, sabah, hiç
I ı	[ɯ]	roses	arı
İ i	[i]	greek	yeni
J j	[ʒ]	leisure	jeton
K k	[k], [cʰ], [kʰ]	score, -, -	akşam, hikaye, kol
L l	[l], [ɬ]	late, tail	limon, bul
M m	[m]	much	masa
N n	[n], [ŋ]	not, sing	neden, yenge
O o	[o]	story	on
Ö ö	[ø]	bird	ön
P p	[p], [pʰ]	-, pack	iplik, para
R r	[r], [ɹ], [ɾ̥]	three, red, -	ara, renk, bir
S s	[s]	send	su
Ş ş	[ʃ]	shoe	şişe
T t	[t], [tʰ]	tin, potato	etki, top
U u	[u]	soup	kutu
Ü ü	[y]	cue	üç
V v	[v], [β], [ʋ]	vase, upvote, -	ver, vücut, kavun
Y y	[j]	yes	yol
Z z	[z]	zone	zor

***You can listen to the pronunciation of words for better understanding.

[1] "Erguvanlı Taylan, E. (2015). *The Phonology and Morphology of Turkish*. İstanbul: Boğaziçi University Press." was used as a source for this chart.

- **How to Spell Your Name in Turkish**

In Turkish, the **“e”** sound comes after the consonants such as BE, CE, ÇE, DE, GE… For this reason, do not forget to add the **“e”** sound when spelling your name:

J - Ü - L - İ - D – E → (JE – Ü – LE – İ –DE- E)