ÜNİTE 1 – BU NE?

1B- İŞARET ZAMİRLERİ & SIFATLARI *(DEMONSTRATIVES)*

- **Bu, Şu, O** *(This & That)*

There are three demonstrative pronouns in Turkish: **Bu, Şu** and **O.**

Bu	**Şu**	**O**
This	That	That

When deciding which of the demonstrative pronouns to use, we take **distance** into account. Basically, it is a matter of distance.

If the object we are pointing at is **nearby**, we say **"bu."** For example:



Bu çocuk.
(This is (a) child.)

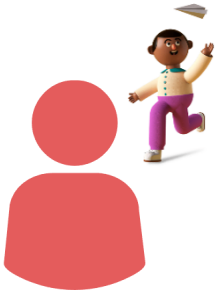


Bu telefon.
(This is (a) phone.)

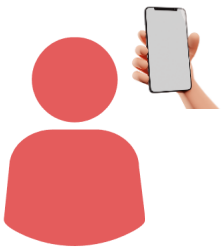


Bu çiçek.
(This is (a) flower.)

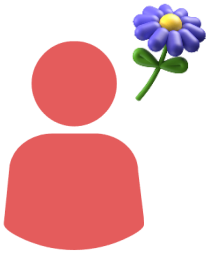
If the object we are pointing at is **far away** from us, we say **"şu."** For example:



Şu çocuk.
(That is (a) child.)

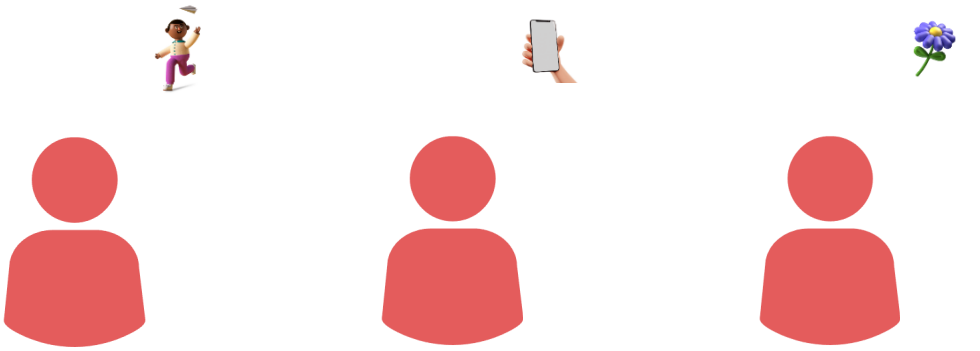


Şu telefon.
(That is (a) phone.)



Şu çiçek.
(That is (a) flower.)

If the object we are pointing at is **quite far away** from us, we say **"o."** For example:



O çocuk.
(That is (a) child.)

O telefon.
(That is (a) phone.)

O çiçek.
(That is (a) flower.)

Footnote ✍

"O" is also used for people, as a third person singular: **He, She, It**.

O Ayşe. *(She is Ayşe.)*

O Ali. *(He is Ali.)*

We have two basic question words that we can use with demonstrative pronouns: **"Ne?"** and **"Kim?"**

"Ne" means "what" and "Kim" means "who." Let's ask questions and answer them together.

Bu ne? *(What is this?)*
Bu çocuk. *(This is (a) child.)*

Şu ne? *(What is that?)*
Bu ağaç. *(This is (a) tree.)*
Ağaç. *(Tree.)*

Bu kim? *(Who is this?)*
Bu Ayşe. *(This is Ayşe.)*

You can say **"şu"** when asking a question, but we usually don't say **"şu"** when answering.

Saying either "**Bu ağaç"** or only "**Ağaç**" will suffice.

O kim? *(Who is this?)*
O Murat. *(He is Murat.)*

O ne? *(What is that?)*
O ev. *(That is (a) house.)*

Native Speaker Tip:
"Kim o?" is a question you can ask to learn who it is when someone knocks on your door.

Kim o? *(Who is this?)*

Ben. *(Me.)*

- **Çoğul Eki** *(Plural Suffix)* **(-lAr)**

Now, we will learn the plural suffix in Turkish. The plural suffixes are: **"-ler"** and **"-lar."** You can think of them as the plural **"-s"** suffix in English. When attaching the plural suffix in Turkish, we have to follow the **two-way vowel harmony rule.** Let's have a look at it.

Turkish is like music, we need to match the right notes to speak correctly. Vowel harmony allows us to match the right sounds like the right notes in music. I mentioned earlier that Turkish has hard and soft vowels. Two way vowel harmony is based on these hard and soft vowels.

Table 1. Two-way Vowel Harmony

Vowels	Two-way Vowel Harmony
Hard: a, ı, o, u	a
Soft: e, i, ö, ü	e

This table means that the hard vowels harmonize with **"a"** and the soft vowels harmonize with **"e."** When we attach a suffix to a word that has any of the **"a, ı, o, u"** sounds in **its last syllable,** that affix should have the **"a"** sound in it. When we attach a suffix to a word that has any of the **"e, i, ö, ü"** sounds in **its last syllable**, that affix should have the **"e"** sound in it.

So, the plural suffixes with vowel harmony rule will look like:

Table 1. Plural Suffixes with Two-way Vowel Harmony Rule

Vowels	Plural Suffix (-lAr)
Hard: a, ı, o, u	-lar
Soft: e, i, ö, ü	-ler

Let's give an example.

Think about the word **"araba"** which means "car."

"Araba" has the vowel **"a"** in its last syllable.

A – ra – ba

First syllable | Second syllable | Third (last) syllable

If you want to find out how many syllables a Turkish Word has, you can count the vowels in it. For example, there are three vowels in the word "araba" (a,a,a). Therefore, the Word araba has three syllables.

According to vowel harmony rule, the suffix has to have the **"a"** vowel. Hence, the correct plural suffix to be attached will be **"-lar."**

Arabalar

(Cars)

Now, let's look at the word **"ağaç"** which means *"tree."*

Ağaç has the **"a"** vowel as the last vowel: **ağaç.** Be careful, we are not looking at the last letter. We consider the last vowel in the noun. In ağaç, the last letter is **"ç"** but the last vowel is **"a."** **Do not confuse these two.**

🌳 **Ağaç** *(tree)* → 🌳🌳 **Ağaçlar** *(trees)*

📕 **Kitap** *(book)* → 📕📕 **Kitaplar** *(books)*

🏫 **Okul** *(school)* → 🏫🏫 **Okullar** *(schools)*

💡 **Işık** *(light)* → 💡💡 **Işıklar** *(lights)*

When we look at the word **"bebek"** *(baby)*, it has the vowel **"e"** in its last syllable. So, the correct plural suffix to be attached is **"-ler."**

👶 **Bebek** *(baby)* → 👶👶 **Bebekler** *(babies)*

📝 **Defter** *(notebook)* → 📝📝 **Defterler** *(notebooks)*

👕 **Tişört** *(t-shirt)* → 👕👕 **Tişörtler** *(t-shirts)*

🚌 **Otobüs** *(bus)* → 🚌🚌 **Otobüsler** *(buses)*

IMPORTANT

No plural suffix is attached to the nouns expressed with numbers. Such as:

✓ **İki çocuk** ~~İki çocuklar~~

(Two children)

✓ **Üç öğretmen** ~~Üç öğretmenler~~

(Three teachers)

✓ **Beş defter** ~~Beş defterler~~

(Five notebooks)

IMPORTANT 2

Some loanwords that has 'a', 'o', or 'u' vowels as a last vowel take the **–ler** suffix rather than –lar.

Saatler	Semboller
Roller	Misaller
Hayaller	İdealler
Alkoller	Petroller
Kalpler	Haller
Seyahatler	Meşguller

- **Bunlar, Şunlar, Onlar** *(These & Those)*

Now we will talk about plural demonstrative pronouns which are *"these"* and *"those"* in English.

Bunlar	**Şunlar**	**Onlar**
These	*Those*	*Those*

And again, the distance is the key component of this rule. If the objects we are pointing at are **nearby,** we say **"bunlar."** For example:

Bunlar ne? *(What are these?)*



Bunlar çocuk.
(These are children.)



Bunlar telefon.
(These are phones.)



Bunlar çiçek.
(These are flowers.)

If you noticed, I didn't attach plural suffix to any of the examples. Because **"bunlar"** is already plural. If the objects we are pointing at are **far away** from us, we say **"şunlar."** For example:

Şunlar ne? *(What are those?)*

Here, again, we do not answer with "şunlar" even though we ask with it.





Bunlar çocuk.
(These are children.)





Bunlar telefon.
(These are phones.)





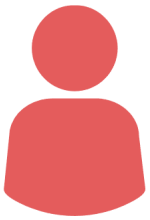
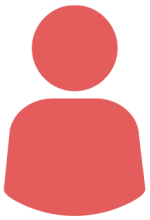
Bunlar çiçek.
(These are flowers.)

If the object we are pointing at is **quite far away** from us, we say **"onlar."** For example:

Onlar ne? *(What are those/they?)*





Onlar çocuk.
(Those are children.)

Onlar telefon.
(Those are phones.)

Onlar çiçek.
(Those are flowers.)

Footnote ✍️

"Onlar" is also used for people, as a third person plural: "**They**"

Onlar kim? *(Who are they?)*

Onlar öğrenci. *(They are students.)*

Onlar asker. *(They are soldiers.)*

IMPORTANT

The plural suffix is usually not attached to the object that comes after the plural demonstrative pronouns.

- ✓ Bunlar çocuk — ~~Bunlar çocuklar~~
- ✓ Onlar kız — ~~Onlar kızlar~~

1B – 4-WAY VOWEL HARMONY & QUESTION PARTICLE mI?

To form yes/no questions in Turkish, we add the question particle **"mI?"** to the sentence. This question particle **"mI?"** has 4 different variations according to the four-way vowel harmony rule.

Table 2. 4-way Vowel Harmony Rule

Vowels	Four-way Vowel Harmony
a, ı	ı
e, i	i
o, u	u
ö, ü	ü

To apply four-way vowel harmony, you need to look at the **final vowel of the word**. For example, the last vowel of the last syllable in the word "kitap" is **"a."** So, you need to choose a suffix or an ending that harmonizes with the sound **"a"** which is **"ı"** in four-way vowel harmony.

According to **Four-Way Vowel Harmony Rule**, these are the variations of question "mI?"

Table 2. Question Particle mI? With 4-way Vowel Harmony Rule

Vowels	Question Particle mI?
a, ı	mı?
e, i	mi?
o, u	mu?
ö, ü	mü?

To make yes/no questions, it is enough to add **"mI?"** at the end of the sentence. Let's look at some examples to help us better comprehend.

Step 1: Let's say there is a book on the table and we want to point at it. We are going to say:

This is a book. → **Bu (bir) kitap.**

Step 2: Now, we have to add the question **"mI?"** to turn it into a question. Don't forget to apply the four-way vowel harmony rule. The last word in this sentence is **"kitap."** Kitap's last vowel is **"a"** which harmonizes with the vowel **"ı."** So, we choose **"mI?" with "ı."**

mı?

Step 3: Now you need to add it at the end of the sentence:

📕 **Bu bir kitap mı?** *(Is this a book?)*

Let's try to make other examples.

👜

Is this a bag?
Bu bir çanta mı?

👨‍⚕️

Is he a doctor?
O bir doktor mu?

Doktor has **"o"** as a last vowel. **"O"** harmonizes with **"u"**, so we choose **"mu?"**

🐕 🐩 🐕‍🦺

Are these dogs?
Bunlar köpek mi?

Köpek has **"e"** as the last vowel and it harmonizes with the sound **"i."** Therefore, we choose **"mi?"**

🚎 🚌

Are those buses?
Şunlar otobüs mü?

The last vowel in "otobüs" is **"ü"** which harmonizes with **"ü."** Therefore, we choose **"mü?"**

When you give answers, you can answer by saying **"Evet"** *(yes)* or **"Hayır, değil."** *(No, it is not.)* **"Değil"** means *"not"* in Turkish.

🚗 **Bu bir araba mı?** *(Is this a car?)*

- 👍 **Evet, araba.** *(Yes, it is a car.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, değil.** *(No, it isn't.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, bu araba değil.** *(No, it isn't a car.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, araba değil. Bisiklet.** 🚲 *(No, it isn't a car. It is a bicycle.)*

👨 **O bir doktor mu?** *(Is he a doctor?)*

- 👍 **Evet, doktor.** *(Yes, he is a doctor.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, değil.** *(No, he isn't.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, o doktor değil.** *(No, he isn't a doctor.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, doktor değil. Mühendis.** 👷 *(No, he isn't a doctor. He is an engineer.)*

🐶🐶 **Bunlar köpek mi?** *(Are these dogs?)*

- 👍 **Evet, köpek.** *(Yes, they are dogs.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, bunlar köpek değil.** *(No, they aren't dogs.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, köpek değil. Bunlar aslan.** 🦁🦁 *(No, they aren't dogs. They're lions.)*

🚌🚌 **Şunlar otobüs mü?** *(Are those buses?)*

- 👍 **Evet, otobüs.** *(Yes, they are buses.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, değil.** *(No, they are not.)*

🗺️ İstanbul güzel mi? *(Is Istanbul beautiful?)*

- 👍 **Evet, güzel.** *(Yes, it is beautiful.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, değil.** *(No, it isn't.)*
- 👎 **Hayır, güzel değil.** *(No, it isn't beautiful.)*

- **Burası neresi?**

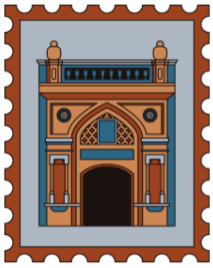
Imagine yourself in Istanbul. You are lost. You want to stop someone and ask where you are. In such a situation, you should ask **"Burası neresi?"**

Burası neresi means **"Where is here?"**



Burası neresi? *(Where is here?)*

Burası Istanbul. *(Here is Istanbul.)*



Burası neresi? (*Where is here?)*

Burası Kapalı Çarşı. *(Here is Grand Bazaar.)*



Burası neresi? (*Where is here?)*

Burası Beşiktaş. *(Here is Beşiktaş.)*

But if you want to ask **“(In/At) Where is this place?”** you have to say **“Burası nerede?”**



Burası nerede? *(Where is this place?)*

Burası Ankara’da. (*It is in Ankara.)*



Burası nerede? *(Where is this place?)*

Burası İzmir’de. *(It is in İzmir.)*

You may be wondering what the suffixes right next to the cities are. We will learn about these in the following sections. That's enough for now. 😊