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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 3: Getting What You Want Using Turkish Lütfen.

LESSON NOTES

This lesson's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In this lesson we'll take a look at the word "please," which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Turkish, "please" is *lütfen*.

Let's take a closer look at *lütfen*. The easiest way to use this word is by pointing at something and saying *Bu, lütfen* ("This one, please") or *Şu, lütfen* ("That one, please").

Bu means "this."

And *şu* means "that."

Please remember that in Turkey it is a little rude to point at people. But pointing at things, especially when you are trying to buy something at the market, or when it helps to illustrate your point, is perfectly okay. Just make sure you say *Teşekkür ederim* ("Thank you") when the object is handed to you.

Another phrase for "please" is *Rica ederim*. You might remember that this also means "You're welcome." We use this phrase to ask someone to do something for us, and it is usually followed by a verb or phrase.

Any sentence with the phrase *Rica ederim* is very polite and a little bit old-fashioned.

PHRASES

Turkish	English
Lütfen.	Please.
Rica ederim.	Please. (followed by a phrase or verb)
Bu, lütfen.	This, please.
Şu, lütfen.	That, please.

VOCABULARY

Turkish	English
bu	this

Turkish	English
şu	that
istemek	want

QUICK TIP

We have learned the sentence Bu, lütfen ("This, please"). We may need to spend some time with the grammar here. The first word, bu ("this"), is in the nominative. To show that you want something, you have to use the form accusative of the noun. The accusative form is used when defining the object of the phrase. For example Bunu istiyorum, lütfen ("I want this one, please"). The easiest way to understand accusative case is to say that a noun is in the accusative if it is the object in the sentence. This statement, although somewhat simplified, will help us understand Turkish grammar a bit more. Now try linking these sentences together: "This looks good. I want this, please. Please hand it to me." In Turkish it would go: Bu güzel görünüyor. Bunu istiyorum, lütfen. Lütfen, onu verir misiniz?. Don't forget to thank the person who is helping you so much.