

Intrepid Travel Language Guides

Turkish Language Guide Script

Ahmet: Merhaba. You are a tourist?

Scott: Ah, yes I'm just enjoying the peace and the light.

Ahmet: Yes, the mosque is very quiet at this time of day, we don't often see tourists this early, it is a lovely time to be here.

Scott: It's incredible. Merhaba is hello right?

Ahmet: Yes, that's right, or you might also say Nasilsimiz, which means How are you and a local would respond Iyiyim tesekkür ederim which means Fine, thank you

Scott: So, Nasilsimiz and Iyiyim tesekkür ederim

Ahmet: Not bad. How do you like the Blue Mosque?

Scott: It is truly awesome, totally unlike anything I've ever seen.

Ahmet: Would you like me to take you to the prayer area?

Scott: Of course, that would be terrific! Can we keep talking there - do you think you could teach me a few Turkish phrases?

Ahmet: I would enjoy that, come with me what would you like to know?

Scott: My name is Scott how do I say that in Turkish?

Ahmet: You say ah-duhm Scott. Ah-duhm Ahmet. To ask a person's name is ah-duh-nuhz neh

Scott: So, ah-duhm Scott. Ah-duh-nuhz neh?

Ahmet: Very good.

Scott: Ok, let's see, how would you say Good Morning or Good Evening?

Ahmet: Good Morning is gew-nahy-duhn

Scott: Gew-nahy-DUHN

Ahmet: Good Evening is ee-ahk-shahm-lahr and Good Night is ee-geh-jeh-lehr

Scott: ee-ahk-shahm-lahr, ee-geh-jeh-lehr

Ahmet: And Goodbye is ah-lahs-mahr-lah-duhk

Scott: Ah-lahs-mahr-lah-duhk. I've noticed that people seem to shake hands every time they meet is this customary?

Ahmet: Yes, Turkish people are very polite and quite formal. You should offer to shake hands when-ever you meet someone. If you know a person very well you might also kiss both their cheeks. You should also offer your hand when you farewell someone.

Scott: Right, I've noticed also that locals say something like allah-sa-mallah when they leave what is this?

Ahmet: (smiling) you mean Allahaismerladik which is a blessing from Allah and the response is gule gule which means be on your way with a smile

Scott: Gule gule what a nice farewell! Should I refer to people by their first name or should I use Mr or Miss?

Ahmet: This is a good question, we refer to one another as brother or sister so for young people you would use Hanim, as in Leyla Hanim or Bey for a man so you should call me Ahmet Bey.

Scott: Ok Ahmet Bey what about for older people

Ahmet: This is Abla for women and Agabey for men.

Scott: Abla, Agabey. What is that over there?

Ahmet: That niche? That is the mihrab, it shows us the direction of kaaba which Muslims face when praying.

Scott: It looks a bit like the opening to a huge passageway.

Ahmet: Yes thats right, for Muslims it represents a passage to Mecca.

Scott: Its pretty stunning! Now, how do I say Yes and No?

Ahmet: This is eh-veht and hah-yuhr for no

Scott: Eh-veht / hah-yuhr

Ahmet: You will also see that Turkish people use body language quite a lot for no you will see a person lift their head and eyebrows and make a sound like tsk

And for yes they will nod their head slightly forward remember this when you go to the Grand Bazaar have you been there yet?

Scott: Not yet, its on my list to do this week! Goog tip - so head lifted and tsk is no and slight nod is yes! How do I say please, thank you and excuse me?

Ahmet: Please is lewt-fehn, thank you is the-sheh-kewr-lehr and excuse me is Affedersiniz

Scott: luwt-fehn, sheh-kewr-lehr and affedersiniz

Ahmet: You will do well in Istanbul if you use a bit of Turkish and are polite. Also, dont forget to be respectful of elder people and people of high status this is very important in Turkish culture.

Scott: Right, thanks for that. Is there anything that is really rude that I should really avoid doing?

Ahmet: Generally, tourists are given a bit of lee-way but a few things to try and remember it is considered very offensive to point the sole of your foot at someone so remember that in Mosques particularly also, it is considered insulting to pass something to someone with your left hand make sure you use both hands or just your right hand.

Scott: Great tips thank you sorry I mean the-sheh-kewr-lehr! How do I say I dont understand?

Ahmet: This is the-sheh-kewr-lehr

Scott: the-sheh-kewr-lehr Ok, what about How much? And Too Expensive?

Ahmet: How much is kahch-tah

Scott: Kach-para

Ahmet: Very good, too expensive is chok pahali

Scott: chok pahali. I know, what about numbers- what is 1-10 in Turkish?

Ahmet: This is beer

Scott: Beer

Ahmet: ee-kee

Scott: ee-kee

Ahmet: ewch

Scott: ewch

Ahmet: durrt

Scott: durrt

Ahmet: behsh

Scott: behsh

Ahmet: ahl-tuh

Scott: ahl-tuh

Ahmet: veh-dee

Scott: veh-dee

Ahmet: she-keez

Scott: she-keez

Ahmet: doh-kooz

Scott: doh-kooz

Ahmet: ohn

Scott: ohn. What about some directions, how do I say Where is?

Ahmet: This is neh-re-de

Scott: neh-re-de. And Which way to?

Ahmet: ... ne tah-raf-ta

Scott: ... ne tah-raf-ta. Ahmet Bey, I hope Im not disturbing your prayers?

Ahmet: No, not at all I missed the first morning prayers so came in to catch up. We pray five times a day and I am now waiting for the next call to prayer, besides, I am enjoying our lesson!

Scott: Thank you, its very kind of you. I know, how do I say I like this Im enjoying our lesson too!

Ahmet: This is hosh – hu – ma geet - the

Scott: hosh – hu – ma geet - the What about I dont like this?

Ahmet: You say hosh – hu – ma geet – me – the

Scott: hosh – hu – ma geet – me – the. What about when a local is speaking too quickly how do I say Please speak slowly or I dont understand?

Ahmet: Please speak slowly is lut – fen ya – vash ko – nush - hun

Scott: lut – fen ya – vash ko – nush - hun. I know, what about bus, train, taxi and boat

Ahmet: My friend, the best way to get around Istanbul is by yellow taxi but make sure the driver puts the meter on! Taxi is thak - see,

Scott: thak - see

Ahmet: Train is tee - ren

Scott: tee - ren

Ahmet: Bus is ot – ho – bus

Scott: ot – ho – bus

Ahmet: boat is bot and ticket is bee - let have you visited The Islands the Princes Islands yet? It is a great way to spend the day.

Scott: I am going to go over with a group of friends later in the week so boat is and ticket is bee - let what about ferry? And, just a few more Ahmet Bey, this is very helpful, how do I say have you a room? And May I see it?

Ahmet: Ferry is va - pour and Have you a room is odha – niz var - mi

Scott: odha – niz var - mi

Ahmet: May I see it is goh – re – bee – leer – mee - yeem

Scott: goh – re – bee – leer – mee - yeem. Ok, last ones are police, hospital and doctor.

Ahmet: Scott Bey you should not need these if you are careful, but just in case police is po - lis

Scott: po - li

Ahmet: Hospital is khas – taha - ne

Scott: khas – taha - ne

Ahmet: And doctor is dhok - tor

Scott: dhok - tor. Ahmet Bey you have been a real help, I would really love it if you could show me the rest of the mosque.

Ahmet: It would be my pleasure.