

TABLE 59.23: *Turkish Alphabet*

Letter		Phonetic Value	Name
A	a	[a]	[a]
B	b	[b]	[be]
C	c	[d͡ʒ]	[d͡ʒe]
Ç	ç	[t͡ʃ]	[t͡ʃe]
D	d	[d]	[de]
E	e	[e]	[e]
F	f	[f]	[fe]
G	g	[g], [gʲ]	[g'e]
Ğ	ğ	(see text)	[jumu'jak ,g'e] 'soft <i>g</i> '
H	h	[h]	[he], [ha]
I	ı	[ɯ]	[ɯ]
İ	i	[i]	[i]
J	j	[ʒ]	[ʒe]
K	k	[k], [kʲ]	[k'e], [ka]
L	l	[l], [lʲ]	[l'e]
M	m	[m]	[me]
N	n	[n]	[ne]
O	o	[o]	[o]
Ö	ö	[ø]	[ø]
P	p	[p]	[pe]
R	r	[r]	[re]
S	s	[s]	[se]
Ş	ş	[ʃ]	[ʃe]
T	t	[t]	[te]
U	u	[u]	[u]
Ü	ü	[y]	[y]
V	v	[v]	[ve]
Y	y	[j]	[je]
Z	z	[z]	[ze]

vowel length arises through the historical loss of a voiced velar fricative syllable-finally, and is represented by the etymological spelling of vowel + *ğ* (between vowels, *ğ* is silent). The representation of consonants is basically in terms of a one-to-one phoneme–letter correspondence. Among palatals, *y* represents [j] while *j* (as in French) is [ʒ]; [ʃ] and [t͡ʃ] are indicated by means of a cedilla (*ş*, *ç*), while [d͡ʒ] makes idiosyncratic but efficient use of the letter *c*. There is contrast in loanwords between front and back *k*, *g*, *l* before back vowels (in the case of *l*, also word-finally); this is not usually shown orthographically, although a circumflex accent is sometimes used on *a* and *u* to indicate a preceding front velar or lateral. Stress is phonemic, in particular in proper names and in loanwords, but is not indicated orthographically.

## Turkish

On the order of Kemal Atatürk in 1928, the Republic of Turkey switched virtually overnight from the Arabic-based script of Ottoman Turkish (TABLE 62.8 on page 758) to a Roman alphabet script (Heyd 1954, Bazin 1983). Turkish has an eight-vowel system; the front rounded vowels are indicated by means of an umlaut, the high back unrounded vowel by dropping the dot from the letter *i* (the upper case equivalent of *i* is *İ*, that of *i* is *I*.) Vowel length is distinctive, in particular in loans from Arabic–Persian, but is only rarely indicated by means of a circumflex accent. In native words,

## SAMPLE OF TURKISH

1. *Turkish*: Bin dokuz yüz yirmi sekiz yılında kabul  
 2. *Transcription*: 'bin do'kuz ,jyz jir,mi se'k'iz ju'lun'da ka'bul'  
 3. *Gloss*: 1000 9 100 20 8 in.its.year acceptance
1. edilmiş olan Yeni Türk Alfabeti her ses için ayrı  
 2. edil'miş olan je,ni 'tyrk<sup>j</sup> alfabe'si 'her ,ses i'jin aj'ruu  
 3. done being new Turk its.alphabet each sound for separate
1. bir harf ve her harf için yalnız bir ses esasları üzerine  
 2. bir 'harf ve 'her ,harf i'jin 'jalnuuz 'bir ,ses esasl'a'ruu yzerine  
 3. a letter and each letter for only one sound its.principles onto
1. Lâtin harfleriyle tertip edilmiştir. Bütün harfler okunur.  
 2. Pa'tin harfl'e'trij'l'e ter'tip edil',miştir by'tyn harfl'er oku'nur  
 3. Latin with.its.letters organization was.done all letters are.read
1. Yalnız yumuşak ge harfinin okunmadığı ve yerine  
 2. 'jalnuuz jumu'jak 'g'e harfi'nin o'kunmaduu ve jeri'ne  
 3. however soft g its.letter not.to.be.read and to.its.position
1. göre farklı söylendiği olur. Türk alfabeti  
 2. g'öre fark'lıu şöjl'endi'i olur 'tyrk<sup>j</sup> alfabe'si  
 3. according different to.be.pronounced happens Turk its.alphabet
1. sade ve kullanışlıdır.  
 2. sa:'de ve kullanu'ş'ludur  
 3. simple and convenient.is

'The New Turkish Alphabet, which was approved in the year 1928, is organized according to the principle of a separate letter for each sound and only one sound for each letter using Latin letters. All letters are read. However, it happens that soft *g* is not read, and is pronounced differently according to its position. The Turkish alphabet is simple and convenient.'  
 —Banguoğlu 1959: 26.

## TURKISH

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