

Detective Work

Today, we're investigating the -en subject participle. It's elementary my dear Watson.

The subject participle (en). • Beginner

Dialog

1 | Dedektif

Barda o gün kim vardı? Hatırlaman gerekli. Katil de o gece bardaydı çünkü.

2 | Sanık

Tamam, düşünüyorum. Barda benimle beraber iki kişi oturuyordu. Yanımda oturan adam çok sinirliydi.

3 | Dedektif

Çok ilginç. . . barda oturan öteki adam peki? O ne yapıyordu?

4 | Sanık

Dikkat çeken birşey yapmadı. Ama arka masada içkiyi fazla içenler vardı.

5 | Dedektif

İçenlerin arasında kırmızı elbise giyen bir kadın var mıydı?

6 | Sanık

Hayır, öyle birini görmedim.

7 | Dedektif

Çok garip, çünkü güvenlik kamerasında onunla beraber görünüyorsun.

8 | Sanık

Allahın belasası polisler! Sevdiğim kadını size vermeyeceğim. Sevenler asla vazgeçmez.

Dialog Translation

1 | Dedektif

Who was at the bar that day? You need to remember, because the murderer was also at the bar that night.

2 | Sanık

Okay, I'm thinking. There were two people sitting together with me at the bar. The man sitting by my side was very angry.

3 | Dedektif

Very intereting. . . and the other man sitting at the bar? What was he doing?

4 | Sanık

He didn't do anything that stood out. But there were some people drinking a lot at the table in the back.

5 | Dedektif

Was there a woman wearing a red dress amongst those drinking?

6 | Sanık

No, I didn't see someone like that.

7 | Dedektif

That's very strange, because you appear to be together with her on the security camera.

8 | Sanık

Blasted police! I won't give you the woman I love. Lovers never give up.

Language Points

The -en Subject Participle

Earlier, this week, we published a lesson on the -dik object participle and discussed the difference between the two. [Check that out for a more detailed discussion on what participles are and how they act in Turkish.](#) In a nutshell, a participle is an adjective made from a verb and Turkish participles fall into two broad categories: the object participle and the subject participle. Today, we're talking about the subject participle - an adjective made from a verb that modifies the subject of a clause.

The suffix *-en* makes the subject participle in Turkish. It follows [e-type vowel harmony](#) and is added directly to the verb stem. When adding *-en* to a verb stem that ends in a vowel, add a *buffer y*. Notice that (unlike *-dik* participles), *-en* participles don't contain any information about the person, since the word it is modifying provides the context. Finally, *-en* can be used to convey the past or present tense (a different suffix is used for the future subject participle).

When translating *-en* participles into English, we usually need to use a *who* or *that* clause: *the man who is running*, *the doctor who is working*, etc. Here are some examples to get you started:

Koşan adam.

The man who is running.

İçki içen kızlar arka masada oturuyorlar.

The girls who are drinking alcohol are sitting at the back table.

Uyuyan köpek.

The dog that is sleeping.

Beni seven kedi.

The cat that loves me.

İngilizce bilen bayan aranıyor.

A woman who knows English is wanted. (seen on a job post)

-en Participles as Nouns

Just like all adjectives in Turkish, -en participles can act as nouns if the noun they are modifying is implied. Therefore, don't be surprised to see the usual noun suffixes attached to these participles.

Koşanlar.

The ones that are running.

Orada çalışanlara gördük.

We saw the people working over there.

Dans edeyenin adı Fırat.

The name of the one dancing is Fırat.

Kırmızı elbise giyenden korkuyor.

He is afraid of the one wearing the red dress.

Comparing -en and -dik

It's hard to explain the difference between -en and -dik without getting very technical. But we'll try. Use -en when the word you are modifying is doing the action; in *the man who is running (koşan adam)*, the man is the one running. The man is the *subject* of the clause *who is running*

Use -dik when the word you are modifying is being acted on by someone else or something else; in *the man who I ran into (rastladığım adam)*, the man is being run into *by* me. The man is the *object* of the clause - that is, the one receiving the action done by me.

Beni seven kadın.

The woman who loves me.

Sevdiğim kadın.

The woman whom I love.

Mektup yazan adam.

The man writing the letter.

Adamın yazdığı mektup.

The letter that the man wrote.

Vocabulary

hatırlamak

to remember

arka

back

elbise

dress

giymek

to wear

garip

strange

katil

murderer

beraber

together

yanımda

by my side

sinirli

angry, nervous

dikkat çekmek

to stand out

Review

1. Which of the following is a correct -en construction?

- a. koşun adam
- b. koşan adam
- c. uyuyen adam
- d. uyuyun adam

2. Which of the following makes a participle out of the clause "kadın kırmızı elbise giyiyor."

- a. kırmızı elbise giyen kadın
- b. giyen kadın kırmızı elbise
- c. kadın kırmızı elbise giyen
- d. kırmızı elbise giydiđi elbise

3. Which of the following are correct -en constructions? (pick all)

- a. içen
- b. söylen
- c. çalışın
- d. giten
- e. gülen
- f. söyleyen

4. Translate: *the teacher who is speaking (konuşmak)*. (write)

5. Translate: *a man who is drinking beer*. (write)

Answer Key

1. b
2. a
3. a e f
4. Konuşan öğretmen
5. Bira içen bir adam , Bira içen adam

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- See a word-by-word translation of the dialog.
- See the entire dialog broken down into suffixes.
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