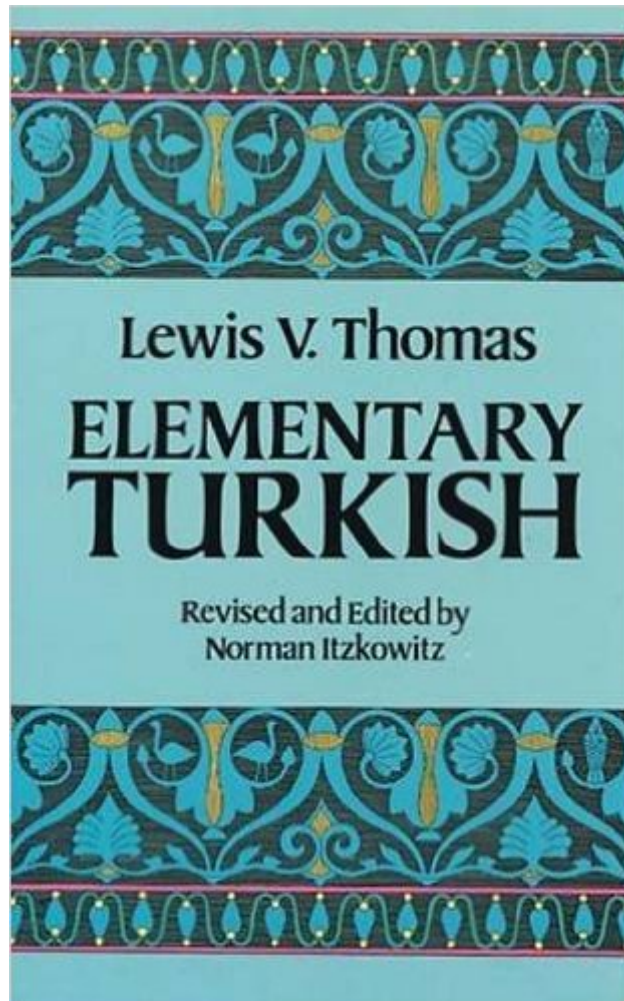


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# Elementary Turkish (Dover Language Guides)



## Synopsis

Turkish is the primary language of some thirty million people. Anyone concerned with current social, political, and cultural developments in Turkey knows that a practical understanding of the basic patterns of modern Turkish is an invaluable skill that until now has been difficult to attain without extensive training. This superb grammar and exercise text, used successfully for years in Princeton University, enables English-speaking students "in and out of the classroom" to gain a quick and thorough understanding of modern Turkish. In a carefully arranged sequence of 23 lessons, Lewis V. Thomas, late Professor of Oriental Studies at Princeton, presents thorough coverage that allows the student to begin to use the basic patterns of modern Turkish without time-consuming and expensive private instruction. The method of instruction was devised after an extensive analysis of results in Princeton classrooms, and relies on exercises at the end of each lesson to test the student's grasp of the material. Beginning with the alphabet and numbers, Professor Thomas offers clear, concise coverage of articles, adjectives and nouns, common infinitives, personal pronouns, and elementary verbs. As the student's comprehension of basic elements develops, further lessons deal with more complicated subjects such as the possessive construction, past general verbs, postpositions, the partitive, progressive verb forms, and abbreviating verb forms. A complete Turkish-English glossary translates new vocabulary occurring in the exercises. Norman Itzkowitz, Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, has skillfully made the necessary revisions and additions to complete Professor Thomas' work. For anyone who needs to communicate in this important and influential language, Professor Thomas' proven course, now in an inexpensive paperback edition, is the most effective method available.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Almost 10 years ago I went to Turkey for the first time as an exchange student with the Rotary Club. I was living with a Turkish family and I was determined to learn the language. One day I met another American woman in Turkey who spoke fluent Turkish. She sent me home with this book and a few words of advice. "Elementary Turkish" is truly a classic in the world of Turkish language acquisition. The book proved to be extremely helpful to me, especially as it gave me grammatical categories for all of the words and phrases that I was learning from the Turks around me. Lewis Thomas understands the language well, and his book explains it in very readable, but challenging lessons. After receiving the book, I spent about an hour with it every day for around 3 months. It was an integral part of my Turkish language acquisition. Now as a fluent Turkish speaker, I use this book often to help train people who are going to Turkey, either long-term or short-term. In some of the vocabulary lists and colloquial expressions it is somewhat dated, but overall this short textbook is still the best. It is packed with helpful vocabulary and language lessons and exercises. It can be used either to study over a long period of time (as I did), or to peruse for vocabulary and basic grammar (as I have used it to train others). If you have no exposure to spoken Turkish, buy this book along with one of the many cassette tape courses available. If you plan on learning Turkish in Turkey, then this book is all you need.

To prepare for going to Istanbul to attend the engagement party of my oldest son to the lovely A-zlem, I thought it might be helpful if I could speak a word or two of Turkish. There isn't a better book than this one on the market (actually, I don't think there are any other elementary Turkish language books ON the market). It is a great little book, with actual lessons laid out at the end of each chapter. You're given several sentences to translate from English to Turkish and vice-versa. I would have given it five stars, but the downside is they don't tell you that you MUST have a Turkish dictionary at hand. I didn't realize this until I was in Istanbul trying to do my homework. There's a short dictionary in the back of this book, but it is Turkish to English (which makes it hard to look up some of the words you're supposed to translate from English to Turkish - and some words just aren't there). The CD tape I bought simply wasn't enough, so I added this book. (You absolutely need a CD, though, so you can understand the pronunciation -- extremely important in this

language! Highly recommended.

I have bought this book so my wife could learn Turkish. Turkish is my native language and from what I saw, there is no way to learn Turkish properly from this book. The example sentences make no sense. It looks like a computer translated the sentences to Turkish and nobody edited them. It definitely needs a native person's editing so the sentences make some sense.

This was my first text book in Turkish (some 28 years ago). Despite many new and innovative techniques in language teaching and acquisition, this little charmer is still one of my favorites. If one takes one's time to work through the exercises step-by-step -- the result will be an excellent basic command of Turkish sentence structure and verb system. Professor Thomas has a very systematic style which I appreciate as a student (especially when learning by oneself). Alas, no one has taken the opportunity to make recordings of the examples or exercises. This would make a great package -- Hint, hint if the publisher is reading. Anyway, affordably priced and fairly complete in itself (except for the lack of audio), you can't lose if you want to learn Turkish!

I am a native Turkish speaker and I bought this book for my really good Canadian friend who got interested in the language. This book has been written by a person who has lived in the mid 60's and hasn't been updated since apparently. There are phrases and words (mostly words that have Arabic or Farsi roots that got replaced by modernized Turkish ones) in this book, that are not used in daily life anymore. An example to such phrase is "How many bulbs are there in your radio?" The book still may be good for learning the grammar (can't comment on that since I only glanced through it), but in terms of learning recent vocabulary and phrases that wouldn't sound like you sound funny, it is not the best reference.

It's a Turkish grammar, rather than a primer for a complete beginner. It was written for Princeton students who must be a very intelligent bunch. Sometimes the English is hard to follow and you have to be smart to understand it.. It's full of sentences like "the infinitives - common or light- may govern the objective definite suffix , or other appropriate suffixes, on preceding substantives, just as do finite verb forms." and "the common infinitive with the following combinations of two suffixes (1) the ablative suffix (2) the conditional suffix, means....." It may be a little out of date. It says the lira contains a hundred kurus. Maybe things move slowly in Princeton. I think it might be helpful for someone who had learned to talk Turkish in an ungrammatical way - maybe lives in Turkey- and

wanted to become more correct. There are no tapes.

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