

Question 18: Turkish bath time Solution

E1.

- (a) Is your father happy?
- (b) We say “Come to our city”
- (c) My friend wants to be(come) a doctor
- (d) Do they like my poor house?
- (e) We come from Ankara

E2.

- (a) When I come, they say “Hello”
- (b) They say (that) you are poor
- (c) Is your father happy that we come/are coming?
- (d) Is the city you come from big?
- (e) The city I am happiest in is Istanbul
- (f) Although we are poor, we are happy

Comments

This was a difficult problem with a lot going on. Turkish is what linguists call an ‘agglutinative’ language, which means that word stems can have a lot of endings piled up to add meanings to nouns such as plural, possession (‘my’, ‘your’) and location, and to verbs to indicate subject agreement. An additional complication, mentioned in the blurb, is that the vowels in these endings vary in what is called ‘vowel harmony’.

We won’t give all the details here, but some of the endings include ...

On nouns *lar/ler* = plural, *ım* = ‘my’, *dan* = ‘from’, *de* = ‘in’

On nouns and verbs *lar/ler* = plural

On verbs *yor* = ‘he’, *yuz* = ‘we’

mu/mü/mı = question

The new unseen affix *iğim* seen in E2 required a clever guess: it indicates a ‘subordinate’ clause, such as ‘when’, ‘if’, ‘although’ and so on.