



Co-funded by
the European Union



Polite Phrases

by [selcuk kirbac](#)

Name of Activity: Polite Phrases

Context: This activity highlights the importance of polite phrases as a bridge between language and culture.

Aim: The aim of this activity is to introduce students to polite phrases that play a vital role in Turkish vocabulary, to highlight the meaning of these words in Turkish, and to explain how these phrases reflect Turkish culture in the language.

Content: This activity was planned and carried out over two lessons. In the first lesson, students were introduced to the contexts in which these phrases are commonly used in Turkish, through concrete examples. It was emphasized that these expressions often contain metaphors, and the importance of understanding and mastering these metaphorical expressions was explained in depth. These phrases, which serve as a clear example of the connection between language and culture, hold a central place in the Turkish language and have a broad range of usage.

Turkish has a rich vocabulary to phrases oneself in different situations, such as when greeting guests, during meals, when facing illness, in the event of a death, while traveling, during childbirth, and many other everyday situations. One example is when a beloved guest arrives to stay with you, and when they depart, you say, "May God reunite you." This expression is, of course, metaphorical and refers to a wish for a future reunion. It is essential to use such expressions correctly and in the appropriate context.

To help students understand this, I wrote down these polite phrases and explained their meanings in the classroom. I also created various scenarios for the students to work with and encouraged them to identify the words that could be used in these specific situations. Together, we discussed the alternatives and tried to find the most appropriate expressions. I varied and increased the number of scenarios to deepen the students' understanding of when these expressions should be used.

As a follow-up, I gave the students a list of words commonly used in daily life and provided explanations for these terms. In the next lesson, I distributed questions I had prepared about these expressions and what could be said in different situations. The students were asked to answer the questions, and we discussed the correct answers together.

Form: Two weeks of class work

Adjustments: This study can be applied to various groups.

Assessment: This activity provided students with valuable insights into language, culture, and the relationship between the two. I noticed that many students either did not use or were unfamiliar with polite phrases that hold a central place in the Turkish language. I realized that some of these expressions do not have a direct equivalent in Swedish, making it challenging for students to use them correctly. I also observed that students had difficulty understanding the concepts behind these expressions. Since these expressions do not exist in Swedish, it is often



Co-funded by
the European Union



difficult for students to visualize them in their minds. As they use Swedish in their daily lives, they lack the same cultural context in which they can apply these Turkish expressions.

Another challenge was that students struggled with using abstract expressions. For many, it was difficult to use metaphors and integrate them into their speech, especially since their use of the native language is often limited to concrete and everyday contexts. At the same time, this activity provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn more about their own culture by understanding these expressions, which are an integral part of Turkish culture. Examples of such expressions relate to guest culture, food culture, traditions surrounding birth and death, as well as special days and holidays. These cultural expressions are abundant in Turkish and were something students had the chance to familiarize themselves with during the lessons.

Through these lessons, students not only learned some of these expressions but were also reminded of important aspects of Turkish culture. They realized the significance of these words and how they carry valuable cultural and social nuances. After learning about these polite phrases, many students expressed a desire to use them frequently when speaking Turkish. They said they would now pay more attention when they hear these words and try to better understand their meaning. The students also emphasized that they really enjoyed the course, learned a lot, and gained a deeper understanding of the cultural details of Turkish culture.