

The New Turkey: The Quiet Revolution on the Edge of Europe
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A NOTE ON PRONUNCIATION

Modern Turkish uses a modified version of the Latin alphabet. Most words can be pronounced phonetically, but there are a few letters which will be strange to readers who are not familiar with the Turkish language:

c is pronounced like an English j, as in jelly.

ç is like ch, as in charity.

Similarly ş is like sh, as in shed.

i with a dot is pronounced as you would expect in English, as in sin. The capital letter should strictly speaking also carry a dot, so Istanbul should read İstanbul.

ı without a dot has no direct equivalent in English, but is close to the vowel sound in the second syllable of totem.

ö and ü are the same as in German, sounding a bit like oe or ue in English, so Atatürk, in pronounced Ataturk.

Other vowels are fairly standard - a as in cart, e as in men, o as in shot and u as in swoon.

ğ is silent but lengthens the vowel which precedes it - so Erdoğan is pronounced Air-doe-an.