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Arzu Kurklu, *Lonely Planet Phrasebooks*
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Arzu Kurklu, Lonely Planet Phrasebooks : Turkish: Lonely Planet Phrasebook before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Turkish: Lonely Planet Phrasebook:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Should have bought a Turkish/English dictionary By Zanchi I bought this because I also have the Italian and Latin American Spanish versions of the Lonely Planet phrasebooks and had found the "food" sections of those to be quite useful and because I did not want the bulk of carrying a dictionary. However, during my recent trip to Turkey, I vowed to not buy anymore of these phrasebooks. 90% of the time, when I came upon a Turkish word and wanted to know what it meant, I was left sorely disappointed by the

dictionary section. And there were plenty of other confusions, here are 3 examples that stand out: 1. The book gave misguidance as to the proper way to ask for the check at a restaurant. 1.5 weeks into the trip, one waiter finally corrected us. After that, we received no blank stares upon our request for the check! 2. Diesel fuel is translated to "dizel". Yet, at 95% of the gas stations we drove past (in over 3000kms of driving) diesel was referred to as "motorin". Thankfully, the first time we filled up we were able to confirm that "motorin" was indeed diesel - no thanks to this phrasebook. 3. At no time during 2.5 weeks of travel did anyone ever wish us a good morning by saying "iyi sabahlar" as indicated in the book. It was always "gnayd'n". I did not have reason to use the vast majority of phrases in this book, but I can only imagine similar examples are rampant. Though it would have taken up more room, it would have been much more useful to have a Turkish/English dictionary. I could easily have Googled the few most useful phrases for a vacation, jotted them down on a notepad, and stuck them in my guidebook. And that's exactly what I plan to do next time, in addition to lugging along a dictionary.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just back from Turkey, and this book was only okay... By Aliveisthecity Just back from a week in Turkey. Prior to the trip I mainly relied upon online language courses to learn a bit of traveler's Turkish, and supplemented my pre-trip education with Lonely Planet's Turkish Phrasebook. I thought I was all set. Within moments of landing in Istanbul, I learned how sadly astray I had been lead. If you're sticking to Istanbul (both the European and the Asian side), this book will likely be of very little use. Save your luggage space. Every Turk I met did not use the formal words presented in this book. In fact, a few who spoke a bit of English told me they were offended that I was trying to speak so formally/politely; and directed me to use casual terms like Sag ol (thank you) instead of the monstrosity of formality this book recommends. I chucked the book and started using the casual slang terms touched upon in my online courses with much greater success. Plus, the casual terms are muuuuuuch easier to pronounce! As for the history of the region in general and language in specific that this book touches upon, that's all fantastic. Too bad I had read that all before getting on the plane; had I known that was the only worthwhile part, I would've packed a different book in its place. If you plan to travel outside Istanbul, however, this book may prove of more use. I can't speak to that.

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. compact, helpful, but a bit confusing on pronunciation By Horse Trader It's well organized, and starts off with a series of helpful short phrases that would help a traveler anywhere: hello, goodbye, thank you, please, where are the toilets, that sort of thing. It then introduces information how to use the negative ('I will be' becomes 'I will not be'), and it provides for English-Turkish or Turkish-English. And it includes a transliteration for every Turkish phrase. But I'm still a bit mystified by some examples, such as the ending of 'mu' or 'musiniz' (should be the turkish 'i' without the dot) in a sentence, and when to use them? But the main issue I had was with the transliteration and not knowing if the g was hard (get) or soft (gentle), or the o was oh or more like uh as in other, if the e was ee or eh, etc. I don't think I'll find out until I get to Turkey and hear a native speaker. A companion website with pronunciations would be a great addition. One other plus - it gives advice on Turkish life in small blurbs here and there.

You wipe the dust from a bejewelled bottle and djinn appears in a cloud of smoke. Three wishes, but of course it only takes one - 'I want to speak Turkish.' In a flash, this phrasebook's in your hand and the words come tumbling out Cok tesekkur ederim. Our phrasebooks give you a comprehensive mix of practical and social words and phrases in more than 120 languages. Chat with the locals and discover their culture - a guaranteed way to enrich your travel experience.

National Geographic Traveler, September 2006 'Lonely Planet Phrasebooks. Portable, pocket-size, cheap, and available for almost any country you might want to visit...'