# Following the global agenda while learning English

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# Following the news in general

- How often do you watch the news?
- Do you watch the news in Turkish or in English?
- Which channels/media tools do you use?

# What is on the agenda of Turkiye nowadays?

1. What did Turkiye talk about last week? What do you remember from last week's news?

2. What happened in the last year in Turkiye? What kind of keywords come to your mind?

# Keywords:

❖ March 8, International Women's Day   Women's rights  Gender equality
❖ Local elections in Turkiye   Ballot   Voting   Mayor Candidates   Municipality
❖ Earthquake   Rescue operations   Epicenter  Magnitude  Aftershock  Emergency kit

- **Breaking the Glass Ceiling:** What are some challenges women in Turkey face in the workplace? How can we work towards gender equality in these areas?
- **Sharing the Workload:** In many families, women traditionally do more housework and childcare. How can we encourage more equal responsibility at home?
- **Education Matters:** Education is a powerful tool for women's empowerment. What are some ways to ensure all girls in Turkey have access to quality education?

## What is on the agenda of the world?

- How do you follow the news around the world?
- What are the international channels/websites/news agencies that you follow?
- How much are you interested in the world news?
- Why is it important to follow the global news?

# Speaking Topic Categories

## I. Climate Crisis

**Keywords:**

- **Climate Change:** Imagine Earth's usual weather patterns are like its mood. Climate change is when this mood swings wildly, with hotter and colder extremes, more storms, and unpredictable rainfall.
- **Environment:** Everything around us that affects living things, like the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the plants and animals we share the planet with.
- **Sustainability:** Using resources wisely, like not wasting water or electricity, so there's enough for future generations.
- **Carbon Footprint:** The amount of carbon dioxide released into the air by our activities, like driving cars or using electricity.
- **Global Warming:** When Earth's average temperature gets hotter, like a fever. This happens because of greenhouse gases trapping heat.
- **Renewable Energy:** Getting power from sources that are naturally replenished, like sunshine, wind, or flowing water, instead of burning fossil fuels.
- **Climate Justice:** The idea that everyone should be involved in solving climate change, but those who haven't caused it as much shouldn't suffer the worst effects.
- **Greenhouse Gas:** Gases in the atmosphere that act like a blanket, trapping heat from the sun and causing global warming. Think of them like a giant invisible greenhouse!

Discussion Questions:

> - **Small acts vs. Big polluters:** Can individuals really make a difference?
> - **Going green:** What are we willing to change in our daily lives?
> - **Tech fixes vs. lifestyle changes:** How can we solve climate change? Can technology help us?
> - **Climate worry blues:** How can we stay positive about the environment?
> - **Working together vs. going it alone:** Can countries fight climate change together?

## II. Gender Equality

**Keywords:**

1. **Equality:** The core concept, ensuring men, women, and all genders have equal rights and opportunities.
2. **Empowerment:** Supporting individuals, especially women, to reach their full potential.
3. **Representation:** Ensuring all genders are fairly represented in leadership positions and decision-making.
4. **Pay Gap:** The difference in average earnings between men and women for similar work.
5. **Gender Stereotypes:** Fixed ideas about what roles men and women should play, which can limit opportunities.
6. **Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome or offensive sexual advances.
7. **Reproductive Rights:** The right to control one's body, including fertility choices.
8. **Intersectionality:** Understanding how different forms of discrimination (like race and gender) can overlap and create unique challenges.
9. **Inclusion:** Creating a society where everyone feels valued and respected, regardless of gender.

Discussion Questions:

- **Closing the Gap:** The gender pay gap is still a problem. What are some practical ways to ensure men and women get paid equally for the same work?
- **Breaking Stereotypes:** We often see gender stereotypes in media and everyday life. How can we challenge these stereotypes and promote opportunities for everyone, regardless of gender?
- **Sharing the Workload:** In many families, women still do more housework and childcare than men. How can we achieve a more balanced division of household responsibilities?
- **Women in Leadership:** There are still fewer women in leadership roles in business and politics. What can we do to encourage and support more women to become leaders?
- **Global Equality:** Gender equality issues differ around the world. How can we work together to promote gender equality for everyone, everywhere?

## III.   Agenda of the US

**Keywords:**

**Domestic Issues:**

- **Economy:** The ongoing focus is likely on economic recovery, inflation control, and job creation.
- **Infrastructure:** There might be discussions about maintaining and improving America's roads, bridges, and other infrastructure.
- **Healthcare:** Ensuring affordable and accessible healthcare for all Americans is likely an ongoing debate.

**Foreign Policy:**

- **Global Security:** The US role in the world, including its response to ongoing conflicts and promoting international cooperation, is a likely discussion point.
- **Trade:** Negotiating trade deals to benefit American businesses and workers is a potential agenda item.
- **Climate Change:** The US strategy for addressing climate change domestically and internationally is likely on the agenda.

**Midterm Elections:**

- With the 2024 Presidential election approaching, the recent midterm results (November 2023) might be shaping the current political landscape.

**Discussion Questions**

1. **Jobs and the Economy:** The US is still recovering from the economic impacts of recent years. What are some key strategies the government should focus on to create jobs and ensure a strong economy for everyone?
2. **Infrastructure Crumbling:** America's roads, bridges, and other infrastructure are aging. How can the US best invest in maintaining and upgrading this infrastructure for the future?
3. **Healthcare Debate:** The US healthcare system is complex and debated. What steps can be taken to ensure affordable and accessible healthcare for all Americans?

4. **America on the World Stage:** The US plays a significant role in global security and cooperation. How can the US effectively balance its interests abroad while promoting peace and stability?
5. **Midterm Impact:** The recent midterm elections might influence the current agenda. How do you think the results will shape US domestic and foreign policy in the coming months?

## IV.   Developments in AI Technology

**Keywords:**

# Advancements in AI Technology: Shaping Our World

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming our world. Here's a glimpse into some of the exciting developments:

**Machine Learning on the Rise:** Machine learning algorithms are getting smarter, learning from vast amounts of data to make predictions and improve without explicit programming. Imagine a program that analyzes millions of medical images to identify diseases with increasing accuracy.

**Deep Learning Dives Deeper:** A subfield of machine learning, deep learning utilizes complex neural networks loosely inspired by the human brain. This allows AI to excel at tasks like image recognition, making self-driving cars and facial recognition software more sophisticated.

**Natural Language Processing Takes Center Stage:** AI is getting better at understanding and responding to human language. This is fueling advancements in chatbots that can have more natural conversations and virtual assistants that can understand complex requests.

**Seeing the World Through AI's Eyes:** Computer vision is giving AI the ability to "see" and interpret the world around us. Applications range from robots that can navigate warehouses to analyzing satellite imagery for environmental monitoring.

**Learning by Doing: Reinforcement Learning's Power:** This approach allows AI to learn through trial and error, interacting with its environment and receiving rewards for desired actions. Imagine an AI system learning to play a complex game by trying different strategies and adapting based on its successes.

**AI Creates, Too: The Rise of Generative AI:** Gone are the days of AI just analyzing data. Generative AI can create entirely new content, like realistic images, compelling music, or even writing different kinds of creative text formats.

**Ethical Considerations: The Balancing Act of AI:** As AI becomes more powerful, ethical considerations become paramount. Ensuring fairness, addressing bias in algorithms, and developing responsible AI are crucial aspects of AI development.

**AI for the Greater Good:** The potential of AI to solve global challenges is immense. Imagine AI tackling climate change by optimizing energy use or assisting in medical research by analyzing vast datasets to find new cures.

**Discussion Questions**

- **AI in Our Jobs:** Friend or Foe? Will AI create more jobs than it replaces? How can we prepare for changes in the workplace due to AI?
- **AI for Everyone?** Right now, big companies have more access to powerful AI. How can we ensure everyone benefits from AI advancements, not just a select few?
- **Smarter than Us?** Should we be worried about AI becoming too intelligent? How can we develop AI responsibly and safely?
- **AI Bias:** What's the Solution? AI algorithms can sometimes be biased, reflecting the data they're trained on. How can we prevent bias in AI and ensure fairness in its use?
- **Daily Life with AI:** Helpful or Creepy? AI is becoming more present in our daily lives, from smartphones to home assistants. Where do we draw the line between helpful AI and technology that feels intrusive?

## V. Agenda of the European Union

**Keywords:**

**Short-Term Focus (Pre-EU Elections):**

- **Campaigning:** With European Parliament elections happening in June 2024, much of the first half of the year might be focused on campaigning and political maneuvering.

**Long-Term Priorities:**

- **Green Deal:** The ambitious plan to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 remains a top priority. Implementation, funding, and achieving "Fit for 55" targets (55% emissions reduction by 2030) are likely ongoing discussions.
- **Economic Recovery:** The post-pandemic economic situation and ensuring a strong and sustainable economic future for all EU member states is a key concern.
- **Global Role:** The EU's role in international affairs, including its response to ongoing conflicts and promoting global cooperation, is a likely discussion point.
- **Innovation Agenda:** Fostering innovation across various sectors, particularly deep tech, is crucial for Europe's competitiveness and future growth.

**Other Considerations:**

- **Energy Security:** The recent geopolitical situation has highlighted the importance of Europe's energy security and reducing dependence on foreign energy sources.
- **Digital Transformation:** Europe's digital transformation and ensuring a level playing field with technological giants is likely on the agenda.

## VI. Increasing Migration in the World

# On the Move: A Look at Increasing Global Migration

The world is on the move. International migration, the movement of people across borders to live in a country other than their own, is on the rise. Here's a closer look at this trend:

**The Numbers:**

The data speaks for itself. As of 2020, the United Nations estimates that over 281 million people, or roughly 3.6% of the global population, live in a country other than where they were born. This number has been steadily increasing over the past few decades.

**The Drivers:**

Several factors are fueling this rise in migration:

- **Economic Disparity:** People are often drawn to countries with better economic opportunities, higher wages, and a better standard of living.
- **Conflict and Violence:** Unfortunately, war, persecution, and instability drive many people to seek refuge in safer countries.
- **Environmental Pressures:** Climate change, natural disasters, and resource scarcity can force people to migrate to find a more secure environment.
- **Demographic Shifts:** Aging populations in some countries necessitate immigration to fill labor shortages and maintain economic growth.

**The Impact:**

Migration has a significant impact on both sending and receiving countries:

**Positive Impacts:**

- **Economic Growth:** Migrants often contribute by filling labor shortages, boosting innovation and entrepreneurship, and sending back remittances to their home countries.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Migration fosters cultural diversity, enriching societies through new ideas, traditions, and cuisines.

**Challenges:**

- **Integration:** Migrants can face challenges integrating into new societies, including language barriers, cultural differences, and potential discrimination.
- **Social Tensions:** A rapid influx of migrants can strain public services and resources, leading to social tensions and concerns about national identity.

**The Road Ahead:**

Managing migration effectively requires international cooperation:

- **Addressing Root Causes:** Tackling poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation can help reduce the need for migration in the first place.
- **Fair and Orderly Migration:** Creating clear and efficient immigration policies is crucial to ensure a smooth integration process.
- **Promoting Integration:** Investing in language training, job training, and cultural programs can help migrants integrate successfully into their new communities.

**Conclusion:**

Migration is a complex phenomenon with both challenges and opportunities. By acknowledging the drivers of migration, working together to address the root causes, and promoting a fair and integrated approach, we can ensure that migration benefits both sending and receiving countries in the years to come.

**Discussion Questions**

- **Opportunity or Burden?** How can we ensure that migration is seen as an opportunity for economic growth and cultural exchange, rather than a burden on resources?
- **Addressing the Root Causes:** Poverty, conflict, and environmental issues are major drivers of migration. What international efforts can be taken to address these issues and reduce the need for people to leave their homes?
- **Integration Challenges:** Migrants often face challenges integrating into new societies. How can governments and communities best support migrants in learning the language, finding jobs, and feeling welcome?
- **Finding the Balance:** Countries need skilled workers, but a rapid influx of migrants can cause social tensions. How can we find a balance between attracting talent and managing migration effectively?
- **Sharing the Responsibility:** The responsibility for refugees often falls on a few countries. How can we encourage a more global approach to managing migration and ensuring all countries share the responsibility?

**International News Websites & Sources to Follow the World Agenda:**

BBC News: https://www.bbc.com/news

Reuters: https://www.reuters.com/

The New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/

The Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/europe

Al Jazeera: https://www.aljazeera.com/

The Economist: https://www.economist.com/

Foreign Policy: https://foreignpolicy.com/

**AI News:**

**News and Analysis Websites:**

- **MIT Technology Review (https://www.technologyreview.com/)** - This website by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology offers in-depth articles, analysis, and commentary on emerging technologies, including AI. They cover a wide range of AI topics, from machine learning advancements to the ethical implications of AI.
- **VentureBeat (https://venturebeat.com/)** - This website focuses on technology news and trends, with a strong emphasis on AI. They cover breaking news in the AI field, funding rounds for AI startups, and interviews with key figures in the industry.
- **AI News (https://www.artificialintelligence.news/)** - This website is dedicated specifically to AI news. They offer daily updates on the latest advancements, research papers, and conferences related to AI.
- **Towards Data Science (https://towardsdatascience.com/)** - This website caters to data enthusiasts and professionals, but it also has a wealth of information on AI advancements. They publish articles on various AI topics written by researchers, developers, and industry experts.

**Research and Development Websites:**

- **OpenAI (https://openai.com/)** - OpenAI is a non-profit research company dedicated to advancing friendly AI in a way that benefits humanity. Their website offers access to their research papers, blog posts, and information about their ongoing projects.
- **Google AI Blog (https://blog.research.google/)** - Google AI is a research division of Google dedicated to developing cutting-edge AI technologies. Their blog features posts written by Google AI researchers about their latest work, offering insights into the future of AI.
- **DeepMind Blog (https://deepmind.google/discover/blog/)** - DeepMind is a subsidiary of Google focused on artificial intelligence research. Their blog showcases their latest research projects and breakthroughs in areas like deep learning and reinforcement learning.

**News on Gender Equality**

**Global Organizations:**

- **UN Women ([https://www.unwomen.org/en](https://www.unwomen.org/en))** - The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is a global champion for gender equality. Their website provides comprehensive information on their work, including publications, news, and resources on various aspects of gender equality.
- **World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report: ([https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2022/](https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2022/))** - The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity. Their website offers insights and data on the gender gap across various sectors.

**News and Analysis Websites:**

- **The Conversation Gender Section: ([https://theconversation.com/global/topics/gender-583](https://theconversation.com/global/topics/gender-583))** - This website features articles written by academics and experts on a wide range of topics related to gender equality, social justice, and feminism.
- **Ms. Magazine:** ([https://msmagazine.com/](https://msmagazine.com/))** - A historic feminist magazine with a website offering news, opinion pieces, and in-depth articles on gender issues, activism, and social change.

**Non-Profit Organizations:**

- **Lean In:** ([https://leanin.org/](https://leanin.org/)) - Founded by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, Lean In aims to empower women to achieve their ambitions. Their website offers resources and advice for women in the workplace.
- **Equal Rights Advocates:** ([https://www.equalrights.org/](https://www.equalrights.org/))** - A legal organization dedicated to fighting sex discrimination and securing equal rights for women and girls. Their website provides information on their legal cases and advocacy work.
- **TED Talks:** Search for TED Talks on gender equality to find inspiring presentations and insights from various experts and activists.

**News on Climate Change**

**Science-Based Sources:**

- **NASA Climate Change: (https://climate.nasa.gov/)** - NASA's website provides in-depth information on the science of climate change, including causes, impacts, and current data.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (https://www.noaa.gov/climate)** - NOAA's Climate.gov website offers clear explanations of climate science, with resources for educators and the public.
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): (https://www.ipcc.ch/)** - The IPCC is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. Their website provides access to their comprehensive reports and scientific assessments.
- **The Guardian Environment: (https://www.theguardian.com/environment)** - The Guardian's environment section covers climate change news, along with other environmental issues like pollution and biodiversity loss.
- **Project Drawdown (https://www.drawdown.org/)** - Focused on solutions, Project Drawdown identifies existing technologies and practices that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **The Climate Reality Project (https://www.climaterealityproject.org/)** - Founded by Al Gore, this organization works to educate the public and policymakers about climate change solutions.
- **National Geographic Climate Change: (https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/climate-change/)** - National Geographic offers informative articles and documentaries on climate change, its impact on different regions and ecosystems, and potential solutions.
- **Documentaries and Films:** Several documentaries explore climate science and solutions. Look for titles like "An Inconvenient Truth," "2040," and "Iced Out."