

LEVEL 3 LESSON 1

Welcome to Level 3 and congratulations on making it through to the 3rd level in the Talk-ToMeInKorean curriculum! In Level 3, we will be building upon what we've already introduced through Level 1 and Level 2, as well as reviewing some grammar points that we already covered in the previous levels.

Today, in this lesson, we are looking at a word that is very commonly used in everyday Korean not only for its original meaning, but for its more colloquial meaning as well.

Basic meaning

- 너무 [neo-mu] = too (much), excessively

The basic meaning of 너무 [neo-mu] is "too much" or "excessively."

For example:

너무 커요. [neo-mu keo-yo]

= It's too big.

너무 비싸요. [neo-mu bi-ssa-yo]

= It's too expensive.

너무 빨라요. [neo-mu ppal-la-yo]

= It's too fast.

Colloquial usage

- 너무 = very, quite (sometimes also used in short as 넘, only in spoken language)

Although the basic meaning of the word 너무 is "too much" or "excessively," in colloquial Ko-

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really, it also has the meaning of "very," "quite," or "really."

For example:

너무 맛있어요. [neo-mu ma-si-sseo-yo]

= It's really tasty.

너무 좋아요. [neo-mu jo-a-yo]

= It's really good.

= I'm really happy about it.

너무 잘 했어요. [neo-mu jal dwae-sseo-yo.]

= It's really well done.

= You did such a good job.

Sample sentences

1. 저 사람 너무 멋있어요! [jeo sa-ram neo-mu meo-si-sseo-yo.]

= That guy is really cool.

2. 이거 너무 좋아요. [i-geo neo-mu jo-a-yo.]

= I really like this.

3. 여기 너무 시끄러워요. [yeo-gi neo-mu si-kkeu-reo-wo-yo.]

= It's too noisy here.

4. 너무 좋아요. 그런데 너무 비싸요. [neo-mu jo-a-yo. geu-reon-de neo-mu bi-ssa-yo.]

= It's really good. But it's too expensive.

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The word **너무** used to be used only in negative contexts or sentences, but it gradually began to be used in positive meanings as well. Now, most people use **너무** in both ways.

ex)

너무 더워요. [neo-mu deo-wo-yo.] = It's too hot. / It's very hot.

너무 졸려요. [neo-mu jol-lyeo-yo.] = I'm too sleepy. / I'm very sleepy.

너무 바빠요. [neo-mu ba-ppa-yo.] = I'm too busy. / I'm very busy.

너무 is usually combined with adjectives but it can also be used with verbs as well.

ex)

너무 보고 싶어요. [neo-mu bo-go si-peo-yo.] = I miss you/him/her/them so much.

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Now, everyone, it's time to start looking at more ways to make compound sentences in Korean. Of course there are many different ways to make compound nouns depending on what you want to say, but in this lesson, we are looking at how to use the verb ending **-고** [-go].

-고 [-go]

What does **-고** do? Do you remember the conjunction, **그리고** [geu-ri-go]? Yes, **그리고** means "and" or "and then" in Korean, and when you use **-고** after a verb stem, it has the same meaning as **그리고**. By using the verb ending **-고** instead of ending the sentence with just one verb and then starting the next one with **그리고**, you can save a lot of time and make the logic in your sentence more clear.

이 책은 재미있어요. 그리고 이 책은 싸요.

[i chae-geun jae-mi-i-sseo-yo. geu-ri-go i chae-geun ssa-yo.]

= This book is interesting. And this book is cheap.

But since you are talking about the same subject in the second sentence, you can just omit "이 책은".

▶ 이 책은 재미있어요. 그리고 싸요.

= This book is interesting. And (it's) cheap.

But you can make it even shorter and combine the two sentences together by saying:

▶ 이 책은 재미있고 싸요.

[i chae-geun jae-mi-it-go ssa-yo.]

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= This book is interesting and cheap.

Construction:

Verb stem + -고 + another verb

Ex) 이 책은 재미있고, 싸고, 좋아요.

[i chae-geun jae-mi-it-go, ssa-go, jo-a-yo.]

= This book is interesting, cheap and good.

Attention:

When you make a compound sentence in English using the conjunction "and" to connect two smaller sentences, you need to make the tenses of the verbs agree. However, in Korean, that's not absolutely necessary and sometimes it sounds even unnatural to try to use the same tenses for every verb, especially the future tense and the past tense. Most native Korean speakers usually just use the past tense or the future tense in only one last verb.

Past tense example:

어제 친구를 만났어요.

[eo-je chin-gu-reul man-na-sseo-yo.]

= I met a friend yesterday.

그리고 영화를 봤어요.

[geu-ri-go yeong-hwa-reul bwa-sseo-yo.]

= And I saw a movie.

Let's put the two sentences above together.

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어제 친구를 만났어요. 그리고 영화를 만났어요.

▶ 어제 친구를 만났고, 영화를 봤어요.

[eo-je chin-gu-reul man-nat-go, yeong-hwa-reul bwa-sseo-yo.]

= I met a friend yesterday and saw a movie.

But you can also say 어제 친구를 만나고, 영화를 봤어요. with the part "만나고" in the present tense.

Future tense example:

내일 영화를 볼 거예요.

[nae-il yeong-hwa-reul bol geo-ye-yo.]

= I will watch a movie tomorrow.

서점에 갈 거예요.

[seo-jeo-me gal geo-ye-yo.]

= I will go to a bookstore.

Let's put them together.

내일 영화를 볼 거예요. 그리고 서점에 갈 거예요.

▶ 내일 영화를 볼 거고, 서점에 갈 거예요.

[nae-il yeong-hwa-reul bol geo-go, seo-jeo-me gal geo-ye-yo.]

= I will watch a movie, and go to a bookstore.

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But you can also just say 내일 영화를 보고, 서점에 갈 거예요.

Remember?

Do you remember that 그리고 (or in this case, -고) has the meaning of "and after that" or "and then"? Therefore, making compound sentences using -고 is a good way of talking about things that happened or will happen in a sequence.

Sample sentences

1. 내일은 친구 만나고, 서점에 갈 거예요.

[nae-i-reun chin-gu man-na-go, seo-jeo-me gal geo-ye-yo.]

= As for tomorrow, I'm going to meet a friend and go to a bookstore.

2. 책 읽고, 공부하고, 운동했어요.

[chaek il-go, gong-bu-ha-go, un-dong-hae-sseo-yo.]

= I read a book, studied, and did some exercise.

3. 9월에는 한국에 가고, 10월에는 일본에 갈 거예요.

[gu-wo-re-neun han-gu-ge ga-go, si-wo-re-neun il-bo-ne gal geo-ye-yo.]

= In September I will go to Korea, and in October I will go to Japan.

4. 커피 마시고, 도너츠 먹고, 케익 먹고, 우유 마셨어요. 배 불러요.

[keo-pi ma-si-go, do-neo-cheu meok-go, ke-ik meok-go, u-yu ma-syeo-sseo-yo. bae bul-leo-

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yo.]

= I drank some coffee, ate a donut, ate some cake, and drank some milk. I'm full.

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This is a lesson where we will be looking at how to describe relative locations of things and people.

First of all, let's look at how to ask where something or someone is. The word for "where" is 어디 [eo-di] and the word for "to be" is 있다 [it-da]. So for the present tense, you can ask "어디 있어요?" [eo-di i-sseo-yo?]. Or if you want to be more accurate, you can add the location marking particle -에 [-e] and say 어디에 있어요? [eo-di-e i-sseo-yo?]

어디 있어요? [eo-di i-sseo-yo?]

= 어디에 있어요? [eo-di-e i-sseo-yo?]

= Where is it? / Where are you? / Where are they?

Now in order to give response to this question, you need to know these five one-syllable words.

앞 [ap] = front

뒤 [dwi] = back

옆 [yeop] = side

위 [wi] = top

밑 [mit] = bottom

To these words, you add -에 [-e], the location marking particle to use them with other words.

앞에 [a-pe] = in front of

뒤에 [dwi-e] = behind

옆에 [yeo-pe] = beside, next to

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위에 [wi-e] = over, on top of

밑에 [mi-te] = under, below

In English, these words come BEFORE the words that they modify, but in Korean, they come AFTER the words.

Examples:

자동차 [ja-dong-cha] = car, automobile

자동차 앞에 = in front of the car

자동차 뒤에 = behind the car

자동차 옆에 = beside the car, next to the car

자동차 위에 = on the car, on top of the car

자동차 밑에 = under the car

Combined with 있다:

자동차 앞에 있어요. = It's in front of the car.

자동차 뒤에 있어요. = It's behind the car.

자동차 옆에 있어요. = It's next to the car.

자동차 위에 있어요. = It's on top of the car.

자동차 밑에 있어요. = It's under the car.

If you remember, -에 [-e] is only used with the status of a person or an object, and when you want to express actions and behaviors that are happening, you need to use -에서 [-e-seo].

For example,



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Q: 친구를 어디에서 만날 거예요?

[chin-gu-reul eo-di-e-seo man-nal geo-ye-yo?]

= Where are you going to meet (your) friends?

**은행 [eun-haeng] = bank

A: 은행 앞에서 만날 거예요.

[eun-haeng a-pe-seo man-nal geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to meet (them) in front of the bank.

A: 은행 뒤에서 만날 거예요.

[eun-haeng dwi-e-seo man-nal geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to meet (them) behind the bank.

A: 은행 옆에서 만날 거예요.

[eun-haeng yeo-pe-seo man-nal geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to meet (them) beside the bank.

소파 위에서 자고 있어요.

[so-pa wi-e-seo ja-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I'm sleeping on the sofa.

나무 밑에서 책을 읽고 있어요.

[na-mu mi-te-seo chae-geul il-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I'm reading a book under the tree.

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There are times when you want to invite others to do something with you and ask "shall we do this together?" and there are also times when you are making assumptions and ask yourself or others "I wonder what the weather will be like tomorrow" or "what will he say to that?"

In Korean, you can use the same sentence ending for both of these purposes and more!

-(으)ㄴ 까요? [-(eu)l-kka-yo?]

Usage #1

- Asking oneself a question or showing doubt about something

Examples:

"I wonder what is in this bag?"

"Will he be alright?"

"Will it be hot tomorrow?"

"What will she say?"

etc.

Usage #2

- Raising a question and attracting attention of others

Examples:

"Why did this happen? What do you think, everyone?"

"What do you think life is?"

etc.

Usage #3

- Suggesting doing something together

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Examples:

"What shall we do now?"

"Shall we go to the movies?"

"Do you want me to help you?"

etc.

How do you know which of these meanings it takes?

- It's fairly clear and easy to see which meaning it takes when you look at the context.

Construction

1. Verb stems ending with a consonant + -을까요?

- 먹다 (to eat) becomes 먹을까요?

2. Verb stems ending with a vowel + -을까요?

- 보다 (to see) becomes 볼까요?

3. (Exception) Verb stems ending with ㅁ + -까요?

- 팔다 (to sell) becomes 팔까요?

Construction for the past tense

You can add the past tense suffix -았/었/였 right after the verb stem and before -(으)을까요 to make an assumption about a past event. Since this is in the past tense, it can ONLY be used for expressing doubt or curiosity.

Ex) 어제 Taliana가 한국에 왔을까요?

[eo-je Taliana-ga han-gu-ge wa-sseul-kka-yo?]

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= Do you think Taliana came to Korea yesterday?

More examples

1. 내일 비가 올까요?

[nae-il bi-ga ol-kka-yo?]

= Do you think it will rain tomorrow?

= I wonder if it will rain tomorrow.

= Will it rain tomorrow? What do you think?

(It CANNOT mean "shall we..." because "shall we ... rain tomorrow?" does not make sense.)

2. 내일 우리 영화 볼까요?

[nae-il u-ri yeong-hwa bol-kka-yo?]

= Shall we see a movie tomorrow?

= Do you want to see a movie together tomorrow?

(It CANNOT mean "I wonder if..." because "do you assume that we will see a movie tomorrow?" generally doesn't make sense.)

3. 이 사람은 누구일까요?

[i sa-ram-eun nu-gu-il-kka-yo?]

= Who do you think this person is?

= Who is this person, I wonder?

= I wonder who this person is.

4. 커피 마실까요? 맥주 마실까요?

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[keo-pi ma-sil-kka-yo? maek-ju ma-sil-kka-yo?]

= Shall we drink coffee? Shall we drink beer?

= Do you want to drink coffee or beer?

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In this lesson, we are going to look at how to say "approximately" or "about" when you talk about quantity, frequency, time, etc. There are many different ways you can say this in Korean, but the most commonly used expression is **쯤** [jjeum].

In English, "about", "approximately", and "around" are used BEFORE nouns. However, in Korean, the word **쯤** [jjeum] is used AFTER nouns.

Examples

1 o'clock = 한 시 [han si]

Around 1 o'clock = 한 시**쯤** [han si-jjeum]

1,000 won = 천 원 [cheon won]

About 1,000 won = 천 원**쯤** [cheon won-jjeum]

One month = 한 달 [han dal]

Approximately one month = 한 달**쯤** [han dal-jjeum]

4km = 4킬로미터 [sa kil-lo-mi-teo]

About 4 km = 4킬로미터 **쯤** [sa kil-lo-mi-teo jjeum]

Similar expressions

Similar words: 정도 [jeong-do], 약 [yak]

정도 [jeong-do] is used after nouns, just like **쯤** [jjeum], whereas **약** [yak] is used BEFORE nouns.

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한 달 [han dal] = one month

한 달쯤 [han dal-jjeum] = about a month

한 달 정도 [han dal jeong-do] = about a month

약 한 달 [yak han dal] = about a month

Note that 정도 has a space before it and 쯤 doesn't. Sometimes people also use 약 and 쯤 together or 약 and 정도 together.

약 한 달쯤 [yak han dal-jjeum] = about a month

약 한 달 정도 [yak han dal jeong-do] = about a month

Sample sentences

1. 100명쯤 왔어요.

[baek-myeong-jjeum wa-sseo-yo.]

= About 100 people came.

2. 독일에서 2년쯤 살았어요.

[do-gi-re-seo i-nyeon-jjeum sa-ra-sseo-yo.]

= I lived in Germany for about two years.

3. 언제쯤 갈 거예요?

[eon-je-jjeum gal geo-ye-yo?]

= About when are you going to go?

4. 내일 몇 시쯤 만날까요?

[nae-il myeot si-jjeum man-nal-kka-yo?]

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= Around what time shall we meet tomorrow?

5. 다섯 시쯤 어때요?

[da-seot si-jjeum eo-ttae-yo?]

= How about around five o'clock?

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Through our previous lessons, we have learned how to use the future tense. In this lesson, we are introducing one more way of talking about a future action and looking at how the two ways of talking about the future are different.

-(으)ㄹ 거예요 vs. -(으)ㄹ 게요

If you pronounce -(으)ㄹ 거예요 [-eu)l geo-ye-yo] very quickly, it sounds similar to -(으)ㄹ 게요 [-eu)l-ge-yo], so a lot of beginner-level and even advanced learners mix up the two very often, but in fact these two sentence endings for the future are used for distinctively different purposes.

Let's look at -(으)ㄹ 거예요 first.

-(으)ㄹ 거예요 [-eu)l geo-ye-yo] is the basic way to express a future plan or action and you attach this at the end of a verb stem.

하다 [ha-da] = to do

하 + -ㄹ 거예요 = 할 거예요 [hal geo-ye-yo] = I will do _____. / I am going to do _____.

보내다 [bo-nae-da] = to send

보내 + -ㄹ 거예요 = 보낼 거예요 [bo-nael geo-ye-yo] = I will send _____. / I am going to send _____.

웃다 [ut-da] = to laugh

웃 + -을 거예요 = 웃을 거예요 [u-seul geo-ye-yo] = I will laugh.

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With -(으)ㄹ 거예요, you are just expressing your intention or plan for a future action, or your expectation for a future state, and this is NOT related to or affected by the reaction or the request of the person you're talking to.

And now let's look at -(으)ㄹ 게요.

-(으) ㄹ 게요 [-(eu)ㄹ ge-yo] is also attached after a verb stem and also expresses the future, but it focuses more on your actions or decisions AS A REACTION TO or AS A RESULT OF what the other person says.

Let's compare the two forms.

1.

할 거예요 vs. 할게요

공부할 거예요.

[gong-bu-hal ge-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to study.

= I will study.

(Here, regardless of what the other person is saying, you were ALREADY planning to study so you will, and you are not changing your mind at all because of what the other person says.)

공부할게요.

[gong-bu-hal-ge-yo.]

= I will study.

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= (If you say so,) I will study.

= (Since the circumstances are like this,) I will study.

= (If you don't mind,) I will study.

(Here, the other person says something to you, and you think "Oh, in that case, I have to study," so you say "I will study then." Or you could be just saying it before the other person says anything, but after you say this, you wait for the other person's reaction to see if they have anything to say.)

2.

갈 거예요 vs. 갈게요

저도 갈 거예요.

[jeo-do gal geo-ye-yo.]

= I will go (there), too.

= I'm going to go, too.

= I'm coming along, as well.

저도 갈게요.

[jeo-do gal-ge-yo.]

= I will come along, too(, if you don't mind).

= (In that case,) I will go there, too.

= (OK, since you say so,) I will go, too.

So in summary, you use -(으)ㄹ게요 (instead of -(으)ㄹ 거예요) when:

1. you are changing your plan according to what the other person said

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2. you want to check what the other person thinks by saying something and seeing their reaction

3. you decide to do something because of something the other person said

More sample sentences:

1. 지금 어디예요? 지금 나갈게요.

[ji-geum eo-di-ye-yo? ji-geum na-gal-ge-yo.]

= Where are you now? I will go out now.

(+ if you don't mind/if you want me to/unless you don't want me to/what do you think about that?)

--> Here, if you say 지금 나갈 거예요, it means that regardless of where the other person is, you were already going to go out anyway, probably to an unrelated place.

2. 저 갈게요. 안녕히 계세요.

[jeo gal-ge-yo. an-nyeong-hi gye-se-yo.]

= I'm going to go. Take care.

(+ unless you want me to stay longer/unless there's something I have to stay longer to do)

--> Here, if you say 저 갈 거예요, it means you don't care whether the other person wants you to stay or not, and you will just leave any way, and in most cases, you don't want the other person to ask you to stay, and you won't even if you are asked to.

3. 그래요? 다시 할게요.

[geu-rae-yo? da-si hal-ge-yo.]

= Is that so? I'll do it again.

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4. 내일 4시쯤에 갈게요. 괜찮아요?

[nae-il ne-si-jjeu-me gal-ge-yo. gwaen-cha-na-yo?]

= I'll be there at around 4 o'clock tomorrow. Is that alright?

LEVEL 3 LESSON 7

In this lesson, we are going to look at another verb ending that you can use to connect two or more verbs in one sentence. We learned the verb ending -고 [-go] in one of our previous lessons; -고 [-go] is used to connect independent actions and states together in one sentence, but they do not necessarily have a strong logical relation to each other.

On the other hand, the verb ending we are looking at in this lesson, -아/어/여+서, is a verb ending that can show logical relation between the verbs.

Do you remember these two conjunctions- 그리고 and 그래서 (from Level 2 Lesson 3)?

그리고 [geu-ri-go] means "and," and 그래서 [geu-rae-seo] means "therefore/so".

The verb ending -고 [-go] has the same meaning as 그리고 [geu-ri-go], and the verb ending -아/어/여+서 has a similar meaning as 그래서 [geu-rae-seo].

Let's look at the construction and usages of -아/어/여+서 in more detail.

Construction

먹다 [meok-da] = to eat

먹 (verb stem) + 어서 = 먹어서

만들다 [man-deul-da] = to make

만들 (verb stem) + 어서 = 만들어서

하다 [ha-da] = to do

하 (verb stem) + 여서 = 해서

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오다 [o-da] = to come

오 (verb stem) + 아서 = 와서

Usages

1. Reason + -아/어/여서 + result
2. An action + -아/어/여서 + another action that takes place after the first action
3. An action + -아/어/여서 + the purpose of or the plan after the action
4. Some fixed expressions

Examples for usages

Usage 1

Reason + -아/어/여서 + result

Example:

비가 오다 (it rains) + 못 가다 (can't go)

--> 비가 와서 못 가요. [bi-ga wa-seo mot ga-yo.] = It rains, so I can't go.

--> 비가 와서 못 갔어요. [bi-ga wa-seo mot ga-sseo-yo.] = It rained, so I couldn't go.

** Note that the tense was expressed only through the last verb.

오늘은 바빠요. (Today, I'm busy.) + 영화를 못 봐요. (I can't see the movie.)

--> 오늘은 바빠서 영화를 못 봐요. [o-neu-reun ba-ppa-seo yeong-hwa-reul mot bwa-yo.]

= I'm busy today, so I can't watch the movie.

만나다 (to meet) + 반갑다 (to be glad to see someone)

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--> 만나서 반갑습니다. [man-na-seo ban-gap-seum-ni-da]

= I meet you so I'm glad. = It's nice to meet you.

--> 만나서 반가워요. [man-na-seo ban-ga-wo-yo]

= I'm glad to meet you. (Less formal than the sentence above)

Usage 2

An action + -아/어/여서 + another action that takes place after the first action

공원에 가다 (to go to the park) + 책을 읽다 (to read a book)

--> 공원에 가서 책을 읽을 거예요. [gong-wo-ne ga-seo chae-geul il-geul geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to go to the park and read a book.

** Note: This does NOT mean "I'm going to the park, so I'm going to read a book."

** Also note that the tense is expressed through the last verb here as well.

친구를 만나다 (to meet a friend) + 밥을 먹다 (to eat)

--> 친구를 만나서 밥을 먹었어요. [chin-gu-reul man-na-seo ba-beul meo-geo-sseo-yo.]

= I met a friend and ate together.

** Note that here, this sentence COULD mean that you met a friend so you ate together, but in most cases, it will mean that you met a friend AND THEN ate together after that.

--> 친구를 만나서 밥을 먹을 거예요. [chin-gu-reul man-na-seo ba-beul meo-geul geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to meet a friend and eat together.

Usage 3

An action + -아/어/여서 + the purpose of or the plan after the action

LEVEL 3 LESSON 7

돈을 모으다 (to save up, to save money) + 뭐 하다 (to do what)

--> 돈을 모아서 뭐 할 거예요? (do-neul mo-a-seo mwo hal geo-ye-yo?) = What are you going to do with the money you save up? (lit. You save up money and what will you do?)

케익을 사다 (to buy a cake) + 친구한테 주다 (to give to a friend)

--> 케익을 사서 친구한테 줄 거예요. [ke-i-geul sa-seo chin-gu-han-te jul geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to buy a cake to/and give it to a friend.

Usage 4

Fixed expressions

There are some fixed expressions that basically use the same -아/어/여서 structure in them but are not often used in other forms.

-에 따라서 [-e tta-ra-seo] = according to ~

Ex) 계획에 따라서 진행하겠습니다 [gye-hoe-ge tta-ra-seo jin-haeng-ha-ge-sseum-ni-da.]

= I'll proceed according to the plan.

예를 들어서 [ye-reul deu-reo-seo] = for example

Ex) 예를 들어서, 이렇게 할 수 있어요. [ye-reul deu-reo-seo, i-reo-ke hal su i-sseo-yo.]

= For example, you can do it like this.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 7

Sample sentences

1. 한국에 가서 뭐 할 거예요? [han-gu-ge ga-seo mwo hal geo-ye-yo?]

= After you go to Korea, what are you going to do?

2. 서울에 와서 좋아요. [seo-u-re wa-seo jo-a-yo.]

= Since I came to Seoul, I'm glad.

= I'm glad to have come to Seoul.

3. 술을 너무 많이 마셔서 머리가 아파요.

[su-reul neo-mu ma-ni ma-syeo-seo meo-ri-ga a-pa-yo.]

= I drank too much so my head is aching.

4. 비가 와서 집에 있었어요. [bi-ga wa-seo ji-be i-sseo-sseo-yo.]

= It rained so I stayed at home.

5. 요즘에 바빠서 친구들을 못 만나요.

[yo-jeu-me ba-ppa-seo chin-gu-deu-reul mot man-na-yo.]

= These days I'm busy so I can't meet my friends.

6. 열심히 공부해서 장학금을 받을 거예요.

[yeol-sim-hi gong-bu-hae-seo jang-hak-geu-meul ba-deul geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to study hard so I can get/and I will get a scholarship.

7. 한국어가 너무 재미있어서 매일 공부하고 있어요.

[han-gu-geo-ga neo-mu jae-mi-i-sseo-seo mae-il gong-bu-ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= Korean is so much fun that I'm studying it everyday.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 8

In this lesson, we are going to look at how to say that something is like or looks like something else. (i.e. "You are like an angel," "This looks like coffee," or "You are like my teacher.")

First, let's look at how to say that something is similar to something else.

비슷하다 [bi-seu-ta-da] = to be similar

- Present tense: 비슷해요 [bi-seu-tae-yo] = it is similar

In order to say that A is similar to B, you need to use a particle that means "with" or "together with", which is **-랑** or **-하고**. (Go back to Level 2 Lesson 4 to review.)

A랑 비슷해요. [A-rang bi-seu-tae-yo.] = It's similar to A.

B하고 비슷해요. [B-ha-go bi-seu-tae-yo.] = It's similar to B.

Examples:

도쿄는 서울하고 비슷해요? = Is Tokyo similar to Seoul?

참외는 멜론하고 비슷해요. = 참외 (a type of fruit) is similar to melon.

Now, let's look at the word for "to be the same" in Korean.

같다 [gat-da] = to be the same

- Present tense: 같아요 [ga-ta-yo] = it's the same, they are the same

A랑 같아요. [A-rang ga-ta-yo.] = It's the same as A.

A하고 B는 같아요. [A-ha-go B-neun ga-ta-yo.] = A and B are the same.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 8

Examples:

이거랑 이거랑 같아요? [i-geo-rang i-geo-rang ga-ta-yo?] = Are this and this the same?

우리는 나이가 같아요. [u-ri-neun na-i-ga ga-ta-yo.] = We have the same age. (lit. "For us, the age is the same.")

Now you know how to use that something is similar to or the same as something else in Korean, using -랑 비슷하다 and -랑 같다.

But if you use the word **같다** [gat-da] which means "to be the same" **without the particle -랑 or -하고**, it takes a different meaning.

Construction

Noun + 같다 = to be like + Noun / to look like + Noun / to seem to be + Noun

Examples:

커피 같아요. [keo-pi ga-ta-yo] = It's like coffee. / It seems to be coffee. / It looks like coffee.

거짓말 같아요. [geo-jit-mal ga-ta-yo] = It seems to be a lie. / It sounds like a lie.

로봇 같아요. [ro-bot ga-ta-yo] = It's like a robot. / It seems to be a robot. / It looks like a robot.

Sample sentences:

1. 저 사람은 로봇 같아요. [jeo sa-ram-eun ro-bot ga-ta-yo.]

= That person is like a robot.

2. 경은 씨는 천사 같아요. [gyeong-eun ssi-neun cheon-sa ga-ta-yo.]

= Kyeong-eun is like an angel.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 8

3. 현우 씨는 천재 같아요. [hyeo-nu ssi-neun cheon-jae ga-ta-yo.]

= Hyunwoo seems to be a genius.

4. 그 이야기는 거짓말 같아요. [geu i-ya-gi-neun geo-jit-mal ga-ta-yo.]

= That story sounds like a lie.

5. 이 강아지는 고양이 같아요. [i go-yang-i-neun go-yang-i ga-ta-yo.]

= This puppy is like a cat.

**In this lesson, we looked at how to use 같아요 with nouns only. Let's look at how to use
같아요 with verbs and say many more things in the next lesson. Stay tuned!**

LEVEL 3 LESSON 9

In the previous lesson, we looked at how to use 같아요 [ga-ta-yo] after nouns to mean "it looks like" or "it seems to be" something.

Examples:

커피 같아요. [keo-pi ga-ta-yo.] = It looks like coffee. / I think it's coffee.

저 사람 소연 씨 같아요. [jeo sa-ram so-yeon ssi ga-ta-yo.] = That person looks like So-yeon. / I think that person is So-yeon.

In the examples above, both 커피 and 소연 씨 were nouns, so it is relatively simple to use 같아요 in the sentences. You just have to add 같아요 after the nouns.

However, when you want to use 같아요 with verbs, first you need to change the verb into its noun form. There are a few different ways to change a verb into a noun, but here, we are going to use the -ㄴ 것 form. We learned about this noun form in Level 2 Lesson 19.

Let's review a little bit.

1. Descriptive verbs

Verb stem + -(으)ㄴ 것

Ex) 예쁘다 [ye-ppeu-da] = to be pretty

예쁜 것 [ye-ppeun geot] = being pretty, something pretty, the thing that is pretty

2. Action verbs

- Present tense

Verb stem + -는 것

LEVEL 3 LESSON 9

Ex) 말하다 [mal-ha-da] = to talk, to speak, to say

말하는 것 [mal-ha-neun geot] = talking, what one is saying, the act of talking

- Past tense

Verb stem + -(으)ㄴ 것

Ex) 말한 것 [mal-han geot] = what one said, the fact that one talked

- Future tense

Verb stem + -(으)ㄹ 것

Ex) 말할 것 [mal-hal geot] = what one will say, the fact that one will talk

How to use 같아요 with verbs

Now that we've reviewed how to change verbs into the -ㄴ 것 noun forms, we are almost there! Since you already have the verbs in the noun forms, you just have to add 같아요 after the word 것.

-(으)ㄴ 것 같아요 = present tense for descriptive verbs / past tense for action verbs

-는 것 같아요 = present tense for action verbs

-(으)ㄹ 것 같아요 = future tense for action/descriptive verbs

What does -것 같아요 mean?

Even when 같아요 is combined with verbs, since the -것 part already makes them nouns, the basic meanings and usages are the same as "Noun + 같아요".

LEVEL 3 LESSON 9

1. "It looks like..."
2. "It seems to be..."
3. "To me it looks like..."
4. "I think it is..."
5. "I think it will..."
6. "I think it was...."

etc.

Examples

1. 이상하다 [i-sang-ha-da] = to be strange

이상하 + ㄴ 것 같아요 = 이상한 것 같아요 = It seems to be strange. / I think it's strange.

2. 눈이 오다 [nu-ni o-da] = to snow

눈이 오 + 는 것 같아요 = 눈이 오는 것 같아요 = It seems to be snowing. / I think it's snowing.

눈이 오 + ㄹ 것 같아요 = 눈이 올 것 같아요 = I think it will snow. / It seems like it will snow.

3. 이야기하다 [i-ya-gi-ha-da] = to tell, to talk

이야기하 + ㄴ 것 같아요 = 이야기한 것 같아요

= I think they told them. / It looks like they talked.

이야기하 + ㄹ 것 같아요 = 이야기할 것 같아요

= I think they will talk. / It seems like they will talk.

이야기하 + 는 것 같아요 = 이야기하는 것 같아요

= I think they are talking. / They seem to talk to each other.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 9

As you can see from the examples above, when you want to say "I think" in English, you can use **것 같아요** in Korean.

Sample sentences

1. 여기 비싼 것 같아요.

[yeo-gi bi-ssan geot ga-ta-yo.]

= I think this place is expensive.

= It looks expensive here.

= This place seems to be expensive.

2. 그런 것 같아요.

[geu-reon geot ga-ta-yo.]

= I think so.

= It seems to be so.

= It looks like it.

** Verb = 그렇다 (irregular) = to be so, to be that way

3. 이 영화 재미있을 것 같아요.

[i yeong-hwa jae-mi-i-sseul geot ga-ta-yo]

= I think this movie will be interesting.

= This movie looks like it will be interesting (to watch).

4. 이 가방, 여기에서 산 것 같아요.

[i ga-bang, yeo-gi-e-seo san geot ga-ta-yo.]

= This bag, it seems like we bought it here.

= I think I bought this bag here.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 9

5. 아마 안 할 것 같아요.

[a-ma an hal geot ga-ta-yo.]

= I think I probably won't do it.

= It looks like we are probably not going to do it.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 10

In this lesson, we are going to learn how to say "before -ing" in Korean. As with many Korean expressions and prepositions, the order is the opposite from English. In English, the word "before" goes before the clause or the word, but in Korean this part goes after.

The key letter here is 전 [jeon]. The Chinese character for 전 is 前 and it means "before," "front," or "earlier". To this noun, you add the particle -에 [-e] to make it a preposition.

전에 = before (+ noun)

수업 전에 [su-eop jeo-ne] = before class

일요일 전에 [i-ryo-il jeo-ne] = before Sunday

1시 전에 [han-si jeo-ne] = before 1 o'clock

Since 전에 is used after nouns, in order to use it with verbs, like "before going" or "before leaving", you need to change the verbs into nouns.

In our previous lesson, to use verbs before 같다, we changed them into the -ㄴ 것 form, but here, you need to change verbs into the -기 form, the first noun form of verbs that we learned here at TalkToMeInKorean.com.

가다 --> 가기 (going)

사다 --> 사기 (buying)

먹다 --> 먹기 (eating)

+ 전에

--> 가기 전에 = before going

--> 사기 전에 = before buying

LEVEL 3 LESSON 10

--> 먹기 전에 = before eating

Examples

집에 가다

--> 집에 가기 전에 [ji-be ga-gi jeo-ne]

= before going home, before you go home

공부하다

--> 공부하기 전에 [gong-bu-ha-gi jeo-ne]

= before studying, before you study

돈을 내다

--> 돈을 내기 전에 [do-neul nae-gi jeo-ne]

= before paying money, before you pay money

Sample sentences

1. 여기 오기 전에 뭐 했어요?

[yeo-gi o-gi jeo-ne mwo hae-sseo-yo?]

= What did you do before you came here?

2. 집에 가기 전에 술 마실 거예요.

[ji-be ga-gi jeo-ne sul ma-sil geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to drink before I go home.

** 집에 가다 = to go back home

3. 들어오기 전에 노크 하세요.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 10

[deu-reo-o-gi jeo-ne no-keu ha-se-yo.]

= Knock before you come in.

** 들어오다 = to come in

4. 사기 전에 잘 생각하세요.

[sa-gi jeo-ne jal saeng-ga-ka-se-yo.]

= Think well before you buy it.

** 사다 = to buy

5. 도망가기 전에 잡으세요.

[do-mang-ga-gi jeo-ne ja-beu-se-yo.]

= Catch him before he runs away.

** 도망가다 = to run away

LEVEL 3 LESSON 11

You have learned a lot about Korean verbs so far - conjugations, rules, etc. But just like many other languages, Korean has some irregularities as well, which people started using more and more often so they have become a fixed rule now.

Korean has much fewer verb irregularities than some other languages do, but you will encounter these irregularities everywhere as you learn and speak Korean. We would like to introduce one of them in this lesson.

ㅁ irregular

This means that if verbs have ㅁ at the end of their verb stems, and they are followed by a suffix that starts with a vowel, the ㅁ part will change to 오 or 우.

If the vowel before ㅁ is 오, you change ㅁ to 오.

If the vowel before ㅁ is not 오, you change ㅁ to 우.

Example

돕다 [dop-da] = to help

= 도 + ㅁ + 다

--> 도 + 오 + 아요 = 도와요

** Note that it is **NOT** 돕아요

어렵다 [eo-ryeop-da] = to be difficult

= 어려 + ㅁ + 다

--> 어려 + 우 + 어요. = 어려워요.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 11

[present tense] 어려워요

[past tense]어려웠어요

[future tense]어려울 거예요

춡다 [chup-da] = to be cold

--> 추 + 우 + 어요 = 추워요.

[present tense] 추워요

[past tense] 추웠어요

[future tense] 추울 거예요

Some other irregular words:

눅다 [nup-da] = to lie down

굽다 [gup-da] = to bake

덥다 [deop-da] = to be hot (weather)

쉽다 [swip-da] = to be easy

맵다 [meap-da] = to be spicy

귀엽다 [gwi-yeop-da] = to be cute

몹다 [mip-da] = to hate, to be dislikeable

아름답다 [a-reum-dap-da] = to be beautiful

Remember that these verbs have irregular forms ONLY WHEN the suffix coming after them start with a VOWEL. So if you have suffixes like -는 or -고, they still keep the ㅁ.

Irregularities in irregular verbs

Although the ㅁ irregular rule is applied to most verbs that have ㅁ in them, some verbs do

LEVEL 3 LESSON 11

not follow this rule.

Action verbs

- 입다 [ip-da] = to wear
- 잡다 [jap-da] = to catch
- 씹다 [ssip-da] = to bite

Descriptive verbs

- 좁다 [job-da] = to be narrow
- 넓다 [neolp-da] = to be wide

These words still keep their ㅁ in front of vowels.

Ex) 입다 --> 입어요 (Not 이워요)

Ex) 좁다 --> 좁아요 (Not 조아요)

Sample sentences

1. 이 문제는 어려워요.

[i mun-je-neun eo-ryeo-wo-yo.]

= This problem is difficult.

2. 이거 너무 귀여워요.

[i-geo neo-mu gwi-yeo-wo-yo.]

= This is so cute.

3. 서울은 겨울에 정말 추워요.

[han-gu-geun gyeo-eu-re jeong-mal chu-wo-yo.]

LEVEL 3 LESSON 11

= In Seoul, it's really cold in winter.

4. TTMIK에서 공부하면, 한국어 공부가 쉬워요.

[ttmik-e-seo gong-bu-ha-myeon, han-gu-geo gong-bu-ga swi-wo-yo.]

= If you study at TTMIK, studying Korean is easy.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 12

We have introduced a few different conjugations so far through our previous lessons, and today we have one more interesting conjugation word to introduce.

The word is **그래도 [geu-rae-do]**.

(In Level 2 Lesson 3, we introduced 그래서 [geu-rae-seo], which means "so", "therefore", and 그래도 is only different at the end.)

그래도 means "but still", "however", or "nonetheless".

Ex)

비가 와요. 그래도 갈 거예요?

[bi-ga wa-yo. geu-rae-do gal geo-ye-yo?]

= It's raining. Are you still going?

Let's break it down:

그래도 = 그래 + 도

- 그래 = 그렇게 해 (to do it in such a way, to do that)

- 도 = also, too, even

So the literal meaning of "그래 + 도" is "even if you do that" "even if that happens" or "if you do that too" and the meaning of "still" is added to the context.

Sample sentences

1. 한국어는 어려워요. 그래도 재미있어요.

[han-gu-geo-neun eo-ryeo-wo-yo. geu-rae-do jae-mi-i-sseo-yo.]

LEVEL 3 LESSON 12

= Korean is difficult. But still, it is interesting.

2. 어제는 비가 왔어요. 그래도 축구를 했어요.

[eo-je-neun bi-ga wa-sseo-yo. geu-rae-do chuk-gu-reul hae-sseo-yo.]

= Yesterday, it rained. But still, we played soccer.

3. 저도 돈이 없어요. 그래도 걱정하지 마세요.

[jeo-do do-ni eop-seo-yo. geu-rae-do geok-jeong-ha-ji ma-se-yo.]

= I don't have money, either. But still, don't worry.

4. 노래방에 가야 돼요. 그래도 노래 안 할 거예요.

[no-rae-bang-e ga-ya dwae-yo. geu-rae-do no-rae an hal geo-ye-yo.]

= I have to go to a 노래방. But still, I'm not going to sing.

5. 요즘 바빠요. 그래도 한국어를 공부하고 있어요.

[yo-jeum ba-ppa-yo. geu-rae-do han-gu-geo-reul gong-bu-ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I'm busy these days. But I'm still studying Korean.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 13

Korean and English are different in many ways, but one of the key differences is that in Korean, "adjectives" also take the form of "verbs". For example, if you say "beautiful" in English, that is an adjective and you can look it up in the dictionary, but in Korean, you can only find 예쁘다 [ye-ppeu-da] in the dictionary, which is in the verb form and means "to be beautiful" and you can't find 예쁜 [ye-ppeun], which means "beautiful", in the dictionary.

Therefore, all the adjectives in English have to be in the "to be + adjective" form in order to mean the same thing as the Korean descriptive verbs.

Examples

싸다 [ssa-da]

--> It does NOT mean "cheap". It means "to be cheap".

바쁘다 [ba-ppeu-da]

--> It does NOT mean "busy". It means "to be busy".

Since the "adjectives" are presented in the form of "descriptive verbs" in Korean, you can conjugate them just like other "action verbs" whereas the adjectives never change forms.

For example, if you say "It is fun." "It was fun." and "It will be fun.", the word "fun" does not change its form. But in Korean, since the descriptive verbs are conjugated, you change 재미있다 [jae-mi-it-da] to 재미있어요 [jae-mi-i-sseo-yo] (present tense), 재미있었어요 [jae-mi-i-sseo-sseo-yo] (past tense), and 재미있을 거예요 [jae-mi-i-sseul geo-ye-yo] (future tense).

LEVEL 3 LESSON 13

What if you want to use them as adjectives?

Good question. When you want to use descriptive verbs in the adjective form, you need to change them to the -(으)ㄴ form.

- Verb stems ending with a vowel + -ㄴ
- Verb stems ending with a consonant + -은

Examples

작다 [jak-da] = to be small

--> 작 + -은 = 작은 [ja-geun] = small

빠르다 [ppa-reu-da] = to be fast

--> 빠르 + -ㄴ = 빠른 [ppa-reun] = fast

조용하다 [jo-yong-ha-da] = to be quiet

--> 조용하 + -ㄴ = 조용한 [jo-yong-han] = quiet

비싸다 [bi-ssa-da] = to be expensive

--> 비싸 + -ㄴ = 비싼 [bi-ssan] = expensive

Exceptions

하얗다 --> 하얀 [ha-yan] = white [NOT 하얗은]

그렇다 --> 그런 [geu-reon] = such [NOT 그렇은]

달다 --> 단 [dan] = sweet [NOT 달은]

LEVEL 3 LESSON 13

Common Mistake

A lot of people make the mistake of trying to say "to be (이에요)" + "adjective" just like in English.

예쁜 이에요 (x)

비싼 이에요 (x)

This is incorrect. Since all the "adjectives" in Korea are "descriptive verbs", you need to conjugate them like verbs:

예쁘다 --> 예뻐요 (o)

비싸다 --> 비싸요 (o)

Sample sentences

1. 좋은 아이디어예요.

[jo-eun a-i-di-eo-ye-yo.]

= It's a good idea.

2. 이상한 사람이에요.

[i-sang-han sa-ra-mi-e-yo.]

= He's a strange person.

3. 더 작은 가방 있어요?

[deo ja-geun ga-bang i-sseo-yo?]

= Do you have a smaller bag?

LEVEL 3 LESSON 13

4. 시원한 커피 마시고 싶어요.

[si-won-han keo-pi ma-si-go si-peo-yo.]

= I want to drink some cold coffee.

5. 나쁜 사람이에요.

[na-ppeun sa-ram-i-e-yo]

= He is a bad person.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 14

In the previous lesson, we looked at how to conjugate descriptive verbs and make adjectives in Korean. You are now familiar with the fact that Korean and English have different systems when it comes to using adjectives. But that's not it. In this lesson, let us look at how to make adjectives out of verbs.

Again, "adjectives" are a part of speech that modifies nouns (usually) in front of them (i.e. "good" in "good idea" and "awesome" in "awesome music"). And in Korean, not only descriptive verbs but also "action verbs" can be used as adjectives, or more precisely, used in the form of adjectives.

Example of descriptive verbs used as adjectives

Nice person (nice + person)

= descriptive verb 좋다 + 사람 = 좋은 사람

Difficult game (difficult + game)

= descriptive verb 어렵다 + 게임 = 어려운 게임

Examples of action verbs used as adjectives

노래하는 사람 [no-rae-ha-neun sa-ram]

= 노래하다 (to sing) + 사람 (person)

= (the/a) person who sings

좋아하는 책 [jo-a-ha-neun chaek]

= 좋아하다 (to like) + 책 (book)

= (the/a) book that I like

---> book who likes (x)

LEVEL 3 LESSON 14

As you can see above, when verbs are changed into the form of adjectives, the meaning can depend on the context, so what you have to do is just know that the adjective is somehow modifying the noun, and from the overall context, figure out what the adjective part means.

Conjugation

: Verb stem + -는

(Verb stems ending with ㄹ drop the ㄹ and are followed by -는)

The adjective part in certain sentences can be longer than just one word.

For example:

좋아하다 [jo-a-ha-da] = to like, to love

Adjective form: 좋아하는 [jo-a-ha-neun]

좋아하는 책 = a book that I/you/they/someone like(s)

내가(제가) 좋아하는 책 = a book that I like

(Here, "내가 좋아하는" is the adjective part.)

내가(제가) 안 좋아하는 책 = a book that I don't like

(Here, "내가(제가) 안 좋아하는 책" is the adjective part.)

Depending on the context and the use of particles, the entire meaning can change.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 14

Now you know that 좋아하는 is the adjective form of 좋아하다 and that it means "that I/ someone like(s). But the meaning can change depending on which particle is used.

Example:

좋아하는 사람 [jo-a-ha-neun sa-ram]

= someone that someone likes

= someone I like

민지가 좋아하는 사람 [min-ji-ga jo-a-ha-neun sa-ram]

= someone that Minji likes

민지를 좋아하는 사람 [min-ji-reul jo-a-ha-neun sa-ram]

= someone that likes Minji

Sample sentences

1. 이 노래는 제가 좋아하는 노래예요.

[i no-rae-neun je-ga jo-a-ha-neun no-rae-ye-yo.]

= This song is a song that I like.

2. 자주 먹는 한국 음식 있어요?

[ja-ju meok-neun han-guk eum-sik i-sseo-yo?]

= Is there any Korean food that you eat often?

3. 자주 가는 카페 있어요?

[ja-ju ga-neun ka-pe i-sseo-yo?]

LEVEL 3 LESSON 14

= Is there a cafe that you go to often?

4. 요즘 좋아하는 가수는 누구예요?

[yo-jeum jo-a-ha-neun ga-su-neun nu-gu-ye-yo?]

= Which singer do you like these days?

5. 요즘 공부하고 있는 외국어는 일본어예요.

[yo-jeum gong-bu-ha-go it-neun oe-gu-geo-neun il-bo-neo-ye-yo.]

= The foreign language I am studying these day is Japanese.

6. 눈이 오는 날에는 영화 보고 싶어요.

[nu-ni o-neun na-re-neun yeong-hwa bo-go si-peo-yo.]

= On a day when it snows, I want to see a movie.

7. 저기 있는 사람, 아는 사람이에요?

[jeo-gi it-neun sa-ram, a-neun sa-ra-mi-e-yo?]

= That person who is over there, is it someone that you know?

8. 배 고피 사람 (있어요)?

[bae go-peun sa-ram (i-sseo-yo)?]

= Anybody (who is) hungry?

LEVEL 3 LESSON 15

안녕하세요! Welcome back to another lesson on conjunctions!

Today we are introducing a conjunction that means "in that case" or "if so".

그러면 [geu-reo-myeon] = in that case, if so, then

Do you remember -(으)면?

Yes, we introduced it in Level 2 Lesson 23.

만약 -(으)면 or -(으)면 means "if" or "in case".

그러면 is a combination of 그렇다 [geu-reot-ta], which means "to be so" and -면.

A shorter version of 그러면

In spoken Korean (and very often also in casual written Korean), instead of saying 그러면, people just use the shortened form of 그럼 [geu-reom]. Try not to confuse it with 그런 [geu-reon], which means "such".

Sample sentences

1. 그러면 이거는 뭐예요?

[geu-reo-myeon i-geo-neun mwo-ye-yo?]

= Then, what is THIS?

2. 지금 바빠요? 그럼 언제 안 바빠요?

[ji-geum ba-ppa-yo? geu-reom eon-je an ba-ppa-yo?]

= You're busy now? Then WHEN are you not busy?

LEVEL 3 LESSON 15

3. 한국 음식 좋아해요? 그러면 김밥도 좋아해요?

[han-guk eum-sik jo-a-hae-yo? geu-reo-myeon gim-bap-do jo-a-hae-yo?]

= Do you like Korean food? Then do you like kimbap too?

4. 진짜요? 그럼 이제 어떻게 해요?

[jin-jja-yo? geu-reom i-je eo-tteo-ke hae-yo?]

= Really? If so, what do we do now?

5. 그럼 이거는 어때요?

[geu-reom i-geo-neun eo-ttae-yo?]

= Then how about this one?

LEVEL 3 LESSON 16

안녕하세요! Sometimes when you want to do things with other people, you will say things like "Let's go." "Let's do it." or "Let's start." Today in this lesson, let's look at how to say "let's" in Korean.

There are a few different ways to say this in Korean:

1. -아/어/여요 [polite/plain]
2. -(으)시죠 [honorific]
3. -자 [informal]
4. -(으)래요? [polite/casual]
5. -(으)실래요? [polite/formal]

Example:

시작하다 [si-ja-ka-da] = to start, to begin

1. 시작해요. [si-ja-kae-yo] = Let's start. (plain)
2. 시작하시죠. [si-ja-ka-si-jyo] = Let's start. (honorific)
3. 시작하자. [si-ja-ka-ja] = Let's start. (informal)
4. 시작할래요? [si-ja-kal-lae-yo?] = Shall we start? (polite/casual)
5. 시작하실래요? [si-ja-ka-sil-lae-yo?] = Shall we start? (polite/formal)

But the most frequently used one is number 1, -아/어/여요 [-a/eo-/yeo-yo]. The other forms will all be covered through our future lessons.

-아/어/여요

Yes. This is the same form as the plain present tense, but don't worry. You can tell the difference quite easily through context. Let's see how the meaning can be clear through some examples.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 16

1. 저도 서점에 갈 거예요. 같이 가요!

[jeo-do seo-jeo-me gal geo-ye-yo. ga-chi ga-yo!]

= I'm going to the bookstore, too. Let's go together!

2. 배 안 고파요? 우리 햄버거 먹어요.

[bae an go-pa-yo? u-ri haem-beo-geo meo-geo-yo.]

= Aren't you hungry? Let's eat hamburgers.

3. 지금 두 시예요. 세 시에 여기에서 만나요.

[ji-geum du si-ye-yo. se si-e yeo-gi-e-seo man-na-yo.]

= It's two o'clock now. Let's meet here at three o'clock.

4. 저 금요일까지 바빠요. 토요일에 시작해요. 어때요?

[jeo geu-myo-il-kka-ji ba-ppa-yo. to-yo-i-re si-ja-kae-yo. eo-ttae-yo?]

= I'll be busy until Friday. Let's start on Saturday. What do you think?

5. 다른 데 가요. 여기 안 좋은 것 같아요.

[da-reun de ga-yo. yeo-gi an jo-eun geot ga-ta-yo.]

= Let's go somewhere else. I think this place is not so good.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 17

In this lesson, we are introducing an expression that means **"in order to", "in order for", or "for the sake of"**. The key word in the expression is **위하다** [wi-ha-da].

위하다 [wi-ha-da] means **"to make efforts for something/someone"** or **"to do something to best benefit someone"**, but it is rarely used as is without being changed to another form.

위해 = 위해서 = in order to/for

위하다 is rarely used and it is changed to forms like **"위해"** or **"위해서"** to mean "in order to", "in order for", or "for the sake of".

위해 = 위하여

위해서 = 위하여서

Sometimes, you will see 위하여 instead of 위해. 위하여 is the original conjugation form but in everybody language, 위하여 is shortened to 위해 (both in written and spoken languages) for the ease of pronunciation.

Using 위해/위해서 with nouns

Noun + -를 위해/위해서

= in order for + noun

= for the sake of + noun

LEVEL 3 LESSON 17

Ex)

건강을 위해서 [geon-gang-eul wi-hae-seo]

= for health, for the sake of health, in order to be healthy

회사를 위해서 [hoe-sa-reul wi-hae-seo]

= for the company, for the good of the company

Using 위해/위해서 with verbs

Verb stem + -기 위해/위해서

Ex)

한국에 가기 위해서 [han-gu-ge ga-gi wi-hae-seo]

= in order to go to Korea

일본어를 배우기 위해서 [il-bo-neo-reul bae-u-gi wi-hae-seo]

= in order to learn Japanese

** Please note that using 위해/위해서 in a sentence makes your sentence sound very formal. You will hear/see this a lot in song lyrics, books and new articles, but not in casual spoken conversations.

Sample sentences

1. 슈퍼맨은 세계 평화를 위해서 일해요.

[su-peo-mae-neun se-gye pyeong-hwa-reul wi-hae-seo i-rae-yo.]

= Superman works for world peace.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 17

2. 저는 한국에 가기 위해서 열심히 공부했어요.

[jeo-neun han-gu-ge ga-ga wi-hae-seo yeol-si-mi gong-bu-hae-sseo-yo.]

= I studied hard in order to go to Korea.

3. 부모님을 위해서 돈을 모았어요.

[bu-mo-ni-meul wi-hae-seo do-neul mo-a-sseo-yo.]

= I saved up money for my parents.

4. 건강을 위해서 매일 운동하고 있어요.

[geon-gang-eul wi-hae-seo mae-il un-dong-ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I am exercising everyday for my health.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 18

In this lesson, we are looking at how to say “**nothing but**” or “**only**” in Korean. We already introduced one expression that means “only” in Level 2 Lesson 15, which is -만 [-man].

The expression we are introducing in this lesson consists of two parts:

“**밖에 + negative verb conjugation**”

The way this works is similar to saying “nothing else but” or “do not do anything other than” in English.

밖 = outside, outdoors

밖에 = outside something, other than something, out of the range of something

밖에 + negative verb conjugation = ONLY + verb

Construction:

Noun + 밖에 + negative conjugation

Examples:

콜라(를) 마시다 [kol-la(-reul) ma-si-da] = to drink cola

콜라 밖에 안 마시다 [kol-la ba-kke an ma-si-da] = to only drink cola

돈(이) 있다 [do-ni it-da] = to have money

돈(이) 없다 [do-ni eop-da] = to not have money

돈 밖에 없다 [don ba-kke eop-da] = to have nothing but money, to only have money

Are -만 and 밖에 interchangeable?

The answer is yes and no. Sometimes, they are interchangeable (and of course you have to

LEVEL 3 LESSON 18

change the verb in the negative form when you use 밖에) but 밖에 is generally more widely used over -만.

You can't use 밖에 with imperative sentences, including -아/어/여 주세요 ("do something for me"). So you have to use -만 with imperative sentences. (i.e. 이것만 주세요 = Give me this one only.)

And when the verb itself has a negative meaning, -만 is more commonly used than 밖에. (i.e. 저는 닭고기만 싫어해요 = I only hate chicken.)

Sample sentences

1.

한국인 친구가 한 명 밖에 없어요.

[han-gu-gin chin-gu-ga han myeon ba-kke eop-seo-yo.]

= I only have one Korean friend.

한국인 친구는 한 명 밖에 없어요.

[han-gu-gin chin-gu-neun han myeon ba-kke eop-seo-yo.]

= As for Korean friends, I only have one.

2.

한국어 조금 밖에 못 해요.

[han-gu-geo jo-geum ba-kke mot hae-yo.]

= I can only speak a little bit of Korean.

3.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 18

이것 밖에 없어요?

[i-geot ba-kke eop-seo-yo?]

= This is it?

= You only have this?

4.

우리 고양이는 참치 밖에 안 먹어요.

[u-ri go-yang-i-neun cham-chi ba-kke an meo-geo-yo.]

= My cat only eats tuna.

5.

왜 공부 밖에 안 해요?

[wae gong-bu ba-kke an hae-yo?]

= Why do you only study?

LEVEL 3 LESSON 19

There are a few different ways to say “**after -ing**” in Korean. Through this lesson, we will introduce the three most common ways to say it. These three expressions all share a common structure:

- (으)ㄴ + 다음에

- (으)ㄴ + 후에

- (으)ㄴ + 뒤에

These three all mean “**after -ing**”. Let’s look at the key nouns

다음 [da-eum] = next time, next

(i.e. 다음 주 = next week)

후 [hu] = after

(i.e. 오후 = afternoon)

뒤 [dwi] = behind, back

(i.e. 등 뒤 = behind the back)

The “-(으)ㄴ” part indicates that the action has been done, so it is already in the past tense form. After before this, you put the verb stem.

Verb stem + -(으)ㄴ + 다음(or 후/뒤)에 = after -ing

The meaning doesn’t change depending on the noun part, so these expressions are interchangeable.

Examples

편지를 받다 [pyeon-ji-reul bat-da] = to receive a letter

편지를 받은 다음에 [pyeon-ji-reul ba-deun da-eu-me] = after receiving a letter

LEVEL 3 LESSON 19

집에 가다 [ji-be ga-da] = to go home

집에 간 뒤에 [ji-be gan dwi-e] = after going home

책을 읽다 [chae-geul ilg-da] = to read a book

책을 읽은 후에 [chae-geul il-geun hu-e] = after reading a book

Sample sentences

1. 영화 본 다음에 우리 커피 마세요.

[yeong-hwa bon da-eu-me u-ri keo-pi ma-syeo-yo.]

= After watching the movie, let's drink coffee.

2. 점심을 먹은 다음에, 도서관에 갔어요.

[jeom-si-meul meo-geun da-eu-me, do-seo-gwa-ne ga-sseo-yo.]

= After having lunch, I went to the library.

3. 이거 한 다음에 뭐 할 거예요?

[i-geo han da-eu-me mwo hal geo-ye-yo?]

= After doing this, what are you going to do?

4. 그거요? 이거 한 뒤에 할게요.

[geu-geo-yo? i-geo han dwi-e hal-ge-yo.]

= That one? I'll do it after I do this.

5. 결정한 후에 연락 주세요.

[gyeol-jeong-han hu-e yeol-lak ju-se-yo.]

= Contact me after you decide.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 20

In Level 3 Lesson 12, we introduced a conjunction that means "but still" or "nevertheless," which is **그래도** [geu-rae-do]. Today we are introducing a verb ending that means the same thing as **그래도** but can be used to combine two sentences together.

-아/어/여도 [-a/eo/yeo-do] = even if, even though

Construction

- Verb stems ending with the vowel ㅏ or ㅑ are followed by -아도
- Verb stems ending with other vowels are followed by -어도
- Verb stems ending with ㅏ are followed by -여도

Examples

보다 [bo-da] = to see

--> **봐도** [bwa-do] = even if you see, even if you look

울다 [ul-da] = to cry

--> **울어도** [u-reo-do] even if you cry, even though you cry

공부하다 [gong-bu-ha-da] = to study

--> **공부해도** [gong-bu-hae-do] even if you study, even though you study

Combining two sentences together

요즘에 바빠요. + 그래도 운동은 하고 있어요.

[yo-jeu-me ba-ppa-yo] + [geu-rae-do un-dong-eun ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I'm busy these days. But still, I'm doing some exercise.

--> 요즘에 바빠도, 운동은 하고 있어요.

= Even though I'm busy these days, I'm still doing some exercise.

Sample sentences

LEVEL 3 LESSON 20

1. 집에 가도, 밥이 없어요.

[ji-be ga-do, ba-bi eop-seo-yo.]

= Even if I go home, there is no food.

2. 택시를 타도, 시간이 오래 걸려요.

[taek-si-reul ta-do, si-ga-ni o-rae geol-lyeo-yo.]

= Even if I take a taxi, it takes a long time.

3. 석진 씨는 제가 전화를 해도 안 받아요.

[seok-jin ssi-neun je-ga jeon-hwa-reul hae-do an ba-da-yo.]

= Even if I call him, 석진 doesn't answer.

4. 냄새는 이상해도 맛있어요.

[naem-sae-neun i-sang-hae-do ma-si-sseo-yo.]

= Even though the smell is weird, it's tasty.

5. 바빠도 한국에 갈 거예요.

[ba-ppa-do han-gu-ge gal geo-ye-yo.]

= Even if I'm busy, I will go to Korea.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

In this lesson, we are introducing a verb ending that has a very versatile meaning.

Let's look at the basic structures first. They are all very similar and all end with **-데**, but the words that come right before **"데"** change a bit.

1. **-는데** is used after action verbs, after 있다 and 없다, and after -았 or -겠.
2. **-은데** is used after descriptive verbs that have a last consonant in the verb stem, except for the consonant ㄹ.
3. **-ㄴ데** is used after descriptive verbs that end in a vowel or the consonant ㄹ (in this case, ㄹ is dropped), and after 이다 and 아니다.

Examples

1. 하다 [ha-da] --> 하는데 [ha-neun-de]
2. 있다 [it-da] --> 있는데 [it-neun-de]
3. 먹다 [meok-da] --> 먹는데 [meok-neun-de]
4. 예쁘다 [ye-ppeu-da] --> 예쁜데 [ye-ppeun-de]
5. 작다 [jak-da] --> 작은데 [ja-geun-de]

Usages

The usages of this ending is very diverse.

1. Explaining the background or the situation before making a suggestion, a request, or a question

Ex)

내일 일요일인데, 뭐 할 거예요?

[nae-il i-ryo-il-in-de, mwo hal geo-ye-yo?]

= It's Sunday tomorrow + (-ㄴ데) + what are you going to do?

2. Explaining the situation before explaining what happened

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

Ex)

어제 자고 있었는데, 한국에서 전화가 왔어요.

[eo-je ja-go i-sseot-neun-de, han-gu-ge-seo jeon-hwa-ga wa-sseo-yo.]

= I was sleeping yesterday + (-는데) + I got a phone call from Korea.

3. Showing a result or situation that is contrasted from the previous action or situation

Ex)

아직 9시인데 벌써 졸려요.

[a-jik a-hop-si-in-de beol-sseo jol-lyeo-yo.]

= It's still 9 o'clock but I am already sleepy.

The second part (after -는데) can be omitted when the meaning can be easily implied.

Ex)

준비 많이 했는데(요)...

[jun-bi ma-ni haet-neun-de...]

= I prepared a lot, but...

4. Showing surprise or exclamation

Ex)

멋있는데(요)!

[meo-sit-neun-de!]

= Oh, that's cool!

5. Asking a question (expecting some explanation about a situation or behavior)

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

Ex)

지금 어디에 있는데(요)?

[ji-geum eo-di-e it-neun-de(yo)?]

= So where are you now?

6. Expecting an answer or a response

Ex)

지금(요)? 지금 바쁜데(요).

[ji-geum(yo)? ji-geum ba-ppeun-de(yo).]

= Now? I'm busy now, so...

Sample sentences

1. 내일 친구 생일인데, 선물을 아직 못 샀어요.

[nae-il chin-gu saeng-il-in-de, seon-mu-reul a-jik mot sa-sseo-yo.]

= It's my friend's birthday tomorrow, but I haven't been able to buy a present.

2. 이거 일본에서 샀는데, 선물이에요.

[i-geo il-bo-ne-seo sat-neun-de, seon-mu-ri-e-yo.]

= I bought this in Japan, and it's a present for you.

3. 오늘 뉴스에서 봤는데, 그거 진짜예요?

[o-neul nyu-seu-e-seo bwat-neun-de, geu-geo jin-jja-ye-yo?]

= I saw it in the news today. Is that for real?

4. 이거 좋은데요!

[i-geo jo-eun-de-yo!]

= I like this! / This is good!

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

5. 어? 여기 있었는데요.

[eo? yeo-gi i-sseot-neun-de]

= Huh? It was here...

6. 영화 재미있는데, 무서웠어요.

[yeong-hwa jae-mi-it-neun-de, mu-seo-wo-sseo-yo.]

= The movie is interesting, but it was scary.

7. 영화 봤는데, 무서웠어요.

[yeong-hwa bwat-neun-de, mu-seo-weo-sseo-yo.]

= I saw a movie, and it was scary.

8. 저 지금 학생인데, 일도 하고 있어요.

[jeo ji-geum hak-saeng-in-de, il-do ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I am a student now, but I'm working too.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 22

In this lesson, let's have a look at the expression **-(으)ㄴ 수도 있다** [-eu)l su-do it-da]. In fact, this is a combination of two grammar points that we covered in our previous lessons.

-(으)ㄴ 수도 있다 can be broken down into two parts:

1. **-(으)ㄴ 수 있다** was introduced in Level 2 Lesson 17 and it means **"can, to be able to"**.
2. **-도** was introduced in Level 2 Lesson 13 and it means **"also, too"**.

When these two expressions are combined into **-(으)ㄴ 수도 있다**, it means "it could..." "it's possible that..." or "it might...". In order to understand why **-(으)ㄴ 수도 있다** takes such meanings, we need to have a closer look at the expression **-(으)ㄴ 수 있다** first.

Basically, the word 수 [su] is a noun that is most commonly used in this structure and means "way" "method" or "idea". So **-(으)ㄴ 수 있다** means "there is a way to do...", "there is an idea for doing..." or "there is a possibility for doing...".

Therefore when the meaning of **-도** [-do], which is "also" or "too", is added to this, the sentence takes the meaning of "there is also the possibility of ...".

So even though sometimes **-(으)ㄴ 수도 있다** COULD mean "to be also able to do something", it usually means "it might" "it could" or "perhaps...".

Examples

1. 알다 [al-da] = to know (something, someone)

--> **알 수도 있다** [al su-do it-da] = might know (something, someone)

Ex) 제 친구가 알 수도 있어요. [je chin-gu-ga al su-do i-seo-yo]

= My friend might know (the person / the thing).

2. 만나다 [man-na-da] = to meet

--> **만날 수도 있다** [man-nal su-do it-da] = might meet

LEVEL 3 LESSON 22

Ex) 내일 다시 만날 수도 있어요. [nae-il da-si man-nal su-do i-sseo-yo]
= We might meet again tomorrow.

3. 작다 [jak-da] = to be small

--> **작을 수도 있어요** [ja-geul su-do i-sseo-yo] = might be small

Ex) 모자가 작을 수도 있어요. [mo-ja-ga ja-geul su-do i-sseo-yo]
= The hat could be small.

Sample sentences

1. 저 내일 올 수도 있어요.

[jeo nae-il ol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= I might come here tomorrow.

2. 저 내일 안 올 수도 있어요.

[jeo nae-il an ol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= I might not come here tomorrow.

3. 저 내일 못 올 수도 있어요.

[jeo nae-il mot ol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= I might not be able to come here tomorrow.

4. 이거 가짜일 수도 있어요.

[i-geo ga-jja-il su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= This might be fake.

5. 정말 그럴 수도 있어요.

[jeong-mal geu-reol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= It might really be so.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 23 - WORD BUILDER 1

Welcome to the 1st Word Builder lesson at TalkToMeInKorean.com! Word Builder lessons are designed to help you understand how to expand your vocabulary by learning/understanding some common and basic building blocks of Korean words. The words and letters that are introduced through the Word Builder lessons are not necessarily all Chinese characters (or 한자 [han-ja]). Even though many of them are based on Chinese characters, their meanings can be different from modern-day Chinese, and you don't have to memorize the Hanja characters themselves. Your goal through these lessons is to just understand how words are formed and remember the keyword in Korean and expand your Korean vocabulary from there.

Today's keyword is **학**.

The Chinese character for this word is 學.

The word 학 is related to "learning" "studying" and "school".

학 + 생(person, member, participant) = **학생** [hak-saeng] = student

학 + 교(school) = **학교** [hak-gyo] = school

학 + 원(house, garden) = **학원** [ha-gwon] = private institute

수(numbers) + 학 = **수학** [su-hak] = mathematics

과(subject, class, species) + 학 = **과학** [gwa-hak] = science

어(word) + 학 = **어학** [eo-hak] = language learning

언어(word+word) + 학 = **언어학** [eo-neo-hak] = linguistics

학 + 자(person) = **학자** [hak-ja] = scholar

유(to stay) + 학 = **유학** [yu-hak] = studying abroad

유학(studying abroad) + 생 = **유학생** [yu-hak-saeng] = student studying abroad

LEVEL 3 LESSON 23 - WORD BUILDER 1

전(to roll, to move) + 학 = **전학** [jeon-hak] = to change schools

전학(to change schools) + 생 = **전학생** [jeon-hak-saeng] = student who moved to another school

학 + 년(year) = **학년** [hak-nyeon] = school year

학 + 기(period) = **학기** [hak-gi] = semester

장(recommend) + 학 + 금(money) = **장학금** [jang-hak-geum] = scholarship

장 + 학 + 생 = **장학생** [jang-hak-saeng] = student on scholarship

복(return) + 학 + 생 = **복학생** [bok-hak-saeng]

= student who has returned to school (usually) after a long break

학 + 습(acquire) = **학습** [hak-seup] = learning, studies

한국어 학습 [han-gu-geo hak-seup] = Korean learning

독(alone) + 학 = **독학** [dok-hak] = self-study, studying by oneself

LEVEL 3 LESSON 24 - WORD BUILDER 1

Welcome to another lesson on irregularities. In this lesson, we are looking at the "르" irregular.

르 irregular is applied only to these three occasions:

Verb stem ending with -르 followed by

+ -아/어/여요

+ -아/어/여서

+ -았/었/였어요

In these cases, **르 is changed to ㄹ** and placed at the end of the previous vowel and you add **ONE MORE ㄹ** before the verb ending.

Even if the verb stem ends with -르 [reu], if it is then followed by other endings such as -아/어/여고, -는데, etc, -르 stays the same.

Examples

고르다 [go-reu-da] = to choose, to pick, to select

--> 골라요 [gol-la-yo] = I pick.

--> 골라서 [gol-la-seo] = I pick and then; because I pick

--> 골랐어요 [gol-la-sseo-yo] = I picked.

Sample Sentences

1. 뭐 골랐어요?

[mwo gol-la-sseo-yo?]

= What did you choose?

2. 저도 몰라요.

[jeo-do mol-la-yo.]

= I don't know, either.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 24 - WORD BUILDER 1

3. 비행기는 빨라서 좋아요.

[bi-haeng-gi-neun ppal-la-seo jo-a-yo.]

= Planes are good because they are fast. / I like airplanes because they are fast.

4. 누가 케익 잘랐어요?

[nu-ga ke-ik jal-la-sseo-yo?]

= Who cut the cake?

5. 토끼를 5년 동안 길렀어요.

[to-kki-reul o-nyeon dong-an gil-leo-sseo-yo.]

= I had a rabbit as a pet for five years. / I grew a rabbit for five years.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 25

In this lesson, we are going to look at how to use the verb ending **-네요** [-ne-yo]. You might have heard this ending used a lot in everyday conversational Korean.

As you have seen so far, there are many different types of verb endings in Korean. They all have very specific rules and this one is no exception. If you change a plain sentence into this **-네요** form, you indicate that you are expressing your impression, thought, or surprise.

For example

if you just say "맛있어요" about a dish, it just means that it is delicious. But if you say "맛있네요", the sentence can show that you are impressed or surprised by the taste. While "맛있어요" can do the same thing when said with the right intonation, it cannot convey the same nuance when it is written.

Structure:

The conjugation is very simple. Just add **-네요** after the verb stem.

Examples

1.

크다 [keu-da] = to be big (verb stem = 크)

- 크 + 어요 = 커요 = It's big. (Plain fact)

- 크 + 네요 = 크네요 = (I see that) it is big. / (Oh, I didn't know it was big but) it is big. (Showing surprise)

2.

잘 어울리다 [jal eo-ul-li-da] = to suit someone well, to go well with someone

- 잘 어울리 + 어요 = 잘 어울려요. = It looks good on you. (Plain fact)

- 잘 어울리 + 네요 = 잘 어울리네요. = Oh! I find that it looks good on you. (Showing impression)

3.

맞다 [mat-da] = to be correct

- 맞 + 아요 = 맞아요 = It's correct. (Plain fact)

- 맞 + 네요 = 맞네요 = I see that it's correct! (Finding out a fact for the first time.)

LEVEL 3 LESSON 25

Sample Sentences

1. 여기 있네요!

[yeo-gi it-ne-yo!]

= Oh, here it is!

2. 이 드라마 재미있네요.

[i deu-ra-ma jae-mi-it-ne-yo.]

= I find this drama fun to watch.

** If you already know that this drama is fun and you are telling someone else the fact, you need to say 이 드라마 재미있어요.

3. 별로 안 춥네요.

[byeol-lo an chup-ne-yo.]

= Well, it's not that cold.

4. 아무도 안 왔네요.

[a-mu-do an wat-ne-yo.]

= Oh, look. Nobody is here yet.

5. 벌써 11월이네요.

[beol-sseo si-bil-wol-i-ne-yo.]

= Wow, it's already November!

LEVEL 3 LESSON 26

We have looked at two irregularities in Korean verbs so far - "ㅁ irregular" and "ㄹ irregular". In this lesson, we are going to look at one more irregular, which is the "ㄷ irregular".

How "ㄷ" irregular works:

When the letter "ㄷ" comes at the end of a verb ending and it is followed by a vowel, "ㄷ" is changed to "ㄹ".

Some verbs follow this rule, and some other verbs do not follow this rule.

Examples of ㄷ irregular verbs:

- 듣다 [deut-da] = to listen
- 걷다 [geot-da] = to walk
- 묻다 [mut-da] = to ask
- 싣다 [sit-da] = to load
- 깨닫다 [kkae-dat-da] = to realize

For these verbs, ㄷ changes to ㄹ when they are followed by a vowel.

- 듣 + 어서 --> 들어서 [deu-reo-seo]
- 걷 + 어요 --> 걸어요 [geo-reo-yo]
- 묻 + 으면 --> 물으면 [mu-reu-myeon]
- 싣 + 을 예요 --> 실을 거예요 [si-reul geo-ye-yo]
- 깨달 + 았어요 --> 깨달았어요 [kkae-da-ra-sseo-yo]

Examples of verbs that do NOT follow this rule:

- 받다 [bat-da] = to receive
- 묻다 [mut-da] = to bury
- 닫다 [dat-da] = to close
- 믿다 [mit-da] = to believe

For these verbs, you keep the ㄷ even when it's followed by a vowel.



LEVEL 3 LESSON 26

- 받 + 아서 = 받아서 [ba-da-seo]
- 묻 + 어요 = 물어요 [mu-deo-yo]
- 달 + 으면 = 달으면 [da-deu-myeon]
- 믿 + 어요 = 믿어요 [mi-deo-yo]

Usage examples of ㄷ irregular verbs

1.

듣다 [deut-da] = to listen

--> 듣고 있어요 [deut-go i-sseo-yo] = I am listening. (ㄷ doesn't change because -고 starts with a consonant.)

--> 들었어요 [deu-reo-sseo-yo] = I heard. (ㄷ changes to ㄹ because -었 starts with a vowel.)

2.

걷다 [geot-da] = to walk

--> 걷는 것 좋아해요 [geot-neun geot jo-a-hae-yo] = I like walking. (ㄷ doesn't change because -는 starts with a consonant.)

--> 한 시간 걸었어요 [han si-gan geo-reo-sseo-yo] = I walked for an hour. (ㄷ changes to ㄹ because -었 starts with a vowel.)

Sample Sentences

1. 어디에서 들었어요?

[eo-di-e-seo deu-reo-sseo-yo?]

= Where did you hear that?

2. 많이 걸었는데, 안 피곤해요.

[ma-ni geo-reot-neun-de, an pi-gon-hae-yo.]

= I walked a lot, but I am not tired.

3. 그 이야기를 믿어요?

[geu i-ya-gi-reul mi-deo-yo?]

= Do you believe that story?



LEVEL 3 LESSON 26

4. 물어도 대답이 없어요.

[mu-reo-do dae-da-bi eop-seo-yo.]

= Even if I ask, there is not answer.



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LEVEL 3 LESSON 27

So far, through our previous lessons, we have introduced various sentence structures and verb endings. However, all of the sentence endings that we have introduced so far are in the **존댓말** politeness level.

There are three main levels of politeness/formality and now we think it is time for you to learn about the **반말** level (casual language).

What are the three main levels of politeness in Korean?

The politeness level is determined by the end of the verb.

Type 1. -ㅁ니다 [-nida] ending = honorific, most polite, most formal

Type 2. -(아/어/여)요 [-(a/eo/yeo)yo] ending = polite, natural, a bit formal

Type 3. -아/어/여 ending = casual, informal, intimate

Type 1 and 2 are called 존댓말 [jon-daet-mal] and Type 3 is called 반말 [ban-mal]. And in this lesson, we are looking at how to use 반말, and when NOT to use it.

When do you use 반말?

Generally, 반말 is considered to be the most intimate and casual way of speaking with others in Korean. Therefore, it has no formality in it at all. You can only use 반말 to someone who is obviously and certainly younger than you, someone of the same age as you, or (if the other person is older than you) someone with whom you agreed to mutually use 반말.

If you don't know the other person's age or social status, you should not use 반말 in any case. Once you know the other person's age and find out the he or she is younger than you, you can use 반말 but it is a nice gesture and also safe to ask the person first whether you can use 반말 to him or her.

Here are some common cases in which you can use 반말

1. You are much older than the other person and you know for sure that the other person won't get offended if you use 반말.
2. You are older than the other person and you got his or her permission to use 반말.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 27

3. You are of the same age as the other person and you got his or her permission to use 반말.
4. You are in elementary school, middle school or high school and you know that all your classmates are of the same age as you.
5. You are talking to yourself or writing in your diary.

Here are some common cases in which you SHOULD NOT use 반말

1. You know the other person only through work, and not personally.
2. You are older than the other person but he or she is your business client or customer.
3. You are older than the other person but you are talking to the person in an official environment such as seminars, lessons, etc.
4. You don't know the other person. You just met him/her.
5. You are younger than the other person. You never got permission from him/her that you can use 반말 to him/her.
6. You are the same age as the other person. But you are both adults now and you don't know him/her that well.
7. You are older than the other person but he or she is your boss or the spouse of your older sibling.
8. You are talking to a large group of people or in a video blog.

How do you ask for and give permission to speak in 반말?

There are certain expressions that people say in order to get permission from the other person.

If you are the older one:

1. 말 놔도 돼요?

[mal nwa-do dwae-yo?]

= Can I speak in 반말 with you?

** 말을 놓다 [ma-reul no-ta] literally means to "put down the language" or "lower the language".

2. 말 편하게 해도 돼요?

[mal pyeon-ha-ge hae-do dwae-yo?]

= Can I speak comfortably with you?

If you are the younger one:

LEVEL 3 LESSON 27

1. 말 놓으셔도 돼요.

[mal no-eu-syeo-do dwae-yo.]

= You can speak casually with me.

2. 말 편하게 하셔도 돼요.

[mal pyeon-ha-ge ha-syeo-do dwae-yo.]

= You can speak comfortably with me. / You can speak 반말 with me.

If you are of the same age as the other person:

1. 우리 말 놓을까요?

[u-ri mal no-eul-kka-yo?]

= Shall we speak in 반말 to each other?

2. 말 편하게 해도 되죠?

[mal pyeon-ha-ge hae-do doe-jyo?]

= I can talk in 반말 with you, right?

How to change 존댓말 to 반말

Present tense

-아/어/여요 ---> -아/어/여

-이에요 / -예요 --> -이야 / -야

Past tense

-았/었/였어요 ---> -았/었/였어

Future tense

-(으)ㄹ 거예요 --> -(으)ㄹ 거야

Examples

1. What is this?



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LEVEL 3 LESSON 27

존댓말: 이거 뭐예요? [i-geo mwo-ye-yo?]

반말: 이거 뭐야? [i-geo mwo-ya?]

2. I'm going to work tomorrow.

존댓말: 내일 일할 거예요. [nae-il il-hal geo-ye-yo.]

반말: 내일 일할 거야. [nae-il il-hal geo-ya.]

3. I met a friend yesterday.

존댓말: 어제 친구 만났어요. [eo-je chin-gu man-na-sseo-yo.]

반말: 어제 친구 만났어. [eo-je chin-gu man-na-sseo.]

Calling names

When speaking in 존댓말, you add the word "씨" to address the person politely, as in 경은 씨, 현우 씨, 석진 씨, 소연 씨, and 현정 씨. Or you add the title of the person's job or status after that, like 경은 선생님, 현우 선생님, etc.

But when you speak in 반말, you just say the name of the person without "씨". But in order to make the name sound more natural when you are calling the person by name, you need to add "아" or "야" at the end. Names that end WITHOUT a consonant are followed by 야 [ya] and names that end WITH a consonant are followed by 아 [a].

Examples:

경은 ----> 경은아! (Hey Kyeong-eun!)

현우 ----> 현우야! (Hey Hyunwoo!)

Talking about names

For the same reason as above, when Korean people add the letter "이" after the names that end with a consonant, when they are talking about the person using their name. So names like 경은 and 석진 are followed by 이 in sentences.

If 현우 wants to talk about 석진 in a sentence, he says 석진's name as "석진이".

Ex) 석진이가 했어. [seok-jin-i-ga hae-sseo.] = Seokjin did it.

This is the basic information about 반말 and we will look at more expressions using 반말 in the following lesson.



LEVEL 3 LESSON 28

In the previous lesson, we introduced how to use 반말 (casual language) as well as the cases and situations in which you can safely speak in 반말. Now, in this lesson, we are taking a look at how to make "let's" sentences in 반말.

For sentences in the plain present tense and the past tense, you can just drop the suffix "-요" at the end to change a sentence from 존댓말 to 반말. But, if you want to say "let's" do something when speaking in 반말, you need to use a different ending.

Structure

Verb stem + -자 [-ja]

Examples

하다 [ha-da] = to do

하 + 자 = 하자 [ha-ja] = Let's do it.

하지 말다 [ha-ji mal-da] = to not do it

하지 말 + 자 = 하지 말자 [ha-ji mal-ja] = Let's not do it.

먹다 [meok-da] = to eat

먹 + 자 = 먹자 [meok-ja] = Let's eat.

Sample sentences

1. 내일 보자.

[nae-il bo-ja]

= Let's meet tomorrow. / See you tomorrow.

2. 이거 사자.

[i-geo sa-ja]

= Let's buy this.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 28

3. 우리 내일은 쉬자.

[u-ri nae-i-reun swi-ja]

= Let's take a day off tomorrow.

4. 같이 가자.

[ga-chi ga-ja]

= Let's go together.

5. 조금만 더 기다리자.

[jo-geum-man deo gi-da-ri-ja]

= Let's wait a little longer.

More Phrases in 반말

1. 안녕하세요 [an-nyeong-ha-se-yo] -> 안녕 [an-nyeong]

2. 안녕히 가세요 [an-nyeong-hi ga-se-yo] -> 안녕 [an-nyeong] / 잘 가 [jal ga]

3. 안녕히 계세요. [an-nyeong-hi ge-se-yo] -> 안녕 [an-nyeong] / 잘 있어. [jal i-sseo]

4. 저 [jeo] -> 나 [na]

5. ~ 씨 [ssi] / You -> 너 [neo]

6. 네 [ne] / 예 [ye] -> 응 [eung] / 어 [eo]

7. 아니요 [a-ni-yo] -> 아니 [a-ni] / 아니야 [a-ni-ya]

LEVEL 3 LESSON 29

In this lesson, we are looking at one more irregularity in the Korean language. The irregularity that we are introducing in this lesson is the “ㄴ” irregular.

When a verb stem ends with the consonant “ㄴ” and it is followed by a vowel, the consonant “ㄴ” is dropped.

Example:

낫다 [nat-da] = to heal, to recover, to be better (in comparison)

낫 + 아요 (present tense) --> 나아아요 [na-a-yo]

= It's better. / Please feel better.

More examples

1. 젓다 [jeot-da] = to stir (liquid)

젓 + 어요 = 저어요 [ji-eo-yo]

2. 잇다 [it-da] = to connect, to link

잇 + 으면 = 이으면 [i-eu-myeon]

3. 짓다 [jit-da] = to build, to compose

짓 + 었어요 = 지었어요 [ji-eo-sseo-yo]

Sample sentences

1. 잘 저으세요.

[jal jeo-eu-se-yo.]

= Stir it well.

2. 두 개를 이었어요.

[du gae-reul i-eo-sseo-yo.]

= I connected the two (objects).

LEVEL 3 LESSON 29

3. 이 집을 누가 지었어요?

[i ji-beul nu-ga ji-eo-sseo-yo?]

= Who built this house?

4. 좋은 이름을 지을 거예요.

[jo-eun i-reu-meul ji-eul geo-ye-yo.]

= I'm going to make a good name.

5. 감기 다 나았어요?

[gam-gi da na-a-sseo-yo?]

= Did you recover (completely) from the cold?

Exceptions

Some words do not follow this irregularity rule and still keep the consonant “ㄴ” even before a vowel.

1. 웃다 [ut-da] = to smile, to laugh

2. 씻다 [ssit-da] = to wash

3. 벗다 [beot-da] = to take (clothes) off

웃어요. [u-seo-yo.] = Smile. / I smile. / He smiles. / They laugh.

씻을 거예요. [ssi-seul geo-ye-yo.] = I'm going to wash up. / I'm going to wash it.

신발을 벗어 주세요. [sin-ba-reul beo-seo ju-se-yo.] = Please take your shoes off.

LEVEL 3 LESSON 30 - WORD BUILDER 2

Word Builder lessons are designed to help you understand how to expand your vocabulary by learning/ understanding some common and basic building blocks of Korean words. The words and letters that will be introduced through Word Builder lessons are not necessarily all Chinese characters, or 한자 [han-ja]. Though many of them are based on Chinese characters, the meanings can be different from modern-day Chinese. Your goal, through these lessons, is to understand how words are formed and remember the keywords in Korean to expand your Korean vocabulary from there. You certainly don't have to memorize the Hanja characters, but if you want to, feel free!

Today's keyword is 실.

The Chinese character for this is 室.

The word 실 is related to "room".

화장 (make-up) + 실 (room) = 화장실 化粧室 [hwa-jang-sil] = toilet, bathroom

교 (school, teach) + 실 (room) = 교실 教室 [gyo-sil] = classroom

연습 (practice) + 실 (room) = 연습실 練習室 [yeon-seup-sil]
= practice room, practice place

대기 (wait) + 실 (room) = 대기실 待機室 [dae-gi-sil] = waiting room

회 (meet) 의 (discuss) + 실 (room) = 회의실 會議室 [hoe-ui-sil]
= meeting room, conference room

병 (disease) + 실 (room) = 병실 病室 [byeong-sil] = hospital room, patient's room

미용 (beauty treatment) + 실 (room) = 미용실 美容室 [mi-yong-sil]
= beauty parlor, hairdresser's

LEVEL 3 LESSON 30 - WORD BUILDER 2

사 (work) + 무 (work, task) + 실 (room) = **사무실** 事務室 [sa-mu-sil] = office

교 (school) + 무 (work) + 실 (room) = **교무실** 敎務室 [gyo-mu-sil] = teacher's office

실 (room) + 장 (head, leader) = **실장** 室長 [sil-jang] = head of the office

실 (room) + 내 (inside) = **실내** 室內 [sil-nae] = indoors

실 (room) + 외 (outside) = **실외** 室外 [sil-oe] = outdoors, outside