

Korean
Grammar
Guidebook

Table of Contents



1. Korean Alphabet History And Introduction

2. The Korean Alphabet

3. Basic Grammar

• Sentence Order	1
• 5W1H	4
• Particles - 는, 도, 를, 가, 에	6
• Pronouns- This, It, That	9
• Nouns - Present, Past	10
• Nouns - Nominalizing Verbs	12
• Nouns - Numbers and Counting	13
• Adjectives - Present, Past	18
• Adjectives - Polite [Present, Past]	20
• Adjectives - Descriptive	22
• Adjectives - Connective	26
• Verbs - Present, Past	29
• Verbs - Polite [Present, Past]	34
• Verbs - Future [Will]	36
• Verbs - Continuous	39
• Verbs - Connective	41
• Verbs - Can	44
• Verbs - Have	47
• Verbs - Want	50

• Verbs - Descriptive I	54
• Verbs - Descriptive II	56
• Verbs - Speech	58
• Adverbs - 부사	60
• Particles - 께/에 게/한테	62
• Particles - 으로/로	64
• Particles - 에서, 까지	66
• Particles - 만 [only]	68
• Possessive - 의	69
• Conjunctions - And	71
• Conjunctions - But	72
• Conjunctions - But [는데/은 데]	74
• Conjunctions - Because, So	76
• Conjunctions - Because [때문에]	78
• Conjunctions - If	80
• Conjunctions - When	81
• Conjunctions - While	83

2. Advanced Grammar

- Comparatives & Superlatives 87
- Imperatives - 해, 하지마 89
- Have to - 해야 한다 91
- Allowed to - 해도 된다 94
- I like doing - 하는게 좋다, 하는걸 좋아한다 97
- I think - ~고 생각해 (Opinion) 100
- I think - 하는 거 같애 (General) 101

4. Special Expressions

- Are you doing? - ~는 거야? [Informal] 107
- Are you doing? - ~시는 거예요? [Polite] 109
- To do something - ~기 위해 112
- Try doing - 해 보다 113
- Of course, I've done it before - 해봤죠 115
- Give the favour of doing - 해 주다 117
- Would you like to go? - 갈래요? 119
- Shall we do something? - 우리 뭐 할까? 120
- It's cold, isn't it? - 춥지요? 121
- Let's do it - 하자 123
- Easy to do / Difficult to do - ~기 쉽다 / ~기 어렵다 125
- I know how - 어떻게 하는지 알아 127
- I'm in the habit of - ~되면 ~게 돼요 129
- Addressing people 131

The Korean Alphabet: An Introduction

History and Form

The Korean alphabet (called "*Hangul*" in Korean) was developed by a team of scholars under King *Se-jong* (1397-1450) of the *Yi* Dynasty and is the most recently invented and most scientifically designed alphabet in the world. "*Hangul*" has only 21 vowel/vowel combinations and 19 consonants, 5 of which are the same symbol repeated twice and 5 of them are simply a consonant with the addition of an accent mark. That makes a total of only 30 basic character shapes to be learned.

Due to western influence "*Hangul*" is often written from left to right and top to bottom like English, but can also be written from top to bottom and right to left like Chinese.

Each letter of the alphabet is a simple shape that represents a sound, (some characters change sounds or just have a harder sound depending on their location in the syllable). Example: The Korean letter "ㄱ" sounds like a G in the initial position in a syllable and like a K in the final position in a syllable as we can see in the word "국 *Guk*,"

국	Here the letter "ㄱ" sounds like G because it is in the initial position in the syllable.
	Between the two consonants is the vowel "ㅜ"; it is represented by a U and sounds like the oo in <u>Pool</u> .
	And the "ㄱ" here in the final position sounds like a K.

"국 *Guk*" is the Korean word for country. (The sound changes are recorded on the last page and are easy to follow).

Each word in Korean is broken down into syllables which are composed of 2 to 4 characters; every syllable starts with a consonant and has a vowel in it. For example: The word for Korea in Korean is "한국 *Han guk*"; here is a breakdown of the letters and syllables for the word "Han guk"

Syllable #1.

한	Consonant; "ㅎ" sounds like the letter H as in <u>hotel</u> .
	Vowel; "ㅏ" sounds like the letter A as in <u>father</u> .
	And the "ㄴ" here in the final position sounds like an N.

Syllable #2.

	Consonant; "ㄱ" sounds like the letter G in the initial position.
	Vowel; "ㅜ" is represented by the letter U and sounds like oo as in <u>pool</u> .
	Consonant; "ㄱ" same as the first letter but sounds like a K because it is in the final position in the syllable.

Although the words are written in syllables they are pronounced in a continuous flow.

Every word in Korean starts with a consonant and has a vowel; however, the location of the vowel can change in relation to the first consonant depending on which vowel is used. For example; "ㅇ" is a consonant which is silent and has no voiced sound in the initial position and "ㅣ" is a vowel which sounds like the i in machine. Because the long axis of the vowel "ㅣ" is up and down it is placed on the right side of the consonant like this "ㅇㅣ" so this syllable sounds like ee as in Lee, the first letter is silent and the second letter sounds like the i in machine. Other vowels like "ㅡ", which sounds like the oo in good have a long axis that runs from side to side; therefore, they are placed underneath the initial consonant like this "ㅇㅡ" so this syllable will sound like the oo from good.

Every one of the vowels fits into either the group with the long axis up and down like "ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ" and "ㅣ" which are placed on the right of the consonant; into the group with the long axis from left to right like "ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ" which are placed under the consonant; or those vowels which have both an up and down long axis and a left to right long axis in the same vowel. These vowels are combinations of 2 vowels like "ㅑ" which is a combination of "ㅓ" and "ㅣ" or "ㅕ" which is a combination of "ㅗ" and "ㅣ"; and the following "ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ" which go under and to the right of the consonant like this "ㅇ, 위"

Syllable Positions

1. Words in Korean are formed by groups of syllables.
2. Every syllable must start with a consonant and have a vowel.
3. The following vertical vowels go along side the initial consonant like this:
"아, 애, 야, 얘, 어, 에, 여, 예, 이"
4. The following horizontal vowels go under the initial consonant like this:
"오, 요, 우, 유, 으"
5. These vowel combinations go to the right and under the consonant like this;
"와, 왜, 외, 워, 웨, 위, 의"
6. There are only six patterns for the formation of syllables. C = Consonant, V = Vowel.

C	V
---	---

 as in "파" (green onion)

C
V

 as in "코" (nose)

C
V
C

 as in "급" (urgent)

C	V
C	

 as in "김" (seaweed)

these are the 4 most common forms.

Those that have two different consonants in the final position like

C	V
C	C

 as in "닭" (chicken)

C	
V	
C	C

 as in "흙" (dirt)

are not that common.

7. The sounds of some consonants change depending on their position in the syllable, for example: "ㅅ" has an S sound when it is the first (initial) consonant in a syllable but changes to a T sound when it is the last (final) consonant in a syllable.

Handy Word and Phrase List

Vocabulary

Handy phrases

한국사람	Korean (person)	반갑습니다	Pleased to meet you.
미국사람	American (person)	오래간만입니다	Long time no see
언제	When	<u>noun</u> + 주세요	Please give me + <u>noun</u> .
오늘	Today	갑시다	Let's go!
내일	Tomorrow	한국돈	Korean money
지금	Now	미국돈	American money
어제	Yesterday	<u>noun</u> + 좋아합니다	I like <u>noun</u> .
나중에	Later	어떻게 지냈어요	How have you been?
친구	Friend	어디갑니까?	Where are you going?
여자	Woman	들어오세요	Please come in.
남자	Man	앉으세요	Please sit down.
안녕하세요	Hi	얼마입니까?	How much is it?
아침식사	Breakfast	감사합니다	Thank You.
점심식사	Lunch	당신 이름이 무엇입니까?	What's your name?
저녁식사	Dinner	제이름이 + <u>name</u> + 입니다	My name is + <u>name</u> .
좋습니다	Good	이것이 무엇입니까?	What is this?
나쁩니다	Bad	다시 말해주세요	Please say it again.
아가씨	Young lady	천천히 말해주세요	Please speak slowly.
아줌마	Ma'am	영어 할 줄 압니까?	Can you speak English?
아저씨	Mister, Sir	실례합니다	Excuse me!
미안합니다	Sorry	또 봅시다	See you again.
식당	Restaurant	<u>noun</u> + 어디 있습니까?	Where is the <u>noun</u> ?
화장실	Bathroom	<u>noun</u> + 원합니다	I want a + <u>noun</u> .
전화	Telephone	가고 싶습니다	I want to go.
아니요	No	<u>noun</u> + 먹고 싶습니다	I want to eat + <u>noun</u> .
네	Yes	<u>noun</u> + 사고 싶습니다	I want to buy + <u>noun</u> .
어디	Where	저는 피곤합니다	I'm tired.
왜요	Why	저는 배고픉니다	I'm hungry.

The above table is a list of words phrases in "Hangul" that you can use to practice reading. If you practice with these words you will quickly develop an understanding of "Hangul," and your visit to Korea will be much more enjoyable as you will have a better understanding of the language, and hence the country, you are visiting.

Grammar Notes

1. Korean sentence structure follows this pattern:

Subject (Subject marker) Verb, as in:

식당(이) 어디 있습니까? (where is a restaurant?)

More complex sentences incorporate an Object and an Object marker:

Subject (subject marker) Object (Object marker) Verb, like this;

저(는) 한국(을) 좋아합니다 (I like Korea.)

2. The understood subject is often dropped in Korean as it is in English; so the sentence above can become:

한국(을) 좋아합니다 ([I] like Korea), the understood subject "I" is dropped.

3. Adjectives always go in front of the nouns:

Adjective Subject (Subject marker) Adjective Object (Object marker) Verb, like this:

미국 사람(은) 매운 음식(을) 좋아합니다 (which means; Americans like spicy food) 매운 = spicy.

4. Adverbs go in front of the Verb:

Adverb Verb, as in:

많이 주세요 (give me a lot).

Korean Alphabet Chart

CONSONANTS			VOWELS		
Sounds in the initial and final positions.			Romanization		
	INITIAL	FINAL			
ㄱ	G/K(1)	K	ㅏ	A	as in <u>F</u> ather
ㄴ	N	N	ㅑ	AE	<u>P</u> ay
ㄷ	D	T	ㅓ	YA	<u>Y</u> acht
ㄹ	R/L(2)	L	ㅕ	YAE	<u>Y</u> ea!
ㅁ	M	M	ㅗ	EO	<u>Y</u> oung
ㅂ	B	P(3)	ㅛ	E	<u>S</u> et
ㅅ	S	T	ㅜ	YEO	<u>Y</u> oung
ㅇ	silent(4)	NG	ㅠ	YE	<u>Y</u> et
ㅈ	J	T	ㅡ	O	<u>Y</u> o <u>Y</u> o
ㅊ	CH	T	ㅜㅏ	WA	<u>W</u> ater
ㅋ	K	K	ㅜㅑ	WAE	<u>W</u> aiter
ㅌ	T	T	ㅜㅓ	OI	<u>W</u> ait
ㅍ	P	P	ㅜㅕ	YO	<u>Y</u> O <u>Y</u> O
ㅎ	H	T	ㅜㅗ	U	<u>C</u> ool
ㄱㄱ	GG(5)	K	ㅜㅛ	WEO	<u>W</u> on
ㄷㄷ	DD	T	ㅜㅜ	WE	<u>W</u> et
ㅂㅂ	BB	PP	ㅜㅜ	UI	<u>W</u> e
ㅅㅅ	SS	T	ㅜㅜ	YU	<u>Y</u> ou
ㅈㅈ	JJ	T	ㅡ	U	<u>G</u> ood
			ㅣ	UI	<u>U</u> I
			ㅣ	I(6)	<u>S</u> heep

1. Sounds like a cross between a G and a K.
2. Sounds like a cross between an R and an L.
3. When this character (in the final position) is directly followed by a "ㄴ" in the next syllable it's sound changes to an M.
4. Because every syllable must start with a consonant the silent "ㅇ" is sometimes used. In syllables that begin with this consonant the first sound pronounced is the vowel.
5. All the double consonants have a harder sound than their single counterparts and are pronounced with no expulsion of air.
6. Except when preceded by an "ㄸ" in which case it sounds like I as in it.

Hangeul [한글] - Korean Alphabets

● How To Form A Letter

There are two ways to form a letter using any combination of 14 consonants and 10 vowels.

1. initial consonant + vowel
2. initial consonant + vowel + final consonant

1. Examples

- 가 = ㄱ + ㅏ = ga
- 너 = ㄴ + ㅛ = neo
- 도 = ㄷ + ㅜ = do
- 루 = ㄹ + ㅜ = lu/ru
- 므 = ㅁ + ㅓ = meu
- 비 = ㅂ + ㅣ = bi

2. Examples

- 각 = ㄱ + ㅏ + ㄱ = gag
- 년 = ㄴ + ㅛ + ㄴ = neon
- 돛 = ㄷ + ㅜ + ㅓ = dod
- 를 = ㄹ + ㅡ + ㄹ = leul/reul
- 쟁 = ㅈ + ㅞ + ㅅ = jaeng

Letters with final consonants of ㄱ, ㄲ and ㅋ, all sound the same. Thus 각, 각 and 각 will sound exactly the same.

Eg.

[국](#), [역](#), [밖](#) Their final consonants all sound the same. Click on the [links](#) to hear.

Now, below is a list of the final consonants and their respective sounds.

- ㄱ/ㄲ/ㅋ = ㄱ
- ㅂ/ㅃ/ㅍ = ㅂ
- ㄷ/ㅌ/ㅍ/ㅍ/ㅍ/ㅍ/ㅎ = ㄷ
- ㄴ = ㄴ
- ㄹ = ㄹ
- ㅁ = ㅁ
- ㅅ = ㅅ

Eg.

낚시 [낙시] = fishing
부엌 [부억] = kitchen
앞 [압] = front
씨앗 [씨안] = seed

낮 [날] = day

For a more detailed explanation and audio files, [click here](#).

When the initial consonant of second and/or third characters is ㅇ, for example, 돌이 and 만약이, the sound of the final consonant of each letter is pronounced with the next vowel. Because ㅇ has no sound, 돌이 is pronounced as 도리 and 만약이 as 마나기. These are just made-up words to show you how these work.

- 돌이[도리]
- 만약이[마나기]

For more examples on this pronunciation, [click on the link](#).

쌍받침[Final double consonants]

There are also 11 additional final double consonants. Their sounds are as follows. As you can see, the first consonant of the double consonants is pronounced. (except 리 = ㄹ, 리 = ㄹ and 리 = ㄹ) I do not recommend that you learn these exhaustively right away because that is a hard work and I rarely employed them in my grammar lessons anyway. So it would be better to come back to these when you come across them from time to time.

Eg.

- | | | |
|---|--------|---------------------------|
| • | ㄱ = ㄱ | 샷 [삭] = amount |
| • | ㄴ = ㄴ | 앉다 [안따] = sit |
| • | ㄴㅇ = ㄴ | 많다 [만타] = many |
| • | ㄹ = ㄹ | 읽다 [익따] = read |
| • | ㄹㅇ = ㄹ | 삶다 [삼따] = boil |
| • | ㄹㅇ = ㄹ | 넓다 [널따] = spacious |
| • | ㄹㅇ = ㄹ | 외곶 [외골] = a single way |
| • | ㄹㅇ = ㄹ | 핥다 [할따] = lick |
| • | ㄹㅇ = ㄹ | 읊다 [읍따] = recite (a poem) |
| • | ㄹㅇ = ㄹ | 잃다 [일타] = lose (a thing) |
| • | ㅂ = ㅂ | 값 [갑] = price |

Excellent pronunciation lessons by [Sogang University](#)

source: <http://korean.sogang.ac.kr/>

I also recommend listening to Korean audios and videos and try matching the sounds with the letters. That would be the quickest way to learn accurate pronunciations. You may want to watch these flash files and videos.

- [Let's Speak Korean](#)

- [◆ All Stories](#)
- [◆ Bible Stories](#)
- [◆ Fairy Tales](#)

- [▶ 로미오](#)
- [▶ 로봇수사대 K-캡스](#)
- [▶ 사자왕 가오가이거](#)
- [▶ 신세기 사이버 포물러](#)
- [▶ 영광의 레이서](#)
- [▶ 클래식](#)
- [▶ 황금로봇 골드런](#)

- [▷ The Classic - 클래식](#)

Sentence Order

A sentence in Korean begins with a subject and ends with a noun, a verb or an adjective. The suffix of a verb can be conjugated to form different tenses and other special forms many of which have been covered in this guide. It is therefore essential to learn basic conjugations. But you can start with a simple verb and change it to a past tense or a negative form.

In Korean, there is a distinctive part of speech called, "particles" for example, the subject particle 는/은 and object particle 를/을. Particles aid in identifying the subject, object etc. For notes on particles, see ([Particles - 는, 도, 를, 가, 에](#))

S = Subject
O = Object
N = Noun
V = Verb
A = Adjective

S + N

나는 학생이다 = I am a student
리사는 선생님이다 = Lisa is a teacher
앤드류는 의사였다 = Andrew was a doctor
저는 중학생이에요 = I am a middle school student [formal spoken form]

For more explanations on the S + N pattern, read [Nouns - Present, Past](#)

S + V

주영은 달린다 = Ju-young runs [written form]
주영은 달려요 = Ju-young runs [formal spoken form]
주영은 힘차게 달린다 = Ju-young vigorously runs

The adverb comes before the verb.

나 = I
리사 = Lisa
학생 = student
선생님 = teacher
주영 = Ju-Young (a male name)
달린다 = run
달려 = run (spoken form)
달려요 = run (formal spoken form)

힘차게 = vigorously

For more on verbs, read [Verbs - Present, Past](#) & [Verbs - Formal \[Present, Past\]](#)

S + A

그는 크다 = He is big

그녀는 작다 = She is small

앤은 정말 예쁘다 = Anne is really pretty [written form]

앤은 정말 예뻐 = Anne is really pretty [spoken form]

앤은 정말 예뻐요 = Anne is really pretty [formal spoken form]

바닷물이 차가워요 = The sea water is cold [formal spoken form]

산이 아름답다 = The mountain is beautiful

하늘이 정말 높고 푸르다 = The sky is really high and blue.

Read, [Adjectives - Present, Past](#), [Adjectives - Formal \[Present, Past\]](#) & [Adjectives - Connective](#)

S + O + V

나는 사과를 먹었다 = I ate an apple

지성은 물을 마신다 = Ji-sung drinks water

영희는 (어제 저녁 10 시쯤에) 간식을 먹었다. = Young-hee ate snacks (last night around 10 o'clock).

새들이 노래를 부른다 = The birds are singing songs.

안나는 대학을 다닌다 = Anna attends college (university) [written form]

안나는 대학을 다녀요 = Anna attends college (university) [spoken form]

Notice that the time(어제 저녁 10 시쯤에) is inserted between S and O.

나 = I

사과 = apple

먹었다 = ate

물 = water

마신다 = drink

어제 = yesterday

저녁 = night

어제 저녁 = last night

10 시 = 10 o'clock

쯤 = approximately, around

먹었다 = ate

새 = a bird

새들 = birds

노래 = song

부르다 = sing
다니다 = attend
다녀 = attend (spoken form)
다녀요 = attend (formal spoken form)

For notes on particles, see ([Particles - 는, 도, 를, 가, 에](#))

However, the main difference between Korean and English would be the possibility of the omission of a subject in a sentence. A subject may not be used in a sentence if it is known who or what the subject is. So, the sentences below are also correct and it is common in spoken Korean (conversations).

학생이다 = (am/is) a student
선생님이다 = (am/is) a teacher
의사예요 = (am/is) a doctor
중학생이에요 = (am/is) a middle school student
달린다 = runs
힘차게 달린다 = vigorously runs
크다 = is big
작다 = is small
정말 예쁘다 = is really pretty
사과를 먹었다 = ate an apple
물을 마신다 = drinks water
(어제 저녁 10 시쯤에) 간식을 먹었다. = ate snacks (last night around 10 o'clock).
노래를 부른다 = sing songs

5W1H - When, Where, Who, What, How and Why

Note: Please refer to [Verbs - Present/Past](#) for the spoken form of verbs.

When, where, who, what, how and why are very useful words to make a question and they are convenient to use in conversations with friends. Here are some simple sentences. You may hear these this pattern of the speech a lot from Korean dramas, animations, and people.

To show you how they are used, I've made simple sentences using the verb, "go".

When: 언제 가? = When do you go? (Lit. when go?)

Where: 어디 가? = Where do you go?

Who: 누가 가? = Who is going?

What: 뭐가 가? = What is going?

How: 어떻게 가? = How do you go?

Why: 왜 가? = Why do you go?

Note: The subject is usually omitted.

Eg.

Sam: I will go to school.

Jenny: 언제 가? [Here, it would mean 'When will you go?']

Sam: Peter told me that we are going to a museum!

Jenny: 언제 가? [When are we going?]

언제 와? = When do you come?

왜 쳐? = Why do you hit me?

왜 울어? = Why do you cry?

뭐 줘? = What do I give to you? or What do you give to me? [Depends on the context]

Honorific Form

While the spoken form above is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The honorific form is used commonly between adults, by people informal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

- Just add 요 at the end of a sentence.

When: 언제 가요? = When do you go? (Lit. when go?)

Where: 어디 가요? = Where do you go?

Who: 누가 가요? = Who is going?

What: 뭐가 가요? = What is going?

How: 어떻게 가요? = How do you go?

Why: 왜 가요? = Why do you go?

언제 와요? = When do you come?

왜 쳐요? = Why do you hit me?

왜 울어요? = Why do you cry?

뭐 줘요? = What do I give to you? or What do you give to me? [Depends on the context]

Particles - 는, 도, 를, 가, 에

는/은 [Subject Particle]

는/은 is used at the beginning of a sentence and introduces the subject/topic. 는 is used for pronouns/nouns without a final consonant, and 은 for pronouns/nouns with a final consonant. This is for the convenience of pronunciation. It is easier to say 나는 than 나은, and alternatively, it is easier to say 사람은 than 사람는.

나 = I
너 = You
그 = He
그녀 = She

Eg.

나는 착하다 = I am kind
너는 크다 = You are big
그는 작았다 = He was small
하늘은 높다 = sky is high
사람은 영리하다 = human is intelligent
나는 먹었다 = I ate
나는 공부했다 = I studied
존은 떠났다 = John left

도 [Additive Particle]

도 is used in the similar way as 는/은. However 도 adds the meaning of "also and too."
Note also that 도 is referring to the subject and not the rest of the sentence. ie.
NOT verbs

Eg.

나도 착하다 = I, too, am kind
너도 크다 = You, too, are big
그도 작았다 = He, too, was small.
하늘도 높다 = sky also is high
사람도 영리하다 = human also is intelligent
나도 먹었다 = I, too, ate
나도 공부했다 = I, too, studied

존도 떠났다 = John, too, left

Note:

Eg.

다윗은 왕이었다 = David was a king.

솔로몬도 왕이었다 = Solomon, too, was a king.

The additive meaning refers to 솔로몬 and the sentence above shows that not only was David a king but Solomon, too, was a king. 도 always refers to the subject it has been attached to.

If we want to attach the additive meaning not to the subject but to the rest of the sentence then 또 is used instead at the beginning of a sentence.

Eg.

다윗은 양치기였다 = David was a shepherd.

또 다윗은 왕이었다 = David was also a king.

또 refers to 왕이었다 and NOT the subject 다윗은. Therefore David was both a shepherd and king.

를/을 [Object Particle]

를/을 is the object particle. It is used for a word that is the object of the verb.

Eg.

나는 라면을 먹었다 = I ate noodles [Lit. noodles 을 ate]

책을 읽었다 = read a book

콜라를 마셨다 = drank coke

TV 를 봤다 = watched TV

The only difference between 를 and 을 is that 를 is used for nouns with no final consonant, and 을 for nouns without a final consonant for pronunciation's sake.

가/이 [Identifier Particle]

가/이 is used similarly as 는/은 but 가/이 is used when it is necessary to identify the person/thing.

Eg.

내가 샀다 = I bought [나 → 내 when used before 가]

나는 샀다 = I bought

They both mean "I bought" but 내가 샀다 identifies the subject, "I", and so puts more emphasis on the subject rather than the rest of the sentence whereas 나는 샀다 emphasizes 샀다. So in 내가 샀다, it is more concerned about "WHO" bought while 나는 샀다 is

more concerned about what I "DID".

내가 샀다 = I bought [It wasn't anyone else but it was I who bought]

나는 샀다 = I bought [I bought rather than doing something else]

It is like in English where a person is raising his intonation on "I" to identify oneself as a person who did something.

Eg.

Who bought a new t-shirt?

내가 샀어 = I bought

Note: it is wrong to say, 나는 샀어, because the person is asking who it was that bought.

What did you do in the city?

나는 구두를 샀어. [I bought shoes]

Note: The person is asking what I did in the city and so it is unnecessary to use the identifier particle. The person asking the question already knows that it was I who did something in the city. Therefore 는 is used rather than 가.

Here again, 가 is used for words without a final consonant and ㅁ] for words with a final consonant.

아빠가 TV 를 보셨다. = Dad watched TV.

내가 마셨다 = I drank

동생이 먹었다. = Little brother ate.

하늘이 높다 = The sky is high.

집이 크다 = The house is big.

에 [Time/Place Particle]

에 is used for any words related to time and place. ㅁ] particle is used between the subject and the verb.

쌤 = Sam

한국 = Korea

제니 = Jenny

5 월 = May [Thus 1 월 is January, 2 월 is February and so on.]

쌤은 한국에 갔다 = Sam, to Korea, went. [Sam went to Korea]

제니는 5 월에 왔다 = Jenny, in May, came. [Jenny came in May]

You can also make a long sentence.

제니는 한국에 5 월에 오전에 왔다. = Jenny, to Korea, in May, at AM, came. [Jenny came to Korea in May, AM.]

Note: ㅁ] is used for words both with or without a final consonant.

학교에 = at school

병원에 = at hospital

This, It and That

One of the most frequently used words are "this, it and that".

This = 이것

It = 그것

That = 저것

Eg.

이것은 연필이야. = This is a pencil.

그것은 칠판이야. = It is a blackboard.

저것은 꽃이야. = That is a flower.

However, in spoken Korean, 이것, 저것 and 그것 changes to 이건, 저건, 그건 for more convenience in pronunciation.

이건 연필이야.

그건 칠판이야.

저건 꽃이야.

"Here, there and over there" are used similarly to "This, it and that".

Formal

Here = 이곳

There = 그곳

Over there = 저곳

Informal

Here = 여기

There = 거기

Over there = 저기

Eg.

여기 어디야? = where is here?/where is this place?

여기는 서울이야. = Here is Seoul / This place is Seoul

여기는 is also reduced to 여긴 for easier pronunciation.

여기는 - 여긴

거기는 - 거긴

저기는 - 저긴

Sam: 화장실 어디 있어? Where is toilet?

Cindy: 저기. Over there.

Sam: 저긴 출구야! Over there is exit!

Cindy: 아.. 여기다. 미안. Ahh... here. Sorry

Nouns [명사] - Present and Past Tenses

The table shows four different ways of saying something about an apple. There are two main categories in Korean; written and spoken forms. You would use the former mostly in literature and occasionally in conversation when you declare something, and the latter in ordinary conversations. The particle, 가 ([Particles - 는, 도, 를, 가, 에](#)), is attached to a noun in the negative forms. However, in the spoken form, 가 can be omitted when speaking.

Note: The verb ending, 다 is used for nouns without a final consonant, and 이다 for nouns with a final consonant. Likewise, in the spoken form, 야 is used for nouns without final consonant and 이야 for nouns with a final consonant. Also note that the [identifier particle](#), 이 is used for words with a final consonant instead of 가 which is used for words without a final consonant.

사과 = apple [사과다/사과야/사과가]

연필 = pencil [연필이다/연필이야/연필이]

Factual/Declarative (Written)	Present	Past
Positive	사과다 연필이다	사과였다 연필이었다
Negative	사과가 아니다 연필이 아니다	사과가 아니었다 연필이 아니었다

Dialogue/Conversation (Spoken)	Present	Past
Positive	사과야 연필이야	사과였어 연필이었어
Negative	사과(가) 아니야 연필(이) 아니야	사과(가) 아니었어 연필(이) 아니었어

사과다 [사과야] = apple

사과가 아니다 [사과(가) 아니야] = not apple

사과였다 [사과였어] = was apple

사과가 아니었다 [사과(가) 아니었어] = was not apple

I would say "사과다 (An apple)" to somebody when I am pointing it out and informing them about it. For example, I could say, "사과다 (An apple!)" when I and Joe were walking on the road and I found it on the tree. Then Joe could follow on by saying "아니야, 배야 (No, it's a pear)" Notice that this time "배야" was used because Joe is clarifying what's already been said/declared. Here is a scenario again:

루크: 사과다! (Luke found an apple on the tree beside the road while Luke and Joe were driving past an orchard)

조: 아니야, 배야. (Joe looked at it and he knew that it was a pear and told Luke that it was a pear)

Luke: An apple!

Joe: No, it's a pear.

Polite Form

The table of the spoken form above illustrates the informal usage of spoken Korean, especially between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The table below shows the formal usage that would be used commonly between adults, between people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

Note: 야 changes to 예요 in the present tense, and 요 is added to the past tense.

Polite Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	사과예요 연필이에요	사과였어요 연필이었어요
Negative	사과(가) 아니예요 연필(이) 아니예요	사과(가) 아니었어요 연필(이) 아니었어요

- For formal written form, 다 changes to 입니다, and 아니다 to 아닙니다.

One thing to notice in this formal written form is that 이 is not attached to 연필. So it is NOT 연필이입니다. For present positives, regardless of the presence of the final consonant, 입니다 is used.

Polite Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	사과입니다 연필입니다	사과였습니다 연필이었습니다
Negative	사과가 아닙니다 연필이 아닙니다	사과가 아니었습니다 연필이 아니었습니다

Nouns - Nominalizing Verbs

To convert a verb to a noun:

1. Take 다 off a plain verb (For a list of plain verbs, see [Verbs - Present/Past](#))

2. Add 기 to it

읽다 → 읽기 = reading

쓰다 → 쓰기 = writing

듣다 → 듣기 = listening

말하다 → 말하기 = speaking

가다 → 가기 = going

오다 → 오기 = coming

보다 → 보기 = watching

먹다 → 먹기 = eating

자다 → 자기 = sleeping

달리다 → 달리기 = running

사다 → 사기 = buying

팔다 → 팔기 = selling

서다 → 서기 = standing

앉다 → 앉기 = sitting

살다 → 살기 = living

죽다 → 죽기 = dying

Eg.

외국어를 배울 때 읽기, 쓰기, 듣기, 말하기는 모두 매우 중요하다. = When we learn a foreign language, reading, writing, listening and speaking are all very important.

외국어 = foreign language

배울 때 = When we learn (To learn how to use "when", see [Conjunctions - When](#))

모두 = all

매우 = very

중요하다 = important

에스더는 밀란의 푸른 하늘 보기를 좋아했다. = Esther liked watching Milan's blue sky.

밀란 = Milan (A city in Italy)

푸른 = blue

하늘 = sky

좋아하다 = like

사기와 팔기는 비즈니스의 기초다. = Buying and selling are the business's basis.

비즈니스 = business

기초 = basis, foundation

Nouns - Numbers and Counting

There are two ways of pronouncing numbers in Korean.
I've listed their respective pronunciations below.

The first list is used for dates, minutes and prices.
The second list is used for counting, age and hours.

<1> Dates, Minutes and Prices

For this list of pronunciations, the key to memorizing is to learn the first ten numbers.
That's 일, 이, 삼, 사, 오, 육, 칠, 팔, 구 and 십. Then it becomes easy to learn the rest.

For example,

11 = 10 + 1 → 십 + 일 = 십일

15 = 10 + 5 → 십 + 오 = 십오

20 = 이십

30 = 삼십

24 = 20 + 4 → 이십 + 사 = 이십사

37 = 30 + 7 → 삼십 + 칠 = 삼십칠

1 = 일

2 = 이

3 = 삼

4 = 사

5 = 오

6 = 육

7 = 칠

8 = 팔

9 = 구

10 = 십

11 = 십일

12 = 십이

13 = 십삼

20 = 이십

25 = 이십오

30 = 삼십

40 = 사십

50 = 오십

56 = 오십육

70 = 칠십

80 = 팔십
 100 = 백
 101 = 백일
 107 = 백칠
 120 = 백이십
 150 = 백오십
 200 = 이백
 202 = 이백이
 537 = 오백삼십칠 [500 + 30 + 7 → 오백 + 삼십 + 칠 = 오백삼십칠]
 1000 = 천
 2000 = 이천
 2500 = 이천오백
 10000 = 만
 10500 = 만오백 [10000 + 500 → 만 + 오백 = 만오백]
 13847 = 만삼천팔백사십칠
 [10000 + 3000 + 800 + 40 + 7 → 만 + 삼천 + 팔백 + 사십 + 칠 = 만삼천팔백사십칠]

Note: Below are the examples of how these pronunciations are used for dates, minutes and prices.

[Dates]

The order of the date is reversed in Korean. The day comes first, then month and then year. [Year = 년, Month = 달, Day = 일]

28 Jan 2010 → 2010 년 1 월 28 일 = 이천십년 일월 이십팔일

[Minutes]

Notice that the first list is only used for minutes, NOT hours. Use the second list of pronunciations for hours. [hour = 시, minutes = 분, am = 오전, pm = 오후]

6:19 pm → 오후 6 시 19 분 = 오후 여섯시 십구분

[Prices]

The Korean currency is called 'won.' Its symbol is ₩, and it's pronounced 원.

₩12,800 → 12,800 원 = 만이천팔백원

<2> Counting, Age and Hours

For this list of pronunciations, in addition to one to ten, you need to learn the pronunciations of tens. They are 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90.

From 100, the pronunciation is the same as the first list above.

Thus a hundred(100) is 백, thousand(1000) is 천 and ten thousand (10000) is 만.

1 = 하나

2 = 둘
 3 = 셋
 4 = 넷
 5 = 다섯
 6 = 여섯
 7 = 일곱
 8 = 여덟
 9 = 아홉
 10 = 열
 11 = 열 하나
 12 = 열 둘
 13 = 열 셋
 17 = 열 일곱
 20 = 스물
 21 = 스물 하나
 22 = 스물 둘
 23 = 스물 셋
 30 = 서른
 40 = 마흔
 50 = 쉰
 55 = 쉰 다섯
 60 = 예순
 70 = 일흔
 75 = 일흔 다섯 [70 + 5 → 일흔 + 다섯 = 일흔다섯]
 80 = 여든
 90 = 아흔
 100 = 백
 189 = 백 여든 아홉 [100 + 80 + 9 → 백 + 여든 + 아홉 = 백여든아홉]

Note: Below are the examples of how these pronunciations are used in counting, age and hours.

[Counting]

First of all, it is used when counting the number of people in a class, cars in a car park, apples on an apple tree, pencils or pens on a desk, etc.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ... = 하나, 둘, 셋, 넷, 다섯...

The counters used for different objects are also different.

For example,

six people = 여섯명 [사람]

five cars = 차 다섯대

three apples = 사과 세개

two pencils = 연필 두자루

four books = 책 네권

ten roses = 장미 열송이

Below is a list of some of the counters that are commonly used.

명 = people

마리 = animals

대 = cars

개 = objects

자루 = long, lean objects

그루 = trees

송이 = flowers

켈레 = shoes

장 = paper

권 = books

살 = age

층 = floor [The first list of pronunciations is used for the floor, therefore the first floor = 일층, second floor = 이층]

Also note that the final consonant of 돌, 셋, 넷, 스물 is omitted when attached to counters. For example,

[종이] 두장 = two pieces of paper

[신발] 세켈레 = three pairs of shoes

[사람] 네명 = four people

[나이] 스무살 = twenty

It might be easy to see the fact that there are counters in English, too. 장 is similar to 'pieces' and 켈레 is similar to 'pairs'.

[Age]

Attach 살 to an age. For example, 20 = 스무살, 32 = 서른 두살, 58 = 쉰 여덟살

[Hours]

The second list of pronunciations for numbers are only used for hours, NOT minutes.

7:30 pm → 오후 7 시 30 분 = 오후 일곱시 삼십분 or 오후 일곱시 반 [반 means half]

10:25 am → 오전 10 시 25 분 = 오전 열시 이십오분

형용사[Adjectives] - Present and Past Tenses

There are two tables below to help you see that there are two categories in Korean. The first table shows the written form usually used in writings and the second table shows the spoken form normally used in conversations.

There are two ways of expressing negatives and "안~" form which is more convenient to use is more common than the other.

Factual/Declarative (Written)	Present	Past
Positive	빠르다	빨랐다
Negative	빠르지 않다 안 빠르다	빠르지 않았다 안 빨랐다

Dialogue/Conversation (Spoken)	Present	Past
Positive	빨라	빨랐어
Negative	빠르지 않아 안 빨라	빠르지 않았어 안 빨랐어

The List of Common Adjectives

	Present		Past	
	Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken
Positive				
High	높다	높아	높았다	높았어
Low	낮다	낮아	낮았다	낮았어
Big	크다	커	컸다	컸어
Small (size)	작다	작아	작았다	작았어
Spacious	넓다	넓어	넓었다	넓었어
Cramped	좁다	좁아	좁았다	좁았어

Many	많다	많아	많았다	많았어
Small (quantity)	적다	적어	적었다	적었어
Kind	착하다	착해	착했다	착했어
Fast	빠르다	빨라	빨랐다	빨랐어
Slow	느리다	느려	느렸다	느렸어
Handsome	멋있다	멋있어	멋있었다	멋있었어
Ugly	못생기다	못생겨	못생겼다	못생겼어
Easy	쉽다	쉬워	쉬웠다	쉬웠어
Difficult	어렵다	어려워	어려웠다	어려웠어
Interesting	재미있다	재미있어	재미있었다	재미있었어
Boring	지루하다	지루해	지루했다	지루했어
Hot	뜨겁다	뜨거워	뜨거웠다	뜨거웠어
Cold	차갑다	차가워	차가웠다	차가웠어
Warm	따뜻하다	따뜻해	따뜻했다	따뜻했어
Cool	시원하다	시원해	시원했다	시원했어
Wonderful	굉장하다	굉장해	굉장했다	굉장했어
Beautiful	아름답다	아름다워	아름다웠다	아름다웠어
Pretty	예쁘다	예뻐	예뻤다	예뻤어
Humble	겸손하다	겸손해	겸손했다	겸손했어
Lovely	사랑스럽다	사랑스러워	사랑스러웠다	사랑스러웠어

Adjectives - Polite [Present, Past]

Polite Form

While the informal spoken form in ([Adjectives - Present, Past](#)) is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The polite form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

There are two ways of expressing negatives and "안~" form which is more convenient to use is more common than the other.

- Just add 요

Polite Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	빨라요	빨랐어요
Negative	빠르지 않아요 안 빨라요	빠르지 않았어요 안 빨랐어요

Below is a table showing the formal written form. It is factual and declarative and so it is usually used in formal speeches, presentations and conferences. The news anchors and reporters also use this form while the newspaper articles use the informal form. Many fairy tales and children's stories use this form, too.

Polite Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	빠릅니다	빨랐습니다
Negative	빠르지 않습니다 안 빠릅니다	빠르지 않았습니다 안 빨랐습니다

- Rules

Present Tense → Polite Written Form (Present)

First Take 다 off an adjective, then:

1. For adjectives without a final consonant, add ㅂ니다.

Eg.

빠르다 → 빠릅니다 = fast

크다 → 큼니다 = big

착하다 → 착합니다 = kind

느리다 → 느립니다 = slow

2. For adjectives with a final consonant, just add 습니다.

Eg.

작다 → 작습니다 = small

많다 → 많습니다 = many

쉽다 → 쉽습니다 = easy

차갑다 → 차갑습니다 = cold

Past Tense → Polite Written Form (Past)

● Take 다 off the past tense and add 습니다

뜨거웠다 → 뜨거웠습니다 = was hot (temperature)

차가웠다 → 차가웠습니다 = was cold

빨랐다 → 빨랐습니다 = was fast

작았다 → 작았습니다 = was small (size)

좋았다 → 좋았습니다 = was good

재밌었다 → 재밌었습니다 = was fun

쉬웠다 → 쉬웠습니다 = was easy

Adjectives - Descriptive Form

Adjectives - Descriptive Form

The Table of Common Adjectives and Their Descriptive Forms

Written Form	Plain Positive	Descriptive
High	높다	높은
Low	낮다	낮은
Big	크다	큰
Small (size)	작다	작은
Spacious	넓다	넓은
Cramped	좁다	좁은
Many	많다	많은
Small (quantity)	적다	적은
Kind	착하다	착한
Fast	빠르다	빠른
Slow	느리다	느린
Handsome	멋있다	멋있는
Ugly	못생기다	못생긴
Easy	쉽다	쉬운
Difficult	어렵다	어려운
Interesting	재미있다	재미있는
Boring	지루하다	지루한
Hot	뜨겁다	뜨거운
Cold	차갑다	차가운
Warm	따뜻하다	따뜻한
Cool	시원하다	시원한
Wonderful	굉장하다	굉장한

Beautiful	아름답다	아름다운
Pretty	예쁘다	예쁜
Humble	겸손하다	겸손한
Loving	사랑스럽다	사랑스러운
Red	빨갳다	빨간
Yellow	노랗다	노란

When adjectives are used in front of nouns, they must be converted to descriptive forms and the following rules apply.

Rules

First, Take 다 off and then,

- 1. Add 은 to any one letter word with a final consonant.**
(Note: rules 2 and 3 override this rule.)

Eg.

작다 → 작은

작은 난쟁이 → a small dwarf

얇다 → 얇은

얇은 팔 → a thin arm

높다 → 높은

높은 하늘 → a high sky

- 2. Add 는 to any adjective ending with ㅅ.**

Eg.

맛있다 → 맛있는

맛있는 음식 → delicious food

멋있다 → 멋있는

멋있는 차 → a good-looking car

재미있다 → 재미있는

재미있는 영화 → a fun movie

- 3. If the final consonant of a final letter is ㄹ or ㅎ, replace it with ㄴ.**

Eg.

길다 → 긴
긴 연필 → a long pencil
빨갳다 → 빨간
빨간 사과 → a red apple

4. If the final consonant of a final letter is ㅂ, take it off and add ㄴ.

Eg.
쉽다 → 쉬운 = easy
쉬운 문제 → an easy problem/question
아름답다 → 아름다운 = beautiful
아름다운 꽃 → a beautiful flower
차갑다 → 차가운 = cold
뜨겁다 → 뜨거운 = hot
Exception: 좁다 → 좁은, NOT 조은

5. If the last letter doesn't have a final consonant, just add ㄴ.

Eg.
멋지다 → 멋진
멋진 자동차 → a cool car/nice car
예쁘다 → 예쁜
예쁜 구두 → pretty shoes
Irregular
좋다 → 좋은
좋은 사람 → a good man

However, this descriptive form is usually used in writings. In spoken Korean, it is more natural to say "beautiful flowers" as '꽃이 아름답다' rather than '아름다운 꽃이다'

Spoken Korean (Adjectives - Present/Past)

꽃이 아름다워 → The flower is beautiful.
자동차가 멋져 → The car is good-looking.
문제가 쉬워 → The question is easy.
And the more casual pattern would exclude 이/가 particles.

꽃 아름다워
자동차 멋져
문제 쉬워

If you replace 다 of a plain adjective with 지, for example, 꽃 아름답다 → 꽃 아름답지?, it means "the flower is beautiful, isn't it?"
꽃 아름답지? (That) flower is beautiful isn't it?

자동차 멋지지? (That) car is good-looking, isn't it?
문제 쉽지? (That) problem is easy, isn't it?

Formal Form

While the spoken form above is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The formal form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

- Just add **요** at the end of a sentence.

꽃 아름다워요 → The flower is beautiful

자동차 멋져요 → The car is good-looking

문제 쉬워요 → The question is easy

꽃 아름답지요? The flower is beautiful isn't it?

자동차 멋지지요? The car is cool, isn't it?

문제 쉽지요? The problem is easy, isn't it?

Note: **지요** is usually contracted and pronounced as **죠**.

꽃 아름답죠?

자동차 멋지죠?

문제 쉽죠?

Adjectives - Connective

Adjectives - Connective Form

Rule

Take 다 off an adjective and add 고 to it.

Written Form	Present	Connective
High	높다	높고
Low	낮다	낮고
Big	크다	크고
Small (size)	작다	작고
Spacious	넓다	넓고
Cramped	좁다	좁고
Many	많다	많고
Small (quantity)	적다	적고
Kind	착하다	착하고
Fast	빠르다	빠르고
Slow	느리다	느리고
Handsome	멋있다	멋있고
Ugly	못생기다	못생기고
Easy	쉽다	쉽고
Difficult	어렵다	어렵고
Interesting	재미있다	재미있고
Boring	지루하다	지루하고
Hot	뜨겁다	뜨겁고
Cold	차갑다	차갑고
Warm	따뜻하다	따뜻하고

Cool	시원하다	시원하고
Wonderful	굉장하다	굉장하고
Beautiful	아름답다	아름답고
Pretty	예쁘다	예쁘고
Humble	겸손하다	겸손하고
Loving	사랑스럽다	사랑스럽고

The connective form of adjectives is used:

1. To list adjectives
2. To link one sentence to the next.

1. To list adjectives

If I am to say "kind, beautiful and humble" the adjectives must be changed to their connective forms except the last adjective which determines the tense of a sentence. Therefore,

착하다 → 착하고

아름답다 → 아름답고

착하고 아름답고 겸손하다 → kind, beautiful and humble

착하고 아름답고 겸손했다 → was kind, beautiful and humble

As you can see the last adjective determines the tense of each sentence.

2. To link one sentence to the next.

The example below shows that three sentences can be linked together by using the connective forms of adjectives.

유리는 착해. (Yuri is kind)

미나는 아름다워. (Mina is beautiful)

진수는 겸손해. (Jinsu is humble)

유리는 착하고, 미나는 아름답고, 진수는 겸손해.

= Yuri is kind, Mina is beautiful and Jinsu is humble.

Formal Form

While the spoken form above is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The formal form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

- Add 요 at the end of sentences

유리는 착해요. (Yuri is kind)

미나는 아름다워요. (Mina is beautiful)

진수는 겸손해요. (Jinsu is humble)

유리는 착하고, 미나는 아름답고, 진수는 겸손해요.

= Yuri is kind, Mina is beautiful and Jinsu is humble.

Verbs - Present, Past

Verbs - Present and Past Tenses

동사 [Verbs]

The plain form of verbs is almost never used in both written and spoken Korean. The only instance where the plain form is used is when it's listed in the dictionary. The plain form is the most basic form which can be conjugated to produce many other derivatives and tenses of verbs.

There are two ways of expressing negatives and "안~" form is more commonly used in spoken Korean.

Examples of a plain form of verbs

하다 = do

달리다 = run

먹다 = eat

가다 = go

Factual/Declarative (Written)	Plain	Present	Past
Positive	먹다	먹는다	먹었다
Negative	먹지 않다	먹지 않는다 안 먹는다	먹지 않았다 안 먹었다

Dialogue/Conversation (Spoken)	Plain	Present	Past
Positive	먹다	먹어	먹었어
Negative	먹지 않다	먹지 않아 안 먹어	먹지 않았어 안 먹었어

Note: The bold letters above indicate which one of the two alternatives is more commonly used in each context.

A Table of Commonly Used Verbs

	Plain	Written		Spoken	
		Present	Past	Present	Past
Run	달리다	달린다	달렸다	달려	달렸어
Eat	먹다	먹는다	먹었다	먹어	먹었어
Go	가다	간다	갔다	가	갔어
Stand	서다	선다	섰다	서	섰어
Come	오다	온다	왔다	와	왔어
Sit	앉다	앉는다	앉았다	앉아	앉았어
Buy	사다	산다	샀다	사	샀어
Sell	팔다	판다	팔았다	팔아	팔았어
Grow	자라다	자란다	자랐다	자라	자랐어
Throw	던지다	던진다	던졌다	던져	던졌어
Borrow	빌리다	빌린다	빌렸다	빌려	빌렸어
Lend	빌려주다	빌려준다	빌려주었다	빌려줘	빌려주었어
Play	놀다	논다	놀았다	놀아	놀았어
Write	쓰다	쓴다	썼다	써	썼어
Read	읽다	읽는다	읽었다	읽어	읽었어
Listen	듣다	듣는다	들었다	들어	들었어
Live	살다	산다	살았다	살아	살았어
Die	죽다	죽는다	죽었다	죽어	죽었어

Plain Form → Present Tense (Written)

● Rules

1. For verbs with a final consonant, replace 다 with 는다

Eg.

먹다 → 먹는다 = eat

사과 먹는다 → eat an apple

걷다 → 걷는다 = walk

사람은 걷는다 → A human-being walks

믿다 → 믿는다 = believe

나는 예수님을 믿는다 → I believe Jesus

2. For verbs without a final consonant, replace 다 with ㄴ 다.

Eg.

잠자다 → 잠잔다 = sleep

지금 새들은 잠잔다 = Now birds sleep (= Now birds are sleeping)

가다 → 간다 = go

민아는 학교를 간다 = Min-a goes to school

3. For verbs with ㄹ as a final consonant, replace ㄹ with ㄴ.

Eg.

팔다 → 판다 = sell

이 가게는 과일을 판다 → This shop sells fruits

살다 → 산다 = live

지우는 여기에서 산다 → Ji-u lives here

Plain Form → Past Tense (Written)

● Rules

First Take 다 off a verb, then:

1. For verbs without a final consonant, just add ㅆ.

Eg.

사다: 사 + ㅆ 다 = 샀다 = bought

가다: 가 + ㅆ 다 = 갔다 = went

자라다: 자라 + ㅆ 다 = 자랐다 = grew

Note: 하다 becomes 했다, NOT 했다.

2. For verbs with a final consonant, add 았 or 았.

(For a verb with ㅏ or ㅑ, add 았, and for a verb with ㅓ, ㅕ or ㅗ, add 았)

Eg.

날다: 날 + 았다 = 날았다 = flew

놀다: 놀 + 았다 = 몰았다 = drove (a car), urged on (a horse)

먹다: 먹 + 았다 = 먹었다 = ate

죽다: 죽 + 았다 = 죽었다 = died

밀다: 밀 + 았다 = 밀었다 = pushed

3. For verbs with ㅣ as a final verb, change it to ㅟ and add ㅅ.

Eg.

던지다: 던지 → 던졌 → 던졌다 = threw

빌리다: 빌리 → 빌렸 → 빌렸다 = borrowed

실리다: 실리 → 실렸 → 실렸다 = to be loaded

4. For verbs with ㅡ as a final vowel, replace it with ㅓ and ㅅ.

Eg.

크다: 크 → 컸 → 컸다 = grew

쓰다: 쓰 → 썼 → 썼다 = wrote

트다: 트 → 텃 → 텃다 = sprouted

Irregular Verbs

Eg.

하다 → 했다

듣다 → 들었다

오다 → 왔다

Plain Form → Present Tense (Spoken)

● Rules

1. For verbs with ㅏ/ㅓ and no final consonant, just take 다 off.

Eg.

가다 → 가

서다 → 서

사다 → 사

자라다 → 자라

Exceptions: A verb with 하 as a final letter, 하 changes to 해.

Eg.

하다 → 해 (do)

원하다 → 원해 (want)

구하다 → 구해 (save)

2. For verbs with ㄴ/ㄷ and no final consonant, add ㅓ for ㄴ verbs and ㅕ for ㄷ verbs.

Eg.

오다 → 와

빌려주다 → 빌려줘

미루다 → 미뤄 (procrastinate)

3. For a verb with ㄹ as a final letter, add ㄷ to a letter before ㄹ and ㄹ changes to ㄹ for ㅓ/ㄴ verbs and ㄹ for ㅕ/ㄷ/ㅓ verbs.

Eg.

가르다 → 갈라 (divide)

자르다 → 잘라 (cut)

오르다 → 올라 (climb)

주무르다 → 주물러 (massage)

구르다 → 굴러 (roll)

가로지르다 → 가로질러 (cross)

4. For a verb with ㄹ and no final consonant, change ㅓ to ㅕ.

Eg.

지다 → 져 = lose

이기다 → 이겨 = win

던지다 → 던져 = throw

5. For a verb with a final consonant, first take ㄹ off then add ㅓ for ㅓ/ㄴ verbs, and ㅕ for ㅕ/ㄷ verbs.

Eg.

앉다 → 앉아 = sit

먹다 → 먹어 = eat

Irregular

듣다 → 들어 = listen

Past Tense (Written) → Past Tense (Spoken)

● simply change ㄹ to ㅕ.

달렸다 → 달렸어 = ran

먹었다 → 먹었어 = ate

갔다 → 갔어 = went

왔다 → 왔어 = came

마셨다 → 마셨어 = drank

Verbs - Polite [Present, Past]

While the informal form in (Verbs - Present, Past) is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The polite form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

There are two ways of expressing negatives and "안~" form which is more convenient to use is more common than the other.

- Just add 요 at the end of a sentence.

Polite Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	먹어요	먹었어요
Negative	먹지 않아요 안 먹어요	먹지 않았어요 안 먹었어요

가다 → 가요 (go)
 서다 → 서요 (stand)
 사다 → 사요 (buy)
 자라다 → 자라요 (grow)
 하다 → 해요 (do)
 원하다 → 원해요 (want)
 구하다 → 구해요 (save)
 앉다 → 앉아요 (sit)
 먹다 → 먹어요 (eat)

Below is a table showing the polite written form. It is factual and declarative and so it is usually used in formal speeches, presentations and conferences. The news anchors and reporters also use this form while the newspaper articles use the informal form. Many fairy tales and children's stories use this form, too.

Polite Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	먹습니다	먹었습니다
Negative	먹지 않습니다 안 먹습니다	먹지 않았습니다 안 먹었습니다

- Rules

I. Plain Form → Polite Written Form (Present)

First Take 다 off a plain verb, then:

1. For verbs without a final consonant, add ㅂ니다.

Eg.

사다 → 삽니다 = buy

가다 → 갑니다 = go

자라다 → 자랍니다 = grow

하다 → 합니다 = do

던지다 → 던집니다 = throw

쓰다 → 씁니다 = write

빌리다 → 빌립니다 = borrow

2. For verbs with a final consonant, just add 습니다.

Eg.

먹다 → 먹습니다 = eat

죽다 → 죽습니다 = die

듣다 → 듣습니다 = listen

읽다 → 읽습니다 = read

3. For verbs with ㄹ as a final consonant, change ㄹ to ㅂ and add ㅂ니다.

Eg.

날다 → 납니다 = fly

놀다 → 놀니다 = play

밀다 → 밀니다 = push

II. Past Tense → Polite Written Form (Past)

- Take 다 off the past tense of a verb and add 습니다

갔다 → 갔습니다 = went

왔다 → 왔습니다 = came

먹었다 → 먹었습니다 = ate

달렸다 → 달렸습니다 = ran

썼다 → 썼습니다 = wrote

읽었다 → 읽었습니다 = read

봤다 → 봤습니다 = watched

Verbs - Future [Will]

Verbs - Will [~거다]

Study the rules and the table below. It should be easy to follow.

There are two ways of expressing negatives and "안~" form which is more convenient to use is more common than the other.

	will do	won't do
Written Form	할 거다	하지 않을 거다 안 할 거다
Spoken Form	할 거야	하지 않을 거야 안 할 거야

Note: The bold letters are the more commonly used form of the two alternatives in each box.

Rules: Will

1. Take 다 off a verb without a final consonant and attach ㄹ 거다 to it.

eg.

하다 → 할 거다 (will do)

가다 → 갈 거다 (will go)

자다 → 잘 거다 (will sleep)

2. Take 다 off a verb with a final consonant and attach 을 거다 to it.

eg.

먹다 → 먹을 거다 (will eat)

입다 → 입을 거다 (will wear)

앉다 → 앉을 거다 (will sit)

Rules: Won't

Take 다 off a verb and attach 지 않을 거다 to it.

eg.

하다 → 하지 않을 거다 (won't do)

가다 → 가지 않을 거다 (won't go)

자다 → 자지 않을 거다 (won't sleep)

먹다 → 먹지 않을 거다 (won't eat)

입다 → 입지 않을 거다 (won't wear)

앉다 → 앉지 않을 거다 (won't sit)

Example Sentences

집에 갈 거야? = Will you go home?

존은 박물관에 들어갈 거야 = John will enter the museum

난 방에서 기타 칠 거야 = I will play the guitar in my room

사라는 수영 할 거야 = Sarah will swim

다윗은 골리앗 이길 거야 = David will beat Goliath

집 = home

존 = John

들어가다 = enter

기타 = guitar

치다 = play (the instrument)

사라 = Sarah

수영 = swim

다윗 = David

골리앗 = Goliath

Question Form

Raise the tone of your voice at the last syllable to turn it into a question form.

올림픽 볼 거야? (Will you watch Olympics?)

축구 할 거야? (Will you do(play) soccer?)

씻을 거야? (Will you wash?/Will you take a shower?/Will you take a bath?)

벌써 잘 거야? (Will you sleep already?)

학교 안 갈 거야? (Won't you go to school?)

점심 안 먹을 거야? (Won't you have lunch?)

이 책 안 읽을 거야? (Won't you read this book?)

Polite Form

While the spoken form above is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The polite form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

Informal (Spoken) → Polite (Spoken)

Rule: 야 → 예요

eg.

할 거야 → 할 거예요 = I will do

먹을 거야 → 먹을 거예요 = I will eat

달리지 않을 거야 → 달리지 않을 거예요 = I won't run

Polite Spoken Form	Will do	Won't do
	할 거예요	하지 않을 거예요 안 할 거예요

집에 갈 거예요? = Will you go home?

존은 박물관에 들어갈 거예요 = John will enter the museum

나는 방에서 기타 칠 거예요 = I will play the guitar in my room

사라는 수영 할 거예요 = Sarah will swim

다윗은 골리앗 이길 거예요 = David will beat Goliath

올림픽 볼 거예요? (Will you watch Olympics?)

축구 할 거예요? (Will you do(play) soccer?)

씻을 거예요? (Will you wash?/Will you take a shower?/Will you take a bath?)

벌써 잘 거예요? (Will you sleep already?)

학교 안 갈 거예요? (Won't you go to school?)

점심 안 먹을 거예요? (Won't you have lunch?)

이 책 안 읽을 거예요? (Won't you read this book?)

Informal (Written) → Polite (Written)

Rule: 거다 → 겁니다

eg.

할 거다 → 할 겁니다 = I will do

먹을 거다 → 먹을 겁니다 = I will eat

달리지 않을 거다 → 달리지 않을 겁니다 = I won't run

	Will do	Won't do
Polite Written Form	할 겁니다	하지 않을 겁니다 안 할 겁니다

-

Verbs - Continuous [~고 있다]

Verbs - Continuous [~고 있다]

There are two ways of expressing negatives and "안~" form which is more convenient to use is more common than the other.

Written Form	Plain Form	Present Continuous
Positive	먹다	먹고 있다
Negative	먹지 않다 안 먹다	먹지 않고 있다 안 먹고 있다

Written Form	Past	Past Continuous
Positive	먹었다	먹고 있었다
Negative	먹지 않았다 안 먹었다	먹지 않고 있었다 안 먹고 있었다

Rules

Take 다 off and add 고 있다 for the positive form and 지 않고 있다 for the negative form.

Note: Replace 다 with 어/아 to change a written form to its spoken form.

Eg.

쓰다 → 쓰고 있다 = is writing

피터는 책을 쓰고 있다 = Peter is writing a book.

듣다 → 듣고 있다 = is listening

폴은 설교를 듣고 있다 = Paul is listening to a sermon

나는 점심을 먹고 있어 = I am eating lunch

줄리아는 안 달리고 있어 = Julia is not running

아기는 자지 않고 있었다 = The baby was not sleeping

영군 근위병은 버킹엄 궁전앞에서 계속 서고 있었다 = The English guardsman was standing continuously in front of the Buckingham Palace.

Spoken Form

Spoken Form	Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Positive	먹고 있어	먹고 있었어
Negative	먹지 않고 있어 안 먹고 있어	먹지 않고 있었어 안 먹고 있었어

Formal Form

While the spoken form above is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The formal form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

- Just add 요 at the end of a sentence.

Formal Spoken Form	Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Positive	먹고 있어요	먹고 있었어요
Negative	먹지 않고 있어요 안 먹고 있어요	먹지 않고 있었어요 안 먹고 있었어요

• Formal Spoken Form → Formal Written Form

Rule: 어요 changes to 습니다

Formal Written Form	Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Positive	먹고 있습니다	먹고 있었습니다
Negative	먹지 않고 있습니다 안 먹고 있습니다	먹지 않고 있었습니다 안 먹고 있었습니다

Verbs - Connective Form

Rule

Take 다 off a verb and add 고 to it.

The Table of Common Verbs and Their Connective Forms

Written Form	Plain	Connective
Run	달리다	달리고
Eat	먹다	먹고
Go	가다	가고
Stand	서다	서고
Come	오다	오고
Sit	앉다	앉고
Buy	사다	사고
Sell	팔다	팔고
Grow	자라다	자라고
Throw	던지다	던지고
Borrow	빌리다	빌리고
Lend	빌려주다	빌려주고
Play	놀다	놀고
Write	쓰다	쓰고
Read	읽다	읽고
Listen to	듣다	듣고
Live	살다	살고
Die	죽다	죽고

The connective form of verbs is used:

1. To list verbs
2. To link one sentence to the next.

1. To list verbs

For example, to say "run, eat and go," the verbs are changed to their connective forms except the last verb which determines the tense of a sentence. Therefore,

달리다 → 달리고

먹다 → 먹고

달리고 먹고 가다 → run, eat and go

달리고 먹고 갔다 → ran, ate and went

달리고 먹고 가고 있다 → running, eating and going

달리고 먹고 갈 거다 → will run, eat and go

달리고 먹고 가고 싶다 → want to run, eat and go

As you can see the last verb decides the tense of each sentence.

2. To link one sentence to the next.

The example below shows that three sentences can be linked together by using the connective forms of verbs.

유리는 학교에 가. (Yuri goes to school)

진수는 밖에서 놀아. (Jinsu plays outside)

미나는 책 읽어. (Mina reads)

유리는 학교에 가고, 진수는 밖에서 놀고, 미나는 책 읽어.

= Yuri goes to school, Jinsu plays outside and Mina reads.

However, when verbs are used to link sentences, the tense of each verb is independent and the last verb does not affect the tense of other verbs.

유리는 학교에 갔어. (Yuri went to school)

진수는 밖에서 놀거야. (Jinsu will play outside)

미나는 책 읽어. (Mina reads (=Mina is reading))

유리는 학교에 갔고, 진수는 밖에서 놀거고, 미나는 책 읽어.

= Yuri went to school, Jinsu will play outside and Mina is reading.

More examples

Eg.

I ate and slept → 나는 먹고 잤다

read and heard → 읽고 들었다

하다 = do

놀다 = play[muck around]

먼저 = first (of all)

Do homework first then play → 먼저 숙제하고 놀아

이 상점에서 는 고기를 사고 팔아.

= This shop sells and buys meat.

상점 = shop

이 상점 = this shop

고기 = meat

Verbs - Can

Verbs - Can [~수 있다]

Informal	Can do	Could do
Written	할 수 있다	할 수 있었다
Spoken	할 수 있어	할 수 있었어

Informal	Can't do	Couldn't do
Written	할 수 없다	할 수 없었다
Spoken	할 수 없어 못 해	할 수 없었어 못 했어

Note: In spoken Korean, 못 해 and 못 했어 are more commonly used than 할 수 없어 and 할 수 없었어.

Rules

1. Take 다 off a plain form of verbs without a final consonant and attach ㄴ 수 있다. For verbs which have ㄴ as a final consonant, attach 수 있다.

Eg.

하다 → 할 수 있다 (can do)
가다 → 갈 수 있다 (can go)
보다 → 볼 수 있다 (can see)
마시다 → 마실 수 있다 (can drink)
달리다 → 달릴 수 있다 (can run)
자다 → 잘 수 있다 (can sleep)
놀다 → 놀 수 있다 (can play/muck around)
살다 → 살 수 있다 (can live)
날다 → 날 수 있다 (can fly)

2. Take 다 off a verb with a final consonant and add 을 수 있다.

Eg.

먹다 → 먹을 수 있다 (can eat)
입다 → 입을 수 있다 (can wear)
앉다 → 앉을 수 있다 (can sit)

잡다 → 잡을 수 있다 (can catch)

Exceptions

듣다 → 들을 수 있다 (can hear)

걷다 → 걸을 수 있다 (can walk)

3. Insert 못 in front of the spoken form of positive informal verbs to express "can't do" and "couldn't do."

Eg.

해 → 못 해 (can't do)

와 → 못 와 (can't come)

봐 → 못 봐 (can't see)

가 → 못 가 (can't go)

들어 → 못 들어 (can't hear)

먹어 → 못 먹어 (can't eat)

갔어 → 못 갔어 (couldn't go)

들었어 → 못 들었어 (couldn't hear)

먹었어 → 못 먹었어 (couldn't eat)

Example Sentences

치타는 빨리 달릴 수 있다 = A cheetah can run fast.

종달새는 하늘을 날 수 있다 = A lark can fly in the sky.

솔로몬은 어려운 수수께끼를 풀 수 있다 = Solomon can solve a difficult riddle.

애완동물은 박물관에 들어갈 수 없다. = A pet cannot enter the museum.

기타 칠 수 있어 = I can play the guitar.

나는 해물은 못 먹어 = I can't eat seafood.

아파서 학교에 못 갔어 = Because I was sick, I couldn't go to school.

치타 = cheetah

빨리 = fast, quickly

날다 = fly

종달새 = lark

존 = John

박물관 = museum

들어가다 = enter

기타 = guitar

치다 = play (the instrument)

사라 = Sarah

수영 = swim

솔로몬 = Solomon

어려운 = difficult

수수께끼 = riddle

풀다 = solve

아프다 = sick
해물 = seafood

Formal Form

Formal	Can do	Could do
Written	할 수 있습니다	할 수 있었습니다
Spoken	할 수 있어요	할 수 있었어요

Formal	Can't do	Couldn't do
Written	할 수 없습니다	할 수 없었습니다
Spoken	할 수 없어요 못 해요	할 수 없었어요 못 했어요

Note:

The informal spoken form is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The formal form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

못 해요 and 못 했어요 are more commonly used than 할 수 없어요 and 할 수 없었어요.

Rules

1. Informal (Written) → Formal (Written)
- Replace 다 with 습니다.
2. Informal (Spoken) → Formal (Spoken)
- Attach 요 at the end of a sentence.

Verbs - Have

Verbs - Have (있다) / Don't have (없다)

There are two ways of expressing negatives and "안~" form which is more convenient to use is more common than the other.

Written Form	Have	Don't have
	있다	없다
	가지고 있다	가지고 있지 않다 안 가지고 있다

Spoken Form	Have	Don't have
	있어	없어
	가지고 있어	가지고 있지 않아 안 가지고 있어

Have (있다)

Expressing that you have/own something is easy to do. You use a verb, 있다. 있다 essentially means "there is." Although there is a word for "have" which is "가지고 있다". It is not commonly used in spoken Korean because it is just too long to say so we use instead "있다".

written form → 있다

spoken form → 있어

Sentences

Written Form

책이 있다 = I have a book (Lit. There is a book)

핸드폰이 있다 = I have a mobile phone

시계가 있다 = I have a watch

책을 가지고 있다 = I have a book

핸드폰을 가지고 있다 = I have a mobile phone

Spoken Form

책(을) 가지고 있어

핸드폰(을) 가지고 있어
책(이) 있어
핸드폰(이) 있어
시계(가) 있어

Note: 1. Use 이/가 with "있다" and 을/를 with "가지고 있다".
2. The object particles are normally unspoken.

When you have a brother or sister, you CANNOT use "가지고 있다" because it implies the ownership. You don't own a brother or sister but simply there is a brother or sister in your family. So you must use 있다.

For example,

Written Form

남동생이 있다 (I have a younger brother)
여동생이 있다 (I have a younger sister)

Spoken Form

남동생(이) 있어 (I have a younger brother)
형(이) 있어 (I have an older brother)
누나(가) 있어 (I have an older sister)
Don't have (없다)

없다 means "don't have" or literally "there isn't." The negative form of 가지고 있다 is 가지고 있지 않다 or more commonly 안 가지고 있다.

For example,

Written Form

있다 → 없다
have → don't have (Lit. there isn't)
가지고 있다 → 가지고 있지 않다
have → don't have

Spoken Form

있어 → 없어
have → don't have (Lit. there isn't)
가지고 있어 → 가지고 있지 않아
have → don't have

Sentences

Written Form

책이 없다 (I don't have a book)
핸드폰이 없다 (I don't have a mobile phone)
시계가 없다 (I don't have a watch)
책을 가지고 있지 않다 (I don't have/own a book)

핸드폰을 가지고 있지 않다 (I don't have/own a mobile phone)

Spoken Form

- 책(이) 없어
- 핸드폰(이) 없어
- 시계(가) 없어
- 책(을) 가지고 있지 않아
- 핸드폰(을) 가지고 있지 않아

Question Form

In spoken Korean, you'd simply change your intonation by raising the tone at the last letter. To practice this, you'd need to watch Korean dramas or other TV programmes. Listen carefully to actors' intonation when they're asking or questioning.

- 남동생(이) 있어? (Do you have a younger brother?)
- 형(이) 있어? (Do you have an older brother?)
- 누나(가) 있어? (Do you have an older sister?)
- 책(이) 없어? (Don't you have a book?)
- 핸드폰(이) 없어? (Don't you have a mobile phone?)
- 시계(가) 없어? (Don't you have a watch?)

Formal Form

While the spoken form above is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The formal form is used commonly between adults, by people in formal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

I. Informal (Spoken) → Formal (Spoken)

- Just add **요** at the end of a sentence.

Formal Spoken Form	Have	Don't have
	있어요	없어요
	가지고 있어요	가지고 있지 않아요 안 가지고 있어요

- 남동생 있어요? (Do you have a younger brother?)
- 형 있어요? (Do you have an older brother?)

누나 있어요? (Do you have an older sister?)
 책 없어요? (Don't you have a book?)
 핸드폰 없어요? (Don't you have a mobile phone?)
 시계 없어요? (Don't you have a watch?)

II. Informal (Written) → Formal (Written)

- 다 → 습니다

Formal Written Form	Have	Don't have
	있습니다	없습니다
	가지고 있습니다	가지고 있지 않습니다 안 가지고 있습니다

-

Verbs - Want

Verbs - Want [~고 싶다]

Informal Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	하고 싶다	하고 싶었다
Negative	하고 싶지 않다 하기 싫다	하고 싶지 않았다 하기 싫었다

Informal Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	하고 싶어	하고 싶었어
Negative	하고 싶지 않아 하기 싫어	하고 싶지 않았어 하기 싫었어

Note: 하고 싶지 않다 and 하기 싫다 both mean "I don't want to do." However, In written Korean, 하고 싶지 않다 is more commonly used whereas in spoken Korean, 하기 싫어 is more commonly used. 하기 싫어 literally means "I hate to do."

The bold letters indicate which one is more commonly used.

Rule

Take 다 off a plain form of verbs and attach 고 싶다/고 싶었다/기 싫다/기 싫었다/고 싶어/고 싶었어 etc.

Examples (Written Form)

하다 → 하고 **싶다** = I want to do.

먹다 → 먹고 **싶다** = I want to eat.

날다 → 날고 **싶었다** = I wanted to fly.

놀다 → 놀고 **싶지 않았다** = I didn't want to play.

마시다 → 마시고 **싶지 않았다** = I didn't want to drink.

바나나가 먹고 **싶지 않았다** = I didn't want to eat a banana.

하늘에서 날고 **싶지 않았다** = I didn't want to fly in the sky.

Examples (Spoken Form)

- 하다 → 하고 싶어 = I want to do.
 먹다 → 먹고 싶어 = I want to eat.
 날다 → 날고 싶었어 = I wanted to fly.
 놀다 → 놀기 싫어 = I don't want to play.
 마시다 → 마시기 싫었어 = I didn't want to drink.
 바나나 먹기 싫어 = I don't want to eat a banana.
 하늘 날기 싫었어 = I didn't want to fly in the sky.

Questions (Spoken Form)

- 자고 싶어? = Do you want to sleep?
 어. 자고 싶어. = Yes, I want to sleep.
 뭐 먹고 싶어? = What do you want to eat?
 라면 먹고 싶어. = I want to eat noodles.
 어디 가고 싶어? = Where do you want to go?
 공원에 가고 싶어. = I want to go to a park.

Formal Form

Formal Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	하고 싶습니다	하고 싶었습니다
Negative	하고 싶지 않습니다 하기 싫습니다	하고 싶지 않았습니다 하기 싫었습니다

Formal Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	하고 싶어요	하고 싶었어요
Negative	하고 싶지 않아요 하기 싫어요	하고 싶지 않았어요 하기 싫었어요

Note: The informal spoken form is used between close friends or when older people are talking to younger people in informal situations. The formal form is used commonly between adults, by people informal situations or when younger people are speaking to older people.

Rules

- For the formal written form, the suffix , 다, is replaced by 습니다.
 For the formal spoken form, attach 요 at the end of a sentence.

Examples (Written Form)

하다 → 하고 싶습니다 = I want to do.

먹다 → 먹고 싶습니다 = I want to eat.

날다 → 날고 싶었습니다 = I wanted to fly.

놀다 → 놀고 싶지 않았습니다 = I didn't want to play.

마시다 → 마시고 싶지 않았습니다 = I didn't want to drink.

Examples (Spoken form)

하다 → 하고 싶어요 = I want to do.

먹다 → 먹고 싶어요 = I want to eat.

날다 → 날고 싶었어요 = I wanted to fly.

놀다 → 놀기 싫었어요 = I didn't want to play.

마시다 → 마시기 싫었어요 = I didn't want to drink.

More examples

자고 싶어요? = Do you want to sleep?

네. 자고 싶어요. = Yes, I want to sleep.

뭐 먹고 싶어요? = What do you want to eat?

라면 먹고 싶어요. = I want to eat noodles.

어디 가고 싶어요? = Where do you want to go?

공원에 가고 싶어요. = I want to go to a park.

In addition:

When talking about a third person, '고 싶어 한다' is used instead of 고 싶다, and '고 싶어해' instead of 고 싶어.

Examples

가다 → 가고 싶어 한다

루크는 극장에 가고 싶어 한다 = Luke wants to go to the theatre.

선미는 사과주스 마시고 싶어해 = Sunmi wants to drink an apple juice.

Verbs - Descriptive Form I

Verbs - Descriptive Form I

The descriptive form I of verbs takes the meaning of "~ing." (ie. Continuous), or is used as a present tense clause involving "which, that, who etc."

Written Form	Plain	Descriptive I
Positive	달리다	달리는
Negative	달리지 않다	달리지 않는

The Table of Common Verbs and Their Descriptive Forms I

Written Form	Plain	Descriptive I
Run	달리다	달리는
Eat	먹다	먹는
Go	가다	가는
Stand	서다	서는
Come	오다	오는
Sit	앉다	앉는
Buy	사다	사는
Sell	팔다	파는
Grow	자라다	자라는
Throw	던지다	던지는
Borrow	빌리다	빌리는
Lend	빌려주다	빌려주는
Play	놀다	노는
Write	쓰다	쓰는
Read	읽다	읽는
Listen to	듣다	듣는

Live	살다	사는
Die	죽다	죽는

These descriptive forms I are used in front of nouns to describe them, and form a present tense clause involving "who, which, that" of English. For example, the descriptive form I of 가다 is 가는 and 가는 기차 means a "train which goes". Literally, 가는 means "going" therefore 가는 기차 = a going train.

● Rules

First, take 다 off a verb and then,

1. add 는

Eg.

먹다 → 먹는 = eating

사과 먹는 난쟁이 → a dwarf who eats an apple (= Lit. an apple-eating dwarf)

잠자다 → 잠자는 = sleeping

잠자는 공주 → a princess who sleeps (= Lit. A sleeping princess)

죽다 → 죽는 = dying

죽는 병사 → a soldier who is dying (= Lit. a dying soldier)

믿다 → 믿지 않는 = not believing/unbelieving

믿지 않는 토마스 → Thomas who does not believe (= Lit. unbelieving Thomas)

2. Take ㄹ off a verb with a final consonant, ㄹ and add 는.

Eg.

팔다 → 파는 = selling

골동품 파는 가게 → A shop which sells antiques (= Lit. An antique-selling shop)

살다 → 사는

사는 곳 → A place where I'm living (= Lit. A living place)

More examples

사막에서 자라는 선인장 = A cactus which grows in the desert (= Lit. A desert-growing cactus)

내가 읽는 책은 다 유익하다. = All the books that I read are informative.

Verbs - Descriptive Form II

Verbs - Descriptive Form II

The descriptive form II of verbs takes the meaning of "~ed." (ie. past tense) or is used as a past tense clause involving "who, which, that etc."

Written Form	Plain	Descriptive II
Positive	달리다	달린
Negative	달리지 않다	달리지 않은

The Table of Common Verbs and Their Descriptive Forms II

Written Form	Plain	Descriptive II
Run	달리다	달린
Eat	먹다	먹은
Go	가다	간
Stand	서다	선
Come	오다	온
Sit	앉다	앉은
Buy	사다	산
Sell	팔다	판
Grow	자라다	자란
Throw	던지다	던진
Borrow	빌리다	빌린
Lend	빌려주다	빌려준
Play	놀다	논
Write	쓰다	쓴
Read	읽다	읽은
Listen to	듣다	들은

Live	살다	산
Die	죽다	죽은

Verbs can be used in front of nouns to describe them, and form a past tense clause involving "who, which, that" of English. For example, the descriptive form II of 떠나다 is 떠난 and 떠난 기차 means a "train which left". Literally, 떠난 means "left" therefore 떠난 기차 = a left train

● Rules

First, take 다 off a verb and then,

1. For verbs with a final consonant, add 은

Eg.

- 먹다 → 먹은 = ate
- 사과 먹은 난쟁이 → a dwarf who ate an apple
- 죽다 → 죽은 = died/dead
- 죽은 병사 → a dead soldier (= a soldier who died)
- 믿다 → 믿지 않은 = disbelieved
- 믿지 않은 토마스 → Thomas who disbelieved
- 읽다 → 읽은 = read (past tense)
- 읽은 기사 → an article that I read

2. For verbs without a final consonant and verbs with ㄹ as a final consonant, replace it with ㄴ as a final consonant.

Eg.

- 빌리다 → 빌린 = borrowed
- 빌린 책 → a book which I borrowed (Lit. a borrowed book)
- 쓰다 → 쓴 = wrote
- 성루카가 쓴 복음 = the gospel which St. Luke wrote
- 멈추다 → 멈춘 = stopped
- 버스가 멈춘 곳 = a place where the bus stopped

Sentences: Negatives

- 기다리다 → 기다리지 않은 = didn't wait
- 주님을 기다리지 않은 하인 → a servant who didn't wait for the Lord
- 먹다 → 먹지않은 = didn't eat
- 음식을 먹지 않은 개 = a dog who didn't eat food
- 포기하다 → 포기하지 않은 = didn't give up
- 끝까지 포기하지 않은 욥 = Job who didn't give up till the end

Verbs - Spoken Form

The Spoken Form of Verbs

The following dialogue between two close friends involve the informal spoken forms of verbs.

잘 = well

쇼핑 = shopping

어 = yes

오전 = am

오후 = pm

먼저 갈게 = I'll go first

This dialogue should be easy to comprehend.

대화 시작 = The conversation starts

상우: 지우야, 뭐 해?

지우: 밥 먹어.

상우: 어디 가?

지우: 어. 학교 가.

상우: 언제 가?

지우: 9 시에.

상우: 왜?

지우: 학교에서 공부해.

상우: 재밌어?

지우: 어. 재밌어.

상우: 어떻게 공부해?

지우: 선생님이 가르쳐 주셔.

상우: 아~ 그래?

지우: 어. 너는 뭐 해?

상우: 나는 쇼핑 가.

지우: 언제?

상우: 오후 3 시에.

지우: 밥은 먹었어?

상우: 어. 먹었어. 나 먼저 갈게. 잘 있어~

지우: 잘 가~

Sang-u: Ji-u, what are you doing?

Ji-u: I'm eating.

Sang-u: Where are you going?

Ji-u: I'm going to school.

Sang-u: When are you going?
Ji-u: At 9 o'clock.
Sang-u: Why? [are you going to school?]
Ji-u: I study at school.
Sang-u: Is it fun?
Ji-u: Yes, it's fun.
Sang-u: How do you study?
Ji-u: My teacher teaches me.
Sang-u: Ahh... really?
Ji-u: Yeap. How about you?
Sang-u: I'll go shopping
Ji-u: When?
Sang-u: At 3 o'clock pm.
Ji-u: Did you have a meal?
Sang-u: Yes. I have. I'll go first then. Bye~
Ji-u: Bye~

This is a conversation between Sang-u and Ji-u. This is a type of conversation that is common between close friends, yet it is extremely simple to understand even for beginners of Korean. So pay attention to how these "spoken forms" are used.

- A list of written forms and their respective spoken forms.

Written Form - Spoken Form

[For detailed explanation, refer to ([Verbs - Present, Past](#))]

go = 가다 - 가
come = 오다 - 와
do = 하다 - 해
eat = 먹다 - 먹어
give = 주다 - 줘
receive = 받다 - 받아
play = 놀다 - 놀아
sleep = 자다 - 자
run = 달리다 - 달려
teach = 가르치다 - 가르쳐
learn = 배우다 - 배워

These spoken forms are informal so you should only use them with very close friends.

Adverbs - 부사

Adverbs – 부사

Adjective	Present	Adverb
Positive	크다	크게
Negative	크지 않다	크지 않게 안크게

Note: 크지 않게 is more commonly used in written Korean while 안크게 is more common in spoken Korean.

Rules

1. Take **다** off an adjective of the present tense and attach **게/지 않게** to it.
2. Attach **안** to a positive form of adverbs to turn it into its negative form.

Written	Present	Adverb
High	높다	높게, 높이
Low	낮다	낮게
Big	크다	크게
Small (size)	작다	작게
Spacious	넓다	넓게
Delicious	맛있다	맛있게
Many	많다	많게, 많이
Small (quantity)	적다	적게
Kind	착하다	착하게
Fast	빠르다	빠르게, 빨리
Slow	느리다	느리게
Handsome	멋있다	멋있게

Note:

Adverbs come just before verbs to describe actions.

많다, 빠르다 and 높다 each have two adverbial forms. 많이, 빨리 and 높이 are more commonly used than 많게, 빠르게 and 높게.

Example sentences

나는 스테이크를 맛있게 먹었다 = I ate my steak deliciously.

거북이는 느리게 걷는다 = A tortoise walks slowly

밥을 많이 먹었다 = I ate a big meal. (Lit. I ate a meal a lot.)

집에 빨리 가자! = Let's go home quickly!

철수는 결승점까지 빨리 달렸다. = Cheol-su ran fast to the finish line.

성우는 케이크를 크게 만들었다 = Seong-u made a large cake. (Lit. Seong-u made his cake big.)

높이 나는 새가 멀리 본다 = The higher a bird flies, the farther it sees. (Lit. A bird which flies high sees afar.)

Particles - 께/에 께/한테

Particles - 께/에 께/한테 [Dative Particle]

The dative particle, 에 께/한테, is mainly used for someone/something to whom you are giving something. 께 is a honorific form, 에 께 is a formal form and 한테 is an informal form.

Eg. 1

아버지께 선물을 드렸다 = To my father, I gave a present.

아버지 = Father

선물 = present

드리다 = give (honorific form)

드렸다 = gave (honorific form)

Eg.2

아빠에게 선물을 드렸다 = To my dad, I gave a present.

아빠 = Dad

선물 = present

드리다 = give (honorific form)

드렸다 = gave (honorific form)

Eg.3

누나한테 물을 주었다. = To older sister, I gave water

누나 = older sister

물 = water

주다 = give

주었다 = gave

(으)로부터/에게서/한테서 is used when you are receiving something from someone. Again, (으)로부터 is an honorific form, 에게서 is formal and 한테서 is informal.

Eg.1

대통령으로부터 상을 받았다 = From the president, I received a prize.

Eg.2

엄마에게서 편지를 받았다 = From mum, I received a letter

엄마 = mum

편지 = letter

받다 = receive

받았다 = received

Eg. 2

형한테서 소식을 들었다 = From older brother, I heard news

형 = older brother

소식 = news

듣다 = hear

들었다 = heard

-

Particles - 으로/로

Particles - 으로/로

Use 으로 for words that have a final consonant and 로 for words that don't. (Exception: Use 로 for words that have ㄹ as a final consonant.)

e.g.

트럭으로 = by truck

컴퓨터로 = by/with a computer

연필로 = by/with pencil

I. 으로/로 is used for tools/methods/transport with which you do something.

Eg. 1

가위로 종이를 잘랐다 = With scissors, I cut a paper.

연필로 그림을 그렸다 = With a pencil, I drew a picture.

활로 사냥을 했다 = With a bow, I did hunting.

가위 = scissors

종이 = paper

자르다 = cut

잘랐다 = cut (past)

연필 = pencil

그림 = picture

그리다 = draw

그렸다 = drew

활 = bow

사냥 = hunting

하다 = do

했다 = did

사냥을 하다 = do hunting

Eg. 2

다윗은 좋은 머리로 골리앗을 이겼다 = With his good brain, David beat Goliath.

나는 상상으로 천국을 보았다 = By my imagination, I saw the heaven.

갈매기는 큰 부리로 물고기를 잡았다 = With its large beak, the gull caught a fish.

다윗 = David

좋은 = good

머리 = head (brain)

골리앗 = Goliath
이기다 = win/beat
상상 = imagination
천국 = heaven
보다 = see
보았다 = saw
갈매기 = a gull
큰 = big, large
부리 = beak
물고기 = fish
잡다 = catch
잡았다 = caught

Eg. 3

비행기로 섬에 갔다 = By a plane, I went to an island.

차로 학교까지 1 시간 걸린다 = By car, it takes an hour to school.

KTX 로 서울에서 부산까지 3 시간 걸린다 = By KTX, it takes 3 hours to go from Seoul to Busan.

비행기 = plane

섬 = island

가다 = go

갔다 = went

차 = car

학교 = school

시간 = hour

걸리다 = take (time)

걸린다 = take (time)

KTX = Korea Train Express

II. 으로/로 is used for a destination/place for which you are headed.

천국으로 간다 = I am headed for the heaven

천국으로 들어가는 문 = a door for entering the heaven

나오미는 모압으로 떠났어요 = Naomi left for Moab

집은 집으로 갔다 = Jim went home.

The difference between 으로/로 and 예/게 is that 으로/로 emphasises where one is headed/has gone whereas 예/게 doesn't.

나는 집으로 갔다 = I went home. (I didn't go to any other place.)

Particles - 에서, 까지 [From, to; at/in]

에서, 까지 [From, to]

에서 and 까지 are used after places/times just like "from" and "to" in English.

Example sentences

집에서 학교까지 = From home to school

1 시에서 2 시까지 = From 1pm to 2pm

영국에서 왔어 = I came from England

산 정상까지 올라갔다 = I climbed up to the summit of the mountain.

저녁까지 돌아와 = Come back by evening

영국 = England

산 정상 = mountain summit

저녁 = evening

에서 [At/in]

에서 is used after places to mean that something is happening at a particular place.

Example sentences

학교에서 미식축구를 했다. = At school, we played American football.

일식집에서 초밥을 먹었다 = At a Japanese restaurant, I ate sushi.

공원에서 배드민턴을 쳤다 = In a park, we played badminton.

방에서 공부를 했다 = In my room, I studied.

화장실에서 샤워를 했다 = In the bathroom, I had a shower.

미식축구 = American football

일식집 = Japanese restaurant

초밥 = sushi

공원 = park

배드민턴 = badminton

방 = room

공부 = study (noun)

공부를 했다 = studied

화장실 = bathroom/toilet

샤워 = shower

샤워를 했다 = had a shower (Lit. did a shower)

Note: In spoken Korean, 를/을 is usually omitted.

For example:

공부를 했다 → 공부 했어 (I studied)

샤워를 했다 → 샤워 했어 (I had a shower)

저녁을 먹었다 → 저녁 먹었어 (I had dinner)

Particles - 만 [only]

만 [Only Particle]

만 essentially means "only" and it is used after a noun. Sometimes, 오직 is used before a noun to emphasize the "only-ness."

나만 떠났다. = Only I left.

아빠만 TV 를 보셨다. = Only Dad watched TV.

룻만 이스라엘에 왔다. = Only Ruth came to Israel.

물만 마셨다. = I drank only water.

스티븐은 구두만 샀다. = Stephen bought only shoes.

오직 나만 먹었다. = Only I ate.

오직 폴만 한국어를 공부했다. = Only Paul studied Korean.

오직 존만 떠났다. = Only John left.

만 can be also used for nominalized verbs. ([Nouns - Nominalizing Verbs](#)) In this case, 만 했다 is attached after a nominalized verb.

Eg.

나는 먹기만 했다. = I did only eating.

폴은 1주일 동안 한국어 공부하기만 했다. = Paul, for a week, did only studying Korean.

동물원에서 본 코알라는 자기만 했다. = The koala, which I saw at the zoo, did only sleeping.

동물원에서 본 코알라 = The koala, which I saw at the zoo

For a detailed explanation of the descriptive verb, see ([Verbs - Descriptive I](#))

Possessive - 의

Possessive - 의

Rule

- Add 의 to a noun. (Note: mainly used in a written form)

Eg.

나 + 의 → 나의 = my

너 + 의 → 너의 = your

그 + 의 → 그의 = his

그녀 + 의 → 그녀의 = her

However, in most spoken Korean, they are simplified for easier pronunciation.

Eg.

나의 → 내

너의 → 네 (pronounced 니)

그의/그녀의 → 재,개 (not commonly used)

누가(who) → 누구 (whose)

For all possessives, only 내 and 네(니) are commonly used in spoken Korean. In most cases 의 is omitted.

Eg.

My car = 내 차

Your shoes = 네 신발 (pronounced 니 신발)

Michael's car = 마이클의 자동차 (written form) or 마이클 차 (spoken form)

Notice that 의 has been omitted, and 자동차 has been simplified to 차.

누구 차야? (Whose car is it?)

마이클 (차) (You can either answer by saying 마이클 or 마이클 차)

In spoken Korean, 'he/she' or 'his/her' are rarely (almost never) used. Instead, his/her name is addressed as a subject in a first sentence, and then omitted for sentences following. This is the same for possessive forms. Instead of 'his/her', 'Michael's/Lisa's' are used.

Eg.

Lisa's friend1: 리사 가방 진짜 예뻐. (Lisa's handbag is really pretty)

Lisa's friend2: 진짜? 나도 그거 사고 싶다. (Really? I, too, want to buy that)

Another thing to note is that 네 is attached to a personal name if a noun being possessed is a group/organisation. (Spoken Form)

Lisa's friend1: 리사네 집 진짜 커 (Lisa's house is really big)

Lisa's friend2: 리사네 학교도 커. (Lisa's school, too, is big)

Note: A school, house, company and country are some of the 'group/organisation' nouns that require 네 attached to a personal name which are being possessive. Any other personal items such as one's bag, car and so on do not need 네 attached to a personal name.

Conjunctions - And

그리고 [and]

그리고 can only be used between sentences.

Yesterday = 어제

Book = 책

Banana = 바나나

read = 읽다

read[past] = 읽었다

sleep = 자다 slept = 잤다

Eg.

어제 책을 읽었다. 그리고 잤다. [Yesterday, read book. And slept.]

바나나는 맛있다. 그리고 달다. [Banana is delicious. And sweet.]

The two sentences are linked by **그리고** but they are still separate. To link two or more sentences into one sentence, please refer to [Verbs - Connective](#).

와/과 ['and' for nouns]

와/과 is used for nouns. Use **와** after nouns without a final consonant, and **과** for nouns with a final consonant. **과/와** is only used to join nouns.

Eg.

바다와 산 = Sea and Mountain

너와 나 = You and I

밥과 빵 = rice and bread

책과 연필과 종이 = book, pencil and paper

Conjunctions - But

그러나 [But]

그러나 can only be used between sentences.

Book = 책

Banana = 바나나

read = 읽다

want to read = 읽고 싶다

wanted to read = 읽고 싶었다 ([Verbs - Want](#))

sleep = 자다 slept = 잤다

like = 좋다 (plain)

like = 좋아한다 (present) ([Verbs - Present/Past](#))

Eg.

책을 읽고 싶었다. 그러나 잤다. [I wanted to read a book. But I slept.]

바나나는 맛있다. 그러나 나는 좋아하지 않는다. [Banana is delicious. But I don't like it]

The two sentences are linked by 그러나 but they are still separate.

~데/~지만 [But]

To link two or more sentences into one sentence, ~데 or ~지만 are used.

● For verbs, add 데 to [Verbs - Descriptive I](#)

● For adjectives, add 데 to [Adjectives - Descriptive](#)

Eg.

쓰는 → 쓰는데 = write but

글씨는 쓰는데, 읽을 수 없다 = I write words but I cannot read

사는 → 사는데 = live but

물에서는 사는데, 땅에서는 못 산다 = It lives in the water but it cannot live on the ground

어려운 → 어려운데 = difficult but

외국어는 배우기 어려운데 재미있다 = A foreign language is difficult to learn but it's interesting.

For verbs and adjectives, add 지만 to a plain form without 다.

Eg.

쓰다 → 쓰지만 = write but

글씨는 쓰지만, 읽을 수 없다 = I write words but I cannot read

살다 → 살지만 = live but

물에서는 살지만, 땅에서는 못 산다 = It lives in the water but it cannot live on the ground

어렵다 → 어렵지만 = difficult but

외국어는 배우기 어렵지만 재미있다 = A foreign language is difficult to learn but it's interesting.

Conjunctions - But [은데/는데]

Conjunctions - But [은데/는데]

은데/는데 is frequently used in casual spoken Korean. 은데/는데 means "but"

For example,

그리스어는 할 줄 아는데 이탈리아어는 할 줄 몰라 = I know how to

do(speak/write/read) Greek but I don't know how to do(speak/write/read) Italian.

밥은 먹는데, 반찬은 안 먹어. = I eat 밥 (cooked rice) but I don't eat side dishes.

방은 넓은데, 화장실은 좁아 = The room is spacious but the bathroom is cramped(small).

선영이는 얼굴은 예쁜데, 성격이 안좋아 = Sun-young has a pretty look but her disposition is not good. (Lit. Sun-young's face is pretty but her personality is not good.)

Rules

1. Take **다** off a plain form of verbs and attach **는데** to it.

하다 → 하는데

가다 → 가는데

오다 → 오는데

먹다 → 먹는데

마시다 → 마시는데

사다 → 사는데

팔다 → 파는데

걷다 → 걷는데

Note: Take a final consonant, ㄹ, off a plain form of verbs and then attach **는데**.

알다 → 아는데 (know)

팔다 → 파는데 (sell)

2. Add **데** to Adjectives - Descriptive form of adjectives.

크다 → 큰데

작다 → 작은데

가깝다 → 가까운데

멀다 → 먼데

많다 → 많은데

적다 → 적은데

뜨겁다 → 뜨거운데

차갑다 → 차가운데

Casual Spoken Korean Examples

오늘은 학교 가는데, 내일은 학교 안가요. = I go to school today but I don't go to school tomorrow.

영화를 보러 갔는데, 보고 싶은 영화가 없었어 = I went to see a movie but there was no movie that I wanted to watch.

예전에는 키가 작았는데, 지금은 키 커. = (I/He/She) was small (height) before but (I/He/She) am/is tall now.

이 음식 보기에 는 맛있어 보이는데, 먹어보니까 맛이 없어. = This meal looks delicious but it's not delicious (at all) after I've tried it.

Conjunctions - Because, So

Conjunctions - Because and So [~서]

~서 has many usages and "because and so" is one of them.

Rules

● Add 서 to a spoken form of the present tense of verbs or adjectives. (Adjectives - Present/Past, Verbs - Present/Past)

해 → 해서 = Because (I) do / (I) do and so
가서 → 가서 = Because (you) go / (you) go and so
떠나 → 떠나서 = Because (you) leave / (you) leave and so
좋아 → 좋아서 = Because (I) like / (I) like and so
먹어 → 먹어서 = Because (you) eat / (you) eat and so
잡아 → 잡아서 = Because (I) catch / (I) catch and so
빨라 → 빨라서 = Because (he's) fast / (he's) fast and so
높아 → 높아서 = Because (it's) high / (it's) high and so
작아 → 작아서 = Because (she's) small / (she's) small and so
커 → 커서 = Because (it's) big / (it's) big and so

Example Sentences

농구를 해서 키가 크다
= Because I play basketball, I'm tall.
= I play basketball and so I'm tall.
한국에 가서 지금 미국에 없다
= Because he's gone to Korea, now he's not in America.
= He's gone to Korea and so he's not in America.
나무는 커서 좋다
= Because a tree is big, I like it.
= A tree is big and so I like it.
과학이 좋아서 대학에 갔다
= Because I like science, I went to college.
= I like science and so I went to college.
빌딩이 높아서 엘리베이터를 사용해야 한다
= Because the building is high, we have to use an elevator.
= The building is high and so we have to use an elevator.
농구 = basketball
한국 = Korea
미국 = America
나무 = tree

과학 = science

대학 = college/university

빌딩 = building

엘리베이터 = elevator

Conjunctions - So [그래서]

A sentence containing ~서 can be divided into two separate sentences and 그래서 is used to link them.

Example sentences

농구를 한다. 그래서 키가 크다. = I play basketball. So I'm tall.

한국에 갔다. 그래서 지금 미국에 없다. = He's gone to Korea. So he's not in America.

나무는 크다. 그래서 좋다. = A tree is big. So I like it.

과학이 좋다. 그래서 대학에 갔다. = I like science. So I went to college.

빌딩이 높다. 그래서 엘리베이터를 사용해야 한다. = The building is high. So we have to use an elevator.

-

Conjunctions - Because [때문에]

Conjunctions - Because [때문에; 왜냐하면, 때문이다]

때문에 is more frequently used in written Korean and ~서 is favoured in spoken Korean because of its brevity.

Rules

Take 다 off a plain form and past tenses of verbs and adjectives and then attach 기 때문에. (But NOT a present tense of verbs ie. 한다 → 하기 때문에 is wrong! 하다 → 하기 때문에 is right!)

- 하다 → 하기 때문에 = Because I do
- 가다 → 가기 때문에 = Because I go
- 사다 → 사기 때문에 = Because I buy
- 보다 → 보기 때문에 = Because I see
- 먹기 → 먹기 때문에 = Because I eat
- 좋아하다 → 좋아하기 때문에 = Because I like
- 했다 → 했기 때문에 = Because I did
- 갔다 → 갔기 때문에 = Because I went
- 먹었다 → 먹었기 때문에 = Because I ate
- 크다 → 크기 때문에 = Because it's big
- 작다 → 작기 때문에 = Because it's small
- 덥다 → 덥기 때문에 = Because it's hot
- 춥다 → 춥기 때문에 = Because it's cold
- 많다 → 많기 때문에 = Because there is a lot
- 길다 → 길기 때문에 = Because it's long
- 맛있다 → 맛있기 때문에 = Because it's delicious
- 높았다 → 높았기 때문에 = Because it was high
- 예뻐다 → 예뻐기 때문에 = Because it was pretty
- 빨랐다 → 빨랐기 때문에 = Because it was fast
- 강했다 → 강했기 때문에 = Because it was strong

Example sentences

- Compare and contrast 때문에 and ~서.

중국음식을 좋아하기 때문에 중국음식을 먹었다. = Because I like Chinese food, I ate Chinese food. (Written Korean)

중국음식 좋아하기 때문에 중국음식 먹었어요. = Because I like Chinese food, I ate Chinese food. (Spoken Korean)

중국음식 좋아해서 중국음식 먹었어요 = Because I like Chinese food, I ate Chinese food.

(Spoken Korean) Conjunctions - Because, So

아침 일찍 학교를 가기 때문에 일찍 일어났다. = Because I go to school early in the morning, I got up early.

아침 일찍 학교 가서 일찍 일어났어요 = Because I go to school early in the morning, I got up early.

겨울에는 춥기 때문에 사람들은 따뜻한 옷을 입는다. = Because the winter is cold, people wear warm clothes.

겨울엔 추워서 사람들은 따뜻한 옷을 입어요 = Because the winter is cold, people wear warm clothes.

인터넷에는 잘못된 정보가 많기 때문에 무엇을 읽는지 조심해야 한다. = Because on the internet, there is a lot of false information, we should be careful about what we read.

인터넷엔 잘못된 정보가 많아서 뭘 읽는지 조심해야 되요. = Because on the internet, there is a lot of false information, we should be careful about what we read

Note: The object particle, 를/을, is omitted and some words are abbreviated in the spoken form. For example,

에는 → 엔

무엇을 → 무얼 → 뭘

Although it is less commonly used, a sentence containing two clauses can be divided into two sentences using 왜냐하면 and 때문이다. 왜냐하면 is attached to the front of a second clause and 때문이다 replaces 때문에.

중국음식을 먹었다. 왜냐하면 중국음식을 좋아하기 때문이다. = I ate Chinese food because I like Chinese food.

중국음식 먹었어요. (왜냐면) 중국음식 좋아해서요. = I ate Chinese food because I like Chinese food.

일찍 일어났다. 왜냐하면 아침 일찍 학교를 가기 때문이다. = I got up early because I go to school early in the morning.

일찍 일어났어요. (왜냐면) 아침 일찍 학교 가서요. = I got up early because I go to school early in the morning.

Note:

왜냐하면 is abbreviated to 왜냐면 or it is altogether omitted in spoken Korean.

때문에 is mainly used in literature and the news reporters use it often. However, people still use 때문에 occasionally in conversations instead of ~서, especially when one wants to explain and reason.

Conjunctions - If

Conjunctions - If [~면/으면]

~면/으면 is used after a verb and the clause containing ~면 must always come first and its meaning is "if I do such and such."

Rules

1. Take 다 off a plain verb and add 면 to it.

하다 → 하면 = If (I) do

가다 → 가면 = If (you) go

던지다 → 던지면 = If (you) throw

2. Take 다 off a verb with a final consonant and add 으면 to it.

좋다 → 좋으면 = If (I) like

먹다 → 먹으면 = If (you) eat

잡다 → 잡으면 = If (I) catch

Eg.

학교에 가면 공부 할 수 있다 = If I go to school, I can study.

의대에 가면 의사가 될 수 있다 = If you go to med school, you can become a doctor.

책을 가져오면 읽어 줄게 = If you bring (me) a book, I will read (it) to you.

학교 = school

할 수 있다 = can do

의대 = med school

의사 = doctor

될 수 있다 = can become

책 = book

가져오다 = bring

읽다 = read

Conjunctions - When

Conjunctions - When [~을 때]

● Rules

First, take 다 off a plain form of verbs([Verbs - Present/Past](#)) then:

1. Add ~을 때 to verbs with a final consonant

먹다 → 먹을 때 = when I eat
앉다 → 앉을 때 = when I sit
믿다 → 믿을 때 = when I believe
죽다 → 죽을 때 = when I die

2. Add ~르 때 to verbs without a final consonant.

가다 → 갈 때 = when I go
오다 → 올 때 = when I come
자다 → 잘 때 = when I sleep
사다 → 살 때 = when I buy

3. Add ~때 to verbs with ㄹ as a final consonant

팔다 → 팔 때 = when I sell
살다 → 살 때 = when I live
놀다 → 놀 때 = when I play (muck around)

Eg.

저녁 먹을 때 비가 왔다. = When we were eating dinner, the rain came.
의자에 앉을 때 조심하세요. = When you sit on the chair, be careful.
병사는 죽을 때 한 마디를 남겼다. = When the soldier was dying, he left a message.
학교 갈 때 차로 간다. = When I go to school, I go by car.
집에 올 때 친구 집에 들린다. = When I come home, I visit my friend's house.
우리는 잘 때 꿈을 꾸다. = When we sleep, we dream.
사람들은 먹을 것을 살 때 슈퍼마켓으로 간다 = When people buy food, they go to a supermarket.

Take 다 off and add ~을 때 to the past tense of verbs

먹었다 → 먹었을 때 = when I ate
앉았다 → 앉았을 때 = when I sat
믿었다 → 믿었을 때 = when I believed
죽었다 → 죽었을 때 = when I died
팔았다 → 팔았을 때 = when I sold
살았다 → 살았을 때 = when I lived

놀았다 → 놀았을 때 = when I played (mucked around)

Eg.

시카고에 살았을 때 영어를 배웠다. = When I lived in Chicago, I learned English.

밖에서 놀았을 때, 날씨가 좋았다 = When we played outside, the weather was good.

Note:

저녁 먹을 때 비가 왔다. = When we were eating dinner, the rain came.

저녁 먹었을 때 비가 왔다. = When we were eating dinner, the rain came.

both 먹을 때 or 먹었을 때 can be used and they mean the same thing. This is because the final verb, 왔다, determines the tense of a sentence. The former is a more casual form than the latter.

Conjunctions - While

Conjunctions - While [~(으)면서]

Rules

1. Take **다** off a plain form of verbs with no final consonant and add **면서** to it.

하다 → 하면서 = while doing
가다 → 가면서 = while going
주다 → 주면서 = while giving
사다 → 사면서 = while buying
보다 → 보면서 = while watching
말하다 → 말하면서 = while speaking
마시다 → 마시면서 = while drinking
자다 → 자면서 = while sleeping

2. Take **다** off a plain form of verbs with a final consonant and add **으면서** to it.

먹다 → 먹으면서 = while eating
받다 → 받으면서 = while receiving
찾다 → 찾으면서 = while looking for
읽다 → 읽으면서 = while reading

Exceptions

걷다 → 걸으면서 = while walking
듣다 → 들으면서 = while listening

Example sentences

Written Korean

나는 운동을 하면서 매트릭스를 봤다. = While doing exercise, I watched Matrix.

나는 노래를 들으면서 지리 공부를 했다. = While listening to music, I studied geography.

호머는 자면서 코를 골았다. = While sleeping, Homer snored.

민지는 스타벅스에서 잡지를 읽으면서 커피를 마셨다. = At Starbucks, while reading a magazine, Minji drank coffee.

준호는 차를 타고 회사를 가면서 라디오를 들었다. = While going to work by car, Junho listened to radio.

Spoken Korean

운동 하면서 매트릭스 봤어. = While doing exercise, I watched Matrix

노래 들으면서 지리 공부 했어. = While listening to music, I studied geography.

(호머는) 자면서 코 골았어. = While sleeping, Homer snored.

(민지는) 스타벅스에서 잡지 읽으면서 커피 마셨어. = At Starbucks, while reading a magazine, Minji drank coffee.

(준호는) 차 타고 회사 가면서 라디오 들었어. = While going to work by car, Junho listened to radio.

매트릭스 = Matrix (The movie)

노래 = music, song

지리 = geography

호머 = Homer (a male name as in Simpsons)

민지 = Minji (a female name)

스타벅스 = Starbucks

잡지 = magazine

커피 = coffee

회사 = work, company

라디오 = radio

준호 = Junho (a male name)

Note:

The spoken Korean usually omits a subject because it is usually understood by the speakers as to who they are talking about. For example, if I were talking about myself, I wouldn't need to use 나는 to say something about me because it is assumed that I am talking about me.

Likewise, the third person subjects like 호머는 and 민지는 can also be omitted when a person being talked about is already known by people having a conversation.

The object particle, 를/을, is omitted in spoken Korean.

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Advanced Grammar

- [Comparatives & Superlatives](#) 87
 - [Imperatives - 해, 하지마](#) 89
 - [Have to - 해야 한다](#) 91
 - [Allowed to - 해도 된다](#) 94
- [I like doing - 하는게 좋다, 하는걸 좋아한다](#) 97
 - [I think - ~고 생각해 \(Opinion\)](#) 100
 - [I think - 하는 거 같애 \(General\)](#) 101

Comparatives & Superlatives

Comparatives [~보다]

~보다 is used to compare two persons or things. The person/thing that 보다 is referring to is the one that comes after "~er than" in English. The "~보다" phrase can also come before a subject. So the sentences below have the same meaning.

Note: 이/가 particles are more frequently used than 은/는 particles, and in the spoken Korean, almost exclusively 이/가 are used.

나는 동생보다 키가 크다 = I am taller than (my) younger sibling.

내가 동생보다 키가 크다 = "I" am taller than (my) younger sibling.

동생보다 내가 키가 크다 = I am taller than (my) younger sibling.

동생보다 내가 키가 커 = I am taller than (my) younger sibling.[spoken form]

동생보다 제가 키가 커요 = I am taller than (my) younger sibling.[formal spoken form]

동생보다 = than younger sibling

동생 = younger sibling

키 = height

크다 = big

키가 크다 = tall

키가 작다 = short

나 = I

내 = 나 changes to 내 before 이/가

제 = the honorific form of 내 used in formal expressions

더 is usually added before an adjective. 더 = more

More examples

동물보다 사람이 더 똑똑하다 = Man is cleverer than an animal.

나일강이 아마존강보다 더 길다 = The Nile River is longer than the Amazon River.

철이 구리보다 강하다 = Iron is stronger than copper.

피는 물보다 진하다 = Blood is thicker than water.

진수가 진호보다 더 빨라요 = Jinsu is faster than Jinho.

저보다 형이 더 잘해요 = My older brother does it better than me.

빵보다 밥이 더 좋아요 = I like rice more than bread.

Superlatives [제일]

제일 is added before an adjective to make it a superlative.

진수가 제일 빠르다 = Jinsu is the fastest

치타가 육지 동물중에서 제일 빠르다 = The cheetah is the fastest among the land animals.

에베레스트산은 세계에서 제일 높다 = Mt. Everest is the highest mountain in the world.

피자가 세계에서 제일 맛있는 음식이다 = Pizza is the most delicious food in the world.

제일 아름다운 것은 사랑이에요 = The most beautiful thing is love.[formal spoken form] ([Nouns - Present, Past](#))

세계 = world

맛있다 = delicious

맛있는 = delicious [descriptive form] ([Adjectives - Descriptive](#))

아름다운 = beautiful [descriptive form]

것 = thing

-

Imperatives

Imperatives - 해, 하지마

Imperative	Positive	Negative
Informal	해 가 먹어	하지마 가지마 먹지마
Formal	해요 가요 먹어요	하지마요 가지마요 먹지마요
Honorific	하세요 가세요 드세요	하지마세요 가지마세요 드시지마세요

The informal form is used among very close friends or when talking to a younger person who is very close to you in informal situations.

The formal form and the honorific form are used in formal situations. However, if I were to choose which one to use, I would choose the honorific form because the formal form is a bit casual-ish. It is safe to use the honorific form if you are unsure which one to use.

Note: The honorific form of verbs is present in Korean such as:

먹다 → 드시다 = eat

자다 → 주무시다 = sleep

죽다 → 돌아가시다 = die, pass away

먹어's honorific form is 드세요. It is usually used when talking to people above your age or in formal situations.

Rules

Informal positive (Imperative) = Present positive (spoken Korean)

해! = Do!

저리 가! = Go over there! (Leave me alone!)

이 과자 좀 먹어. = Eat some of these snacks.

물 좀 마셔. = Drink some water.

Informal negative = Take 다 off a plain form of verbs and attach 지마 to it.

가지마! = Don't go!

이 영화는 보지마! = Don't watch this movie!

이거는 먹지마. = Don't eat this.

이 책은 읽지마. = Don't read this book.

Formal positive and negative = Attach 요 to informal forms

Honorific positive =

1. Take 다 off a plain form of verbs and then attach 세요 to verbs without a final consonant.

2. Attach 으세요 to verbs with a final consonant.

3. For verbs with a final consonant of 르, drop it off and attach 세요 to it.

가세요! = Please go!

이리 오세요. = Please come here.

빨리 떠나세요! = Please leave quickly!

어서 드세요. = Please eat already.

물고기 손으로 잡으세요. = Please catch the fish with your hands.

손 흔드세요! = Please wave your hands! (흔들다 = wave)

빙글빙글 도세요! = Please turn round and round! (돌다 = turn round, spin)

Honorific negative = Take 다 off a plain form of verbs and attach 지마세요.

장난 하지 마세요! = Please don't fool around!

저 곳에는 가지 마세요. = Please don't go to that place. (Keep away from that place.)

박물관에 있는 물건들은 만지지 마세요. = Please don't touch things in the museum.

Have to - 해야 한다

Have to - 해야 한다

Informal form

Informal	Have to	Had to
Written	해야 한다 해야 된다	해야 했다 해야 뒀다
Spoken	해야 해 해야 돼	해야 했어 해야 뒀어

Informal	Don't have to	Didn't have to
Written	하지 않아도 된다	하지 않아도 뒀었다
Spoken	하지 않아도 돼 안해도 돼	하지 않아도 뒀어 안해도 뒀어

Note: The words in bold are the more commonly used alternative of the two in each box.

Rules

1. Attach **야 한다/야 된다/야 돼/야 뒀어** etc. to the informal spoken form of verbs. [Verbs - Present, Past](#)

해 → **해야 한다** = have to do

가 → **가야 한다** = have to go

와 → **와야 한다** = have to come

봐 → **봐야 한다** = have to see

먹어 → **먹어야 한다** = have to eat

마셔 → **마셔야 한다** = have to drink

2. Take **다** off a plain form of verbs and then attach **지 않아도 된다/지 않아도 뒀었다/지 않아도 돼** etc. to it.

하다 → **하지 않아도 된다** = don't have to do

가다 → **가지 않아도 된다** = don't have to go

오다 → **오지 않아도 된다** = don't have to come

보다 → **보지 않아도 된다** = don't have to see

먹다 → **먹지 않아도 된다** = don't have to eat

마시다 → **마시지 않아도 된다** = don't have to drink

3. Attach 안 and 도 돼/ 도 됐었어 to the front and back of the informal spoken form of verbs respectively. [Verbs - Present, Past](#)

- 안해도 돼 = don't have to do
- 안가도 돼 = don't have to go
- 안와도 돼 = don't have to come
- 안봐도 돼 = don't have to see
- 안먹어도 돼 = don't have to eat
- 안마셔도 돼 = don't have to drink

Example sentences

Written Form

- 성민은 오늘 서울에 가야 한다. = Seong-min has to go to Seoul today.
- 민주는 내일 학교에 가지 않아도 된다. = Min-ju doesn't have to go to school tomorrow.
- 애슐리는 병때문에 작년 매일 약을 먹어야 했다 = Because of her sickness, Ashley had to take (lit. eat) medicine everyday last year.

Spoken Form

- 이번 주 목요일까지 과학 과제 끝내야 돼 = I have to finish the science assignment by this Thursday.
- 애슐리는 이제 다 나아서 병원에 안가도 돼 = Because Ashley has been healed now, she doesn't have to go to the hospital.
- 고추가 너무 매우면 안먹어도 돼 = If the chillies are too spicy, you don't have to eat them.

Formal form

Formal	Have to	Had to
Written	해야 합니다 해야 됩니다	해야 했습니다 해야 했습니다
Spoken	해야 해요 해야 돼요	해야 했어요 해야 됐어요

Formal	Don't have to	Didn't have to
Written	하지 않아도 됩니다	하지 않아도 됐었습니다
Spoken	하지 않아도 돼요 안해도 돼요	하지 않아도 됐었어요 안해도 됐었어요

Note: The rules for the conjugation are the same as above.

Example sentences

Written Form

성민은 오늘 서울에 가야 합니다. = Seong-min has to go to Seoul today.

민주는 내일 학교에 가지 않아도 됩니다. = Min-ju doesn't have to go to school tomorrow.

애슐리는 병 때문에 작년 매일 약을 먹어야 했습니다 = Because of her sickness, Ashley had to take (lit. eat) medicine everyday last year.

Spoken Form

이번 주 목요일까지 과학 과제 끝내야 돼요 = I have to finish the science assignment by this Thursday.

애슐리는 이제 다 나아서 병원에 안가도 돼요 = Because Ashley has been healed now, she doesn't have to go to the hospital.

고추가 너무 매우면 안먹어도 돼요 = If the chillies are too spicy, you don't have to eat them.

Source: [Learn Korean: LP's Korean Grammar Guide](#)

Allowed to - 해도 된다

Allowed to - 해도 된다

Informal Form

Informal	are allowed to	were allowed to
Written	해도 된다	해도 됐었다
Spoken	해도 돼	해도 됐었어

Informal	aren't allowed to	weren't allowed to
Written	하면 안된다	하면 안됐었다
Spoken	하면 안돼	하면 안됐었어

Note:

해도 돼 means "allowed to do" and 안해도 돼 means "don't have to do," NOT "not allowed to do." This needs some explanations.

First of all, 돼 means "ok or allowed." 해도 돼 literally means "doing is ok." 안해도 literally means "not doing" therefore 안해도 돼 literally means "not doing is ok" which means "don't have to do."

하면 안돼 means "not allowed to do." 하면 literally means "if I do" and 안돼 means "not ok" therefore 하면 안돼 literally means "if I do it, it's not ok" which can be expressed as "not allowed to do"

Compare this with [Have to - 해야 한다](#)

However, you don't have to know these explanations to use them. Actually, I've never thought about why these mean what they mean until today. The best way to learn them is to use them frequently until they become memorised.

Rules

1. Attach **도 된다/도 됐었다/도 돼/도 됐었어** to the positive informal spoken form of verbs [Verbs - Present, Past](#)

해 → 해도 된다 = allowed to do

가 → 가도 된다 = allowed to go

봐 → 봐도 된다 = allowed to see

들어 → 들어도 된다 = allowed to hear
먹어 → 먹어도 된다 = allowed to eat
마셔 → 마셔도 된다 = allowed to drink
달려 → 달려도 된다 = allowed to run
앉아 → 앉어도 된다 = allowed to sit
놀아 → 놀아도 된다 = allowed to play/muck around

2a. Take 다 off a plain form of verbs without a final consonant and attach 면 안된다/면 안됐었다/면 안돼/면 안됐었어 to it. (Includes verbs with ㄹ as a final consonant)

하다 → 하면 안된다 = aren't allowed to do
가다 → 가면 안된다 = aren't allowed to go
춤추다 → 춤추면 안된다 = aren't allowed to dance
놀다 → 놀면 안된다 = aren't allowed to play/muck around
밀다 → 밀면 안된다 = aren't allowed to push
돌다 → 돌면 안된다 = aren't allowed to spin

2b. Take 다 off a plain form of verbs with a final consonant and attach 으면 안된다/으면 안됐었다/으면 안돼/으면 안됐었어 to it.

먹다 → 먹으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to eat
앉다 → 앉으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to sit
숨다 → 숨으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to hide
잡다 → 잡으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to catch
집다 → 집으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to pick up
접다 → 접으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to fold

Exceptions

듣다 → 들으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to listen
걷다 → 걸으면 안된다 = aren't allowed to walk

Example sentences

Written form

부페에서는 먹고 싶은 만큼 먹어도 된다 = At a buffet (restaurant), people are allowed to eat as much as they want.
시험을 마친 사람은 집에 가도 된다 = Those who have finished the exam can go home.
도서관에서는 크게 얘기하면 안된다. = It is not allowed to speak loudly in the library.
신생아들은 딱딱한 음식을 먹으면 안된다. = Infants are not allowed to eat solid food.
작년까지 학생들은 매점 자판기를 사용해도 됐다 = Until last year, students were allowed to use a stall vending machine.

Spoken form

TV 봐도 돼 = You are allowed to watch TV. (You can watch TV.)
이 케익 먹어도 돼 = You are allowed to eat this cake. (You can eat this cake,)

술과 담배는 사면 안돼 = You are not allowed to buy alcohol and tobacco.
 어제까지 놀아도 됐었어 = Until yesterday, I was allowed to muck around.
 작년까지 빅토리아공원에는 들어가면 안됐었어 = Until last year, people were not allowed to enter the Victoria park.

Formal Form

Formal	are allowed to	were allowed to
Written	해도 됩니다	해도 됐었습니다
Spoken	해도 돼요	해도 됐었어요

Formal	aren't allowed to	weren't allowed to
Written	하면 안됩니다	하면 안됐었습니다
Spoken	하면 안돼요	하면 안됐었어요

Note: The rules are the same as above.

Example sentences

Written form

부페에서는 먹고 싶은 만큼 먹어도 됩니다 = At a buffet (restaurant), people are allowed to eat as much as they want.
 시험을 마친 사람은 집에 가도 됩니다 = Those who have finished the exam can go home.
 도서관에서는 크게 얘기하면 안됩니다. = It is not allowed to speak loudly in the library.
 신생아들은 딱딱한 음식을 먹으면 안됩니다. = Infants are not allowed to eat solid food.
 작년까지 학생들은 매점 자판기를 사용해도 됐었습니다 = Until last year, students were allowed to use a stall vending machine.

Spoken form

TV 봐도 돼요 = You are allowed to watch TV. (You can watch TV.)
 이 케익 먹어도 돼요 = You are allowed to eat this cake. (You can eat this cake.)
 술과 담배는 사면 안돼요 = You are not allowed to buy alcohol and tobacco.
 어제까지 놀아도 됐었어요 = Until yesterday, I was allowed to muck around.
 작년까지 빅토리아공원에는 들어가면 안됐었어요 = Until last year, people were not allowed to enter the Victoria park.

I like doing - 하는게 좋다, 하는걸 좋아한다

I like doing - 하는게 좋다

하는게 좋다 is a contracted form of 하는 것이 좋다 (것이 → 게)

하는 것 means "doing" and if you remember, "가/이" is an identifier particle. I'd also like to call it a specificity particle.

For example,

점심에는 샌드위치 먹는 것이 좋다 = I like eating a sandwich at lunch (among a variety of things to eat at lunch, a sandwich is my choice)

시골에서 사는게 좋다 = I like living in the country (Although I could live in the city or urban area, I like living in the country)

좋다 means two things

1. I like
2. It's good

Usually, its meaning is "I like doing" in spoken Korean. In written Korean, "하는게 좋다" is more likely to mean "it's good to do something." However, the meaning depends on the context.

Informal	Positive	Negative
Written	하는게 좋다	하지 않는게 좋다 안하는게 좋다
Spoken	하는게 좋아	안하는게 좋아

Formal	Positive	Negative
Written	하는게 좋습니다	하지 않는게 좋습니다 안하는게 좋습니다
Spoken	하는게 좋아요	하지 않는게 좋아요 안하는게 좋아요

Note: The words in bold are the more commonly used alternatives of the two in each box.

Rules

1. Take 다 off a plain form of verbs and then attach 는게 좋다
2. If a verb has a final consonant of ㄹ, it is omitted.
하다 → 하는게 좋다 = I like doing, it's good to do

먹다 → 먹는게 좋다 = I like eating, it's good to eat
 보다 → 보는게 좋다 = I like watching, it's good to watch
 듣다 → 듣는게 좋다 = I like listening, it's good to listen
 걷다 → 걷는게 좋다 = I like walking, it's good to walk
 쓰다 → 쓰는게 좋다 = I like writing, it's good to write
 읽다 → 읽는게 좋다 = I like reading, it's good to read
 만들다 → 만드는데 좋다 = I like making, it's good to make
 살다 → 사는게 좋다 = I like living, it's good to live
 말다 → 마는게 좋다 = I like wrapping, it's good to wrap

Example sentences

운동하는게 좋다 = I like exercising. It's good to exercise.
 휴일에는 바닷가에 가는게 좋다 = I like going to the beach at weekends. It's good to go to the beach at weekends.
 금요일밤에는 피자 먹는게 좋다 = On a Friday night, I like eating pizza. On a Friday night, it's good to eat pizza.
 심심할때 영화보는게 좋아 = When I'm bored, I like watching movies. When you're bored, it's good to watch movies.

I like doing - 하는걸 좋아한다

하는걸 is a contracted form of 하는것을 and 을 is an object particle.
 하는걸 좋아한다 just means "I like doing"

Informal	Positive	Negative
Written	하는걸 좋아한다	하는걸 좋아하지 않는다 하는걸 안좋아한다
Spoken	하는걸 좋아해	하는걸 좋아하지 않아 하는걸 안좋아해

Formal	Positive	Negative
Written	하는것을 좋아합니다	하는것을 좋아하지 않습니다 하는걸 안좋아합니다
Spoken	하는걸 좋아해요	하는걸 좋아하지 않아요 하는걸 안좋아해요

Note: 걸 is a contracted form of 것을.

Rules are the same as above.

하다 → 하는걸 좋아한다 = I like doing

먹다 → 먹는걸 좋아한다 = I like eating

보다 → 보는걸 좋아한다 = I like watching

듣다 → 듣는걸 좋아한다 = I like listening

걷다 → 걷는걸 좋아한다 = I like walking

쓰다 → 쓰는걸 좋아한다 = I like writing

읽다 → 읽는걸 좋아한다 = I like reading

만들다 → 만드는걸 좋아한다 = I like making

살다 → 사는게 좋아한다 = I like living

말다 → 마는게 좋아한다 = I like wrapping

Example sentences

운동하는것을 좋아하지 않는다 = I don't like exercising.

휴일에는 바닷가에 가는걸 좋아한다 = I like going to the beach at weekends.

금요일밤에는 피자 먹는걸 좋아합니다 = On a Friday night, I like eating pizza.

심심할땐 영화보는걸 좋아해요 = When I'm bored, I like watching movies.

I think - ~고 생각해 (Opinion)

I think - ~고 생각해 (Opinion)

고 생각해 is usually used when you are expressing your opinion on something like what people should and shouldn't do and what people should and should not be allowed to do etc.

Refer to [Have to - 해야 한다](#), [Allowed to - 해도 된다](#) and [I like doing - 하는게 좋다, 하는걸 좋아한다](#) to learn following examples.

Rules

Attach 고 생각해 to the present informal written form of verbs.

eg.

그걸 해야 한다고 생각해 = I think we should do it.

공원엔 가도 된다고 생각해 = I think it's OK to go to a park.

우유를 마시는게 좋다고 생각한다 = I think it's good to drink milk

Note: 그걸 = 그것을, 공원엔 = 공원에는

Example sentences

저녁에 일찍 자고 아침에 일찍 일어나야 된다고 생각해. = I think people should go to bed early at night and get up early in the morning.

건강해지기 위해 과일과 채소를 많이 먹어야 한다고 생각해. = I think people should eat a lot of fruits and vegetables to become healthy.

TV는 많이 봐도 된다고 생각해요 = I think it's allowable to watch a lot of TV.

시간약속에 늦으면 안된다고 생각합니다 = I think it's not acceptable to be late for an appointment

책은 많이 읽는게 좋다고 생각한다 = I think it's good to read a lot of books.

청량음료는 많이 마시지 않는게 좋다고 생각합니다 = I think it's not good to drink a lot of soft drinks.

I think - 하는 거 같애 (General)

[Verbs]

Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	하는 것 같다	했던 것 같다
Negative	하지 않는 것 같다 안하는 것 같다	하지 않았던 것 같다 안했던 것 같다

Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	하는 거 같애	했던 거 같애
Negative	하지 않는 거 같애 안하는 거 같애	하지 않았던 거 같애 안했던 거 같애

Note: In spoken Korean, 것 is pronounced as 거 for the ease of pronunciation.

Rules

1. Take 다 off a plain form of verbs and attach 는 거 같애/지 않는 거 같애 etc. to it.
 2. Drop ㄷ off a plain form of verbs that have ㄷ as a final consonant.
 3. Take 다 off a past tense form of verbs and attach 던 것 같다/던 거 같애 etc. to it.
- 하다 → 하는 거 같애 = I think they do
 먹다 → 먹는 거 같애 = I think they eat
 일어나다 → 일어나는 거 같애 = I think they get up
 자다 → 자는 거 같애 = I think they sleep
 보다 → 보는 거 같애 = I think they watch
 씻다 → 씻는 거 같애 = I think they wash
 달리다 → 달리는 거 같애 = I think they run
 놀다 → 노는 거 같애 = I think they muck around
 살다 → 사는 거 같애 = I think they live
 했다 → 했던 거 같애 = I think they did
 먹었다 → 먹었던 거 같애 = I think they ate
 봤다 → 봤던 거 같애 = I think they watched
 살았다 → 살았던 거 같애 = I think they lived
 놀았다 → 놀았던 거 같애 = I think they mucked around

Example Sentences

저기서 사람들이 축구 하는 거 같애 = I think people are playing soccer over there.

이 개는 저 개집에서 살았던 거 같애 = I think this dog lived in that kennel. = I think this dog used to live in that kennel.

저 방에는 아기가 자고 있는 거 같애 = I think a baby is sleeping in that room.

나는 밥을 빨리 안먹는 거 같애 = I think I don't eat (a meal) fast.

[Adjectives]

Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	좋은 것 같다	좋았던 것 같다
Negative	좋지 않은 것 같다 안좋은 것 같다	좋지 않았던 것 같다 안좋았던 것 같다

Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	좋은 거 같애	좋았던 거 같애
Negative	좋지 않은 거 같애 안좋은 거 같애	좋지 않았던 거 같애 안좋았던 거 같애

Rules

1. Attach a descriptive form of adjectives to 거 같애.
2. Take 다 off a past tense form of adjectives and attach 었던 거 같애.
좋은 → 좋은 거 같애 = I think it's good
많은 → 많은 거 같애 = I think there's a lot
큰 → 큰 거 같애 = I think it's big
작은 → 작은 거 같애 = I think it's small
예쁜 → 예쁜 거 같애 = I think it's pretty
똑똑한 → 똑똑한 거 같애 = I think he's clever
솔직한 → 솔직한 거 같애 = I think she's honest
좋았다 → 좋았던 거 같애 = I think it was good
맛있었다 → 맛있었던 거 같애 = I think it was delicious
재밌었다 → 재밌었던 거 같애 = I think it was fun
쉬웠다 → 쉬웠던 거 같애 = I think it was easy
많았다 → 많았던 거 같애 = I think there was a lot

Example sentences

태국음식은 맛있는 거 같애 = I think Thai food is delicious
이 집은 굉장히 큰 거 같애 = I think this house is enormously big.
이번 수학시험은 정말 쉬웠던 거 같애 = I think the maths test was really easy.
내 기억에 저 들 위에는 꽃들이 많았던 거 같애 = According to my memory, I think there were a lot of flowers on that hill.

[Nouns]

Written Form	Present	Past
Positive	고양이인 것 같다	고양이였던 것 같다
Negative	고양이가 아닌 것 같다	고양이가 아니었던 것 같다

Spoken Form	Present	Past
Positive	고양이(인 거) 같애	고양이였던 거 같애
Negative	고양이(가) 아닌 거 같애	고양이(가) 아니었던 거 같애

Note: The object particle, 가/이, is usually omitted in spoken Korean. 인 거 is also usually omitted.

같다's original meaning is "look like." Therefore, 같애 phrases can have alternative translations but essentially they mean the same thing.

하는 거 같애 = I think they're doing. It looks like they're doing.

예쁜 거 같애 = I think it's pretty. It looks pretty.

치킨인거 같애 = I think it's a chicken. It looks like a chicken (food).

Rules

Attach 인 것 같다/였던 것 같다/인 거 같애/였던 거 같애 to a noun.

강아지(인 거) 같애 = I think it's a puppy (It looks like a puppy)

고양이(인 거) 같애 = I think it's a cat

빼꾸기(인 거) 같애 = I think it's a cuckoo

나무(인 거) 같애 = I think it's a tree
사람(인 거) 같애 = I think it's a person
학교(인 거) 같애 = I think it's a school

Example sentences

민희: 너 저 동물이 뭔지 알아? = Do you know what that animal is?
수영: 저건 사자 같애. = I think that is a lion. (That looks like a lion)
민희: 사자 아닌 거 같은데. 호랑이 같애. = I don't think that is a lion. I think it's a tiger.
수영: 그런가? 그럼 저 멀리 저건 뭐지? = Is it? Then what is that over there afar?
민희: 사람은 아닌 거 같애. 동물인 거 같애. = I don't think it's a human. I think it's an animal.
수영: 침팬지다. = It's a chimpanzee.
민희: 침팬지 같았어. = I thought that was a chimpanzee. (It looked like a chimpanzee)

Note: 같다's past tense is 같았어 and so 고양이 같았어 = I thought it was a cat.

Formal Forms

Rules

Written Korean = Change 다 to 습니다.

Spoken Korean = Attach 요 to the end of a sentence.

eg.

태국음식은 맛있는 것 같습니다 = I think Thai food is delicious

이 집은 굉장히 큰 거 같아요 = I think this house is enormously big.

이번 수학시험은 정말 쉬웠던 거 같아요 = I think the maths test was really easy.

내 기억에 저 들 위에는 꽃들이 많았던 거 같아요 = According to my memory, I think there were a lot of flowers on that hill.

They/he/she think(s) = ~ 같대

같대 is a shortened form of 같다고 해 and it is used to express what they/he/she think(s).

같대 is usually used in spoken Korean. Attach 요 to 같대 to make it formal.

할머니가 이 개는 저 개집에서 살았던 거 같대 = Grandma thinks this dog lived in that kennel. = Grandma thinks this dog used to live in that kennel.

엄마가 저 방에는 아기가 자고 있는 거 같대 = Mum thinks a baby is sleeping in that room.

친구가 나는 밥을 빨리 먹는 거 같대요 = My friend thinks I eat (a meal) fast.

폴이 태국음식은 맛있는 거 같대 = Paul thinks Thai food is delicious

동생의 기억엔 저 들 위에는 꽃들이 많았던 거 같대요 = According to my younger (brother/sister)'s memory, He/she thinks there were a lot of flowers on that hill.

강아지(인 거) 같대 = They/he/she think(s) it's a puppy (It looks like a puppy)

고양이(인 거) 같대요 = They/he/she think(s) it's a cat

Special Expressions

- [Are you doing? - ~는 거야? \[Informal\]](#) 107
- [Are you doing? - ~시는 거예요? \[Polite\]](#) 109
 - [To do something - ~기 위해](#) 112
 - [Try doing - 해 보다](#) 113
 - [Of course, I've done it before - 해봤죠](#) 115
 - [Give the favour of doing - 해 주다](#) 117
 - [Would you like to go? - 갈래요?](#) 119
- [Shall we do something? - 우리 뭐 할까?](#) 120
 - [It's cold, isn't it? - 춥지요?](#) 21
 - [Let's do it - 하자](#) 123
- [Easy to do / Difficult to do - ~기 쉽다 / ~기 어렵다](#) 125
 - [I know how - 어떻게 하는지 알아](#) 127
 - [I'm in the habit of - ~되면 ~게 돼요](#) 129
 - [Addressing people](#) 131

Are you doing? - ~는 거야? [Informal]

Are you doing? - ~는 거야?

는 거야 is commonly used in situations where you see somebody doing something and you want to ask them what they are doing. Again, 는 거야 can only be used when you are actually watching somebody doing something, and you want to ask them what they are doing.

● Rule

Take 다 off a plain verb and add 는 거야?

하다 → 하는 거야? = Are you doing?

가다 → 가는 거야? = Are you going?

읽다 → 읽는 거야? = Are you reading?

보다 → 보는 거야? = Are you watching?

쓰다 → 쓰는 거야? = Are you writing?

먹다 → 먹는 거야? = Are you eating?

마시다 → 마시는 거야? = Are you drinking?

자다 → 자는 거야? = Are you sleeping?

보내다 → 보내는 거야? = Are you sending?

Eg.

일 하는 거야? = Are you working?

학교 숙제 하는 거야? = Are you doing school homework?

점심 먹는 거야? = Are you having lunch?

집에 가는 거야? = Are you going home?

교회 가는 거야? = Are you going to church?

물 마시는 거야? = Are you drinking water?

영화 보는 거야? = Are you watching a movie?

에세이 쓰는 거야? = Are you writing an essay?

문자 메시지 보내는 거야? = Are you sending a txt message?

벌써 자는 거야? = Are you sleeping already?

You can add 언제, 어디, 누가, 뭐, 어떻게 or 왜 [when, where, who, what, how or why] in front of ~는 거야? to make these sentences.

뭐 하는 거야? = What are you doing?

뭐 읽는 거야? = What are you reading?

뭐 보는 거야? = What are you watching?

뭐 쓰는 거야? = What are you writing?

뭐 먹는 거야? = What are you eating?

뭐 마시는 거야? = What are you drinking?

뭐 보내는 거야? = What are you sending?

어디 가는 거야? = Where are you going?

누가 자는 거야? = Who is sleeping?

누가 하는 거야? = Who is doing?

어떻게 쓰는 거야? = How are you writing?

왜 하는 거야? = Why are you doing?

Are you doing? - ~시는 거예요? [Polite]

Are you doing? - ~시는 거예요? [Polite]

시는 거예요 is commonly used in situations where you want to ask somebody what they're doing.

시는 거예요 can only be used when you're actually seeing somebody doing something, and you want to ask them what they are doing.

● Rule

Take 다 off a plain verb and add 시는 거예요?

하다 → 하시는 거예요? = Are you doing?

가다 → 가시는 거예요? = Are you going?

읽다 → 읽으시는 거예요? = Are you reading?

보다 → 보시는 거예요? = Are you watching?

쓰다 → 쓰시는 거예요? = Are you writing?

먹다 → 드시는 거예요? = Are you eating?

마시다 → 마시는 거예요? = Are you drinking?

자다 → 주무시는 거예요? = Are you sleeping?

보내다 → 보내시는 거예요? = Are you sending?

Note: Irregular verbs

읽다 → 읽으시는 거예요? NOT 읽시는 거예요?

자다 → 주무시는 거예요? NOT 자시는 거예요?

먹다 → 드시는 거예요? NOT 먹시는 거예요?

Eg.

일 하시는 거예요? = Are you working?

점심 드시는 거예요? = Are you having lunch?

집에 가시는 거예요? = Are you going home?

교회 가시는 거예요? = Are you going to church?

물 마시는 거예요? = Are you drinking water?

영화 보시는 거예요? = Are you watching a movie?

에세이 쓰시는 거예요? = Are you writing an essay?

문자 메시지 보내시는 거예요? = Are you sending a txt message?

벌써 주무시는 거예요? = Are you sleeping already?

You can add 언제, 어디, 누가, 뭐, 어떻게 or 왜 [when, where, who, what, how or why] in front of ~시는 거예요? to make these sentences.

뭐 하시는 거예요? = What are you doing?

뭐 읽으시는 거예요? = What are you reading?

뭐 보시는 거예요? = What are you watching?
뭐 쓰시는 거예요? = What are you writing?
뭐 드시는 거예요? = What are you eating?
뭐 마시는 거예요? = What are you drinking?
뭐 보내시는 거예요? = What are you sending?
어디 가시는 거예요? = Where are you going?
누가 주무시는 거예요? = Who is sleeping?
누가 하시는 거예요? = Who is doing?
어떻게 쓰시는 거예요? = How are you writing?
왜 하시는 거예요? = Why are you doing?

31JAN

Are we doing? - 하는 거야 / 거예요?

하는 거야/ 거예요? is usually used when you want to ask someone what you (both singular and plural) are doing, or will be doing immediately.

For example, when you are in a group of people who are doing things as a group, and you want to ask a leader of the group what you all will be doing.

우리 저기 가는 거야? = Are we going there? [Informal]

우리 저기 가는 거예요? = Are we going there? [Polite]

Note: 하는 거야? = Are you/we doing?

HOWEVER, the polite form of "Are you doing?" usually uses "시는 거예요?" whereas the polite form of "Are we doing?" uses "는 거예요?"

See [Are you doing? - ~는 거야?](#), [Are you doing? - ~시는 거예요?](#)

● Rule

Take 다 off a plain verb and add 는 거야 / 거예요?

하다 → 하는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we doing?

가다 → 가는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we going?

읽다 → 읽는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we reading?

보다 → 보는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we watching?

쓰다 → 쓰는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we writing?

먹다 → 먹는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we eating?

마시다 → 마시는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we drinking?

자다 → 자는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we sleeping?

보내다 → 보내는 거야 / 거예요? = Are we sending?

Example Sentences

운동 하는 거예요? = Are (we) exercising?

저기로 가는 거예요? = Are (we) going there?

이 차로 가는 거예요? = Are (we) going by this car?

이거 먹는 거예요? = Are (we) eating this?

이걸로 먹는 거예요? = Are (we) eating with this?

여기서 자는 거예요? = Are (we) sleeping here?

오늘 저 영화 보는 거예요? = Are (we) watching that movie today?

이걸로 보는 거예요? = Are (we) watching with this?

You can add 언제, 어디, 누가, 뭐, 어떻게 or 왜 [when, where, who, what, how or why] in front of ~시는 거예요? to make these sentences.

오늘 우리 뭐 하는 거예요? = What are we doing today?

뭐 읽는 거예요? = What are (we) reading?

뭐 보는 거예요? = What are (we) watching?

뭐 쓰는 거예요? = What are (we) writing?

뭐 먹는 거예요? = What are (we) eating?

뭐 마시는 거예요? = What are (we) drinking?

뭐 보내는 거예요? = What are (we) sending?

어디 가는 거예요? = Where are (we) going?

어디서 자는 거예요? = Where are (we) sleeping?

누가 하는 거예요? = Who is doing?

어떻게 쓰는 거예요? = How are (we) writing?

왜 하는 거예요? = Why are (we) doing?

More Example Sentences

우리 어디 가는 거예요? = Where are we going?

아, 지금 시내에 가는 거예요. = Ah, we're going to the city.

이 차로 가는 거예요? = Are (we) going by this car?

네, 어서 타세요. = Yes, please get in.

뭐 먹을 거예요? = What will we eat? [Verbs - Future \[Will\]](#)

스파게티 먹을 거예요. 스파게티 좋아하세요? = We will eat spaghetti. Do you like it?

네, 좋아해요. = Yes, I like it.

To do something - ~기 위해

To do something - ~기 위해

This is the expression used to show that you purpose to do something. For example, 아브라함은 대학 가기 위해 열심히 공부를 했다 = To go to college, Abraham studied hard.

In the sentence above, the reason why Abraham studied hard is because he's purposed to go to college.

점심 먹기 위해 레스토랑에 들어 갔다 = To eat lunch, we went into the restaurant.

We went into the restaurant because we'd purposed to eat lunch.

Therefore, the clause containing ~기 위해 is the reason for doing something revealed in the rest of the sentence.

Rules

● Add 위해 to a nominalized verb. Also see ([Nouns - Nominalizing Verbs](#))

읽기 위해 = To read

쓰기 위해 = To write

듣기 위해 = To listen

말하기 위해 = To speak

가기 위해 = To go

오기 위해 = To come

보기 위해 = To watch

먹기 위해 = To eat

자기 위해 = To sleep

달리기 위해 = To run

사기 위해 = To buy

팔기 위해 = To sell

서기 위해 = To stand

앉기 위해 = To sit

살기 위해 = To live

죽기 위해 = To die

Eg.

한글을 읽기 위해 한국어를 공부했다. = To read Korean words, I studied Korean.

자유의 여신상을 보기 위해 뉴욕에 갔다. = To see the Statue of Liberty, we went to New York.

그녀는 필리핀에 가기 위해 비행기 티켓을 샀다. = To go to the Philippines, she bought a flight ticket.

유다에 도착한 룿은 시어머니를 돕기 위해 일을 했다 = Ruth, who arrived in Judah, to support her mother-in-law, she worked. (An excerpt from [룿 이야기](#))

한글 = Korean (writing)
 한국어 = Korean (language)
 자유의 여신상 = The Statue of Liberty
 필리핀 = The Philippines
 비행기 티켓 = flight ticket
 유다 = Judah
 룯 = Ruth
 시어머니 = Mother-in-law
 돕다 = support
 돕기 위해 = To support

09SEP

Try doing - ~해 보다

보다 means "see" and ~해 보다 is a special expression which means "try doing". This expression is used very commonly in ordinary conversations.

● Rule

Add 보다 to a spoken form of a verb. ([Verbs - Present, Past](#))

해 보다 = try doing
 가 보다 = try going
 먹어 보다 = try eating
 마셔 보다 = try drinking
 읽어 보다 = try reading
 들어 보다 = try listening
 사 보다 = try buying
 앉아 보다 = try sitting
 봐 보다 = try seeing/looking/watching
 올라가 보다 = try going up
 쳐 보다 = try playing (the instrument)

The table below is showing the written and spoken forms, and their respective positive and negative forms. Remember that the plain form of verbs is the most basic from which many other forms of verbs derive and the plain form itself is rarely used in both written and spoken Korean. I have omitted the present negatives for both written and spoken forms because people never use it in this way. Instead of saying, "don't try eating", people would say, "don't eat" which is 먹지마. There are two ways of expressing past negatives and one is more common than the other. "안~" form is more commonly used.

Factual/Declarative (Written)	Plain	Present	Past
Positive	먹어 보다	먹어 본다	먹어 봤다
Negative	먹어 보지		먹어 보지

	않다		않았다 안 먹어 봤다
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Dialogue/Conversation (Spoken)	Plain	Present	Past
Positive	먹어 보다	먹어 봐	먹어 봤어
Negative	먹어 보지 않다		먹어 보지 않았어 안 먹어 봤어

Eg.

안나는 중국 음식을 먹어 봤다. = Anna tried eating Chinese food.

찰스는 조나단 에드워즈의 책을 읽어 봤다. = Charles tried reading Jonathan Edwards' book.

예전에 먹어 봐서 코코넛을 또 사 봤다 = Because I tried eating it before, I tried buying a coconut again. ([Conjunctions - Because, So](#))

예전에 = in the past, before

또 = again

이 음악을 들어 봐! = Try listening to this music!

이 차를 마셔 봐! = Try drinking this tea!

이 언덕에 올라가 봐. 그리고 푸른하늘을 봐 봐. = Try going up this hill! And try looking at the blue sky!

독일 가 봤어? = Tried going to Germany? (= Have you been to Germany?)

이 오래된 소파에 앉아 봤어? = Tried sitting on this old sofa?

피아노 쳐 봤어? = Tried playing the piano?

Formal Form

Refer to [Verbs - Formal \[Present, Past\]](#)

Eg.

Written Form

먹어 봅니다 = try eating

먹어 봤습니다 = tried eating

먹어 보지 않았습시다 = haven't tried eating

안 먹어 봤습니다 = haven't tried eating

Spoken Form

먹어 봐요 = try eating

먹어 봤어요 = tried eating

먹어 보지 않았어요 = haven't tried eating

안 먹어 봤어요 = haven't tried eating

Of course, I've done it before - 해봤죠

(Of course), I've done it (before) - (당연히) (전에) 해봤죠

당연히 = Of course

전에 = before

해봤죠 = I've done it

Usually, when we use 해봤죠, 당연히 and 전에 are implied and omitted. So if I say, "축구 해봤죠," it means, "(Of course), I've played soccer (before)."

When 축구 해봤죠 is used as a question like "축구 해봤죠?", it means, "You have played soccer before, haven't you?"

해봤죠 is a formal form and 해봤지 is an informal form.

해봤죠 is a contracted form of 해봤지요.

Eg.

축구 해봤지. = (Of course), I've played soccer (before). [Informal]

축구 해봤지? = You have played soccer (before), haven't you?[Informal]

Usually, 봤죠 form is used as an answer to a question.

Eg.

축구 해봤어요? = Have you played soccer (before)?

축구 해봤죠 = (Of course), I've played soccer (before).

축구 안해봤죠 = (Of course), I haven't played soccer (before).

Alternative answers

(예), 축구 해봤어요 = (Yea), I've played soccer (before).

(아뇨), 축구 안해봤어요 = (No), I haven't played soccer (before).

References: [Try doing - 해 보다](#), [It's cold, isn't it? - 춥지요?](#)

Rule

Informal present spoken form of verbs + 봤죠

Eg.

해봤죠 = (Of course), I've done it (before)

먹어봤죠 = (Of course), I've tried[eaten] it (before)

가봤죠 = (Of course), I've been[gone] there (before)

사봤죠 = (Of course), I've bought it (before)

입어봤죠 = (Of course), I've tried it on[worn it] (before)

살아봤죠 = (Of course), I've lived there (before)

Example Sentences

(전에) 김치 먹어봤어요? = Have you tried kimchi (before)?

(당연히) 김치 먹어봤죠. = (Of course), I've tried kimchi (before).

서울 가봤어요? = Have you been to Seoul (before)?

서울 가봤죠. = (Of course), I've been to Seoul (before).

미국에서 살아봤죠. = (Of course), I've lived in the States (before).

파스타 만들어봤죠. = (Of course), I've made pasta (before). [Therefore, I know how to cook pasta.]

일본 가봤죠? = You've been to Japan, haven't you?

중국 안가봤죠? = You haven't been to China, have you?

카레 안먹어봤죠? = You haven't tried curry before, have you?

에콰도르에서 안 살아봤죠? = You've never lived in Ecuador before, have you?

Note: Kimchi is traditional Korean food. It is a hot and spicy pickled cabbage dish. [Link to photos of kimchi](#)

VoiceText

The VoiceText is a natural Text-to-Speech program. It lets you convert Korean sentences into audios. I think 초롱 and 다영's voices are most natural. It's a shame that 초롱 has a child's voice. 다영's voice sounds good. 혜련's voice is not too bad, either. But 유미's voice is a bit dry and 준우's voice is just too dry and sounds robotic.

Here is the link to [VoiceText](#).

Note: The website may not appear in Firefox. If this happens, try Microsoft Explorer.

Copy these sentences and paste them into the box in the VoiceText website.

전에 김치 먹어봤어요?

당연히 김치 먹어봤죠.

서울 가봤어요?

서울 가봤죠.

미국에서 살아봤죠.

파스타 만들어봤죠.

일본 가봤죠?

중국 안가봤죠?

카레 안먹어봤죠?

에콰도르에서 안 살아봤죠?

Give the favour of ~ - ~주다

This is an important lesson because ~주다 is very frequently used in ordinary conversations. First of all, 주다 means "give" and when we attach the spoken form of a verb in front of 주다, it means someone "gives the favour of doing something for someone". For example, 도와 주다 means "give the favour of helping to somebody" which essentially means "I help someone".

민희는 엄마를 도와 주었다 = Min-hee gave the favour of helping to Mom. (Min-hee helped Mom)

In the sentence above, Min-hee helped her Mom and this helping has been done to her and for her. The concept of giving is profound in the Korean language. In many occasions where somebody does something for somebody or to somebody, the sentences invariably includes ~주다.

Rule

Attach the spoken form of verbs in front of 주다.

해 주다 = give the favour of doing

가 주다 = give the favour of going

와 주다 = give the favour of coming

먹어 주다 = give the favour of eating

마셔 주다 = give the favour of drinking

읽어 주다 = give the favour of reading

써 주다 = give the favour of writing

봐 주다 = give the favour of seeing

들어 주다 = give the favour of listening

사 주다 = give the favour of buying

팔아 주다 = give the favour of selling

가르쳐 주다 = give the favour of teaching

도와 주다 = give the favour of helping

Sentences

Picture by: Ian Britton - FreeFoto.com

영호는 시내까지 같이 가 주었다 = Young-ho gave (me) the favour of going to town together (Young-ho went to town with me.)

시내 = town

같이 = together

엘리엇은 우리 집에 와 주었다 = Elliot gave (us) the favour of coming to our home.
(Elliot came to our house.)

우리 = we

집 = house

나는 동생의 밥을 먹어 주었다 = I gave my little brother/sister the favour of eating
his/her meal. (I ate my little brother's/sister's meal for them.)

동생 = little sibling (gender neutral)

밥 = meal, rice

파이퍼교수님은 우리에게 존 칼빈의 신학을 가르쳐 주었다 = Professor Piper gave
the favour of teaching John Calvin's theology to us. (Professor Piper taught us John
Calvin's theology.)

교수 = professor

님 = honorary suffix (usually attached to the name of professions which involve
teaching)

For eg. 선생님 = teacher, 목사님 = pastor, 교수님 = professor

신학 = theology

나에게 편지를 읽어 줬다 = (someone) gave the favour of reading a letter to me.

[(someone) read a letter to me (for me)]

편지 = letter

에게 = [Particles - 께/에 게/한테](#)

줬다 = the contracted form of 주었다

피터는 내 노래를 들어 줬어 = Peter gave the favour of listening to my song. [Peter
listened to my song for me.]

노래 = song

줬어 = the contracted form of 주었어 (which is the spoken form of 주었다)

어떤 아저씨가 도와 줬어요 = Some middle-aged man gave the favour of helping to me
(Some middle-aged man helped me.)

어떤 ~ = some ~ (random, passer-by)

아저씨 = middle-aged man (a general term for every married men or men aged between
approx. 27~55. On a side note, some men who are actually young get offended if some
children call him 아저씨 because that means that young man looks older than he actually
is.)

어떤 아줌마 = some middle-aged woman

아줌마 = a middle-aged woman (a general term for every married women or women
aged between approx. 27~55. Again, almost all women who are actually young get
offended or even hurt if some people call her 아줌마 because that means that young lady
looks old. Let us have some discernment.)

어떤 아이 = some child

-

Would you like to go? - 갈래요?

Would you like to go? - 갈래요?

~을(르)래요? is used when you express your desire to do something together with someone, or when you want someone to do something. So it is similar to "Would you like to do something?/Do you want to do something?" in English.

● Rule

1. For verbs without a final consonant, add 르 래요.

하다 = 할래요? = Would you like to do?

가다 = 갈래요? = Would you like to go?

사다 = 살래요? = Would you like to buy?

마시다 = 마실래요? = Would you like to drink?

2. For verbs with a final consonant, add 을래요.

먹다 = 먹을래요? = Would you like to eat?

앉다 = 앉을래요? = Would you like to sit?

읽다 = 읽을래요? = Would you like to read?

Eg.

커피 마실래요? = Would you like to drink coffee?

점심 먹을래요? = Would you like to eat lunch?

극장에 같이 갈래요? = Would like to go to the cinema together?

극장 = cinema, theatre

점심 = lunch, noon

같이 = together

Note: If you omit 요 off 을(르)래요, ie. 을(르)래 it becomes an informal form.

커피 마실래? = Would you like to drink coffee?

점심 먹을래? = Would you like to eat lunch?

극장에 같이 갈래? = Would like to go to the cinema together?

-

Shall we do something? - 우리 뭐 할까?

Shall we do something? - 우리 뭐 할까?

Rules

1. For verbs without a final consonant, attach ㄷ as a final consonant and add ㄱ.

eg. 사다 → 살까? = Shall we buy?

2. For verbs with a final consonant, attach 을까.

eg. 입다 → 입을까? = shall we wear?

Irregular

eg. 듣다 → 들을까?

하다 → 할까? = Shall we do?

가다 → 갈까? = Shall we go?

먹다 → 먹을까? = Shall we eat?

마시다 → 마실까? = Shall we drink?

보다 → 볼까? = Shall we watch?

듣다 → 들을까? = Shall we listen to?

놀다 → 놀까? = Shall we hang out/muck around?

Example Sentences

우리 놀이공원에 갈까? = Shall we go to a theme park?

우리 스타벅스에서 커피 마실까? = Shall we drink coffee at Starbucks?

우리 점심 먹으러 갈까? = Shall we go have lunch together?

해리포터 영화 보러 갈까? = Shall we go watch the Harry Potter movie?

우리 운동하러 헬스장 갈까? = Shall we go to a gym to exercise?

Note: Attach 요 to ㄷ/을 까 to make it formal.

우리 놀이공원에 갈까요? = Shall we go to a theme park?

우리 스타벅스에서 커피 마실까요? = Shall we drink coffee at Starbucks?

우리 점심 먹으러 갈까요? = Shall we go have lunch together?

해리포터 영화 보러 갈까요? = Shall we go watch the Harry Potter movie?

우리 운동하러 헬스장 갈까요? = Shall we go to a gym to exercise?

It's cold, isn't it? - 춥지요?

It's cold, isn't it? - 춥지요?

지요 is used similarly to "isn't it?" of English. For example, 춥다 means "cold", and 춥지요 means "It's cold, isn't it? or It's cold, eh? or It's cold, right?" This is used when you want to chat up somebody or when you are looking for a confirmation.

● Rule

Take 다 off an adjective and add 지요 to it.

춥다 → 춥지요 = It's cold, isn't it?

덥다 → 덥지요 = It's hot, isn't it?

많다 → 많지요 = There is a lot, isn't there?

적다 → 적지요 = There is little, isn't there?

높다 → 높지요 = It's high, isn't it?

낮다 → 낮지요 = It's low, isn't it?

크다 → 크지요 = It's large, isn't it?

작다 → 작지요 = It's small, isn't it?

좋다 → 좋지요 = It's good, isn't it?

나쁘다 → 나쁘지요 = It's bad, isn't it?

깊다 → 깊지요 = It's deep, isn't it?

맛있다 → 맛있지요 = It's delicious, isn't it?

Note: 지요 is often contracted to 죠 in speech. Therefore 춥지요 → 춥죠.

춥죠 = It's cold, isn't it?

덥죠 = It's hot, isn't it?

많죠 = There is a lot, isn't there?

적죠 = There is little, isn't there?

높죠 = It's high, isn't it?

낮죠 = It's low, isn't it?

크죠 = It's large, isn't it?

작죠 = It's small, isn't it?

좋죠 = It's good, isn't it?

나쁘죠 = It's bad, isn't it?

깊죠 = It's very deep, isn't it?

맛있죠 = It's delicious, isn't it?

Sentences

날씨가 춥죠? = The weather is cold, isn't it?

태국 날씨가 되게 덥죠? = The weather in Thailand is very hot, isn't it?

한라산이 높죠? = Mount Halla is high, isn't it?

강물이 정말 깊죠? = The river water is very deep, right?

집이 작죠? = The house is small, eh?

김치가 맛있죠? = Kimchi is delicious, isn't it?

날씨 = weather

태국 = Thailand

한라산 = Mount Halla

강물 = river water

집 = house

김치 = kimchi (A traditional Korean fermented dish made of cabbages with spicy seasonings)

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Let's do it - 하자

Let's do it - 하자

This should be easy to learn. Just replace 다 of a plain verb with 자 to make a phrase, "Let's (verb)". Note: This is an informal form.

하다 → 하자 = Let's do it

먹다 → 먹자 = Let's eat

마시다 → 마시자 = Let's drink

가다 → 가자 = Let's go

앉다 → 앉자 = Let's sit

보다 → 보자 = Let's see

읽다 → 읽자 = Let's read

쓰다 → 쓰자 = Let's write

듣다 → 듣자 = Let's listen

달리다 → 달리자 = Let's run

걷다 → 걷자 = Let's walk

사다 → 사자 = Let's buy

팔다 → 팔자 = Let's sell

Example Sentences

우리 = we

같이 = together

(우리) (같이) 농구 하자 = Let's do basketball. (Let's play basketball)

(우리) (같이) 피자 먹자 = Let's eat a pizza (together)

(우리) (같이) 커피 마시자 = Let's drink coffee (together)

(우리) (같이) 바닷가 가자 = Let's go to beach (together)

(우리) (같이) 벤치에 앉자 = Let's sit on the bench (together)

(우리) (같이) 영화 보자 = Let's watch a movie (together)

(우리) (같이) 교과서 읽자 = Let's read a textbook (together)

(우리) (같이) 아이포드 듣자 = Let's listen to ipod (together)

(우리) (같이) 새 신발 사자 = Let's buy new shoes (together)

(우리) (같이) 저 냉장고 팔자 = Let's sell that fridge (together)

The formal form of "Let's (verb)" is exactly the same as that of the formal spoken present form. You may want to refer to [Verbs - Formal \[Present, Past\]](#) "Please" is implied in the phrase.

하다 → 해요 = (Please.) Let's do it

먹다 → 먹어요 = (Please.) Let's eat

마시다 → 마셔요 = (Please.) Let's drink
가다 → 가요 = (Please.) Let's go
앉다 → 앉아요 = (Please.) Let's sit
보다 → 봐요 = (Please.) Let's see
읽다 → 읽어요 = (Please.) Let's read
쓰다 → 써요 = (Please.) Let's write
듣다 → 들어요 = (Please.) Let's listen
달리다 → 달려요 = (Please.) Let's run
걷다 → 걸어요 = (Please.) Let's walk
사다 → 사요 = (Please.) Let's buy
팔다 → 팔아요 = (Please.) Let's sell

Example Sentences

우리 = we

같이 = together

(우리) (같이) 농구 해요 = [Please] Let's do basketball (Let's play basketball)

(우리) (같이) 피자 먹어요 = [Please] Let's eat a pizza (together)

(우리) (같이) 커피 마셔요 = [Please] Let's drink coffee (together)

(우리) (같이) 바닷가 가요 = [Please] Let's go to beach (together)

(우리) (같이) 벤치에 앉아요 = [Please] Let's sit on the bench (together)

(우리) (같이) 영화 봐요 = [Please] Let's watch a movie (together)

(우리) (같이) 교과서 읽어요 = [Please] Let's read a textbook (together)

(우리) (같이) 아이포드 들어요 = [Please] Let's listen to ipod (together)

(우리) (같이) 새 신발 사요 = [Please] Let's buy new shoes (together)

(우리) (같이) 저 냉장고 팔아요 = [Please] Let's sell that fridge (together)

Easy to do / Difficult to do - ~기 쉽다 / ~기 어렵다

Easy to do / Difficult to do - ~기 쉽다 / ~기 어렵다

This one is easy to learn. All you need to do is attach a nominalized verb to 쉽다 or 어렵다 to say that something is easy or difficult.

Written Forms

하기 쉽다 = easy to do
이해하기 쉽다 = easy to understand
풀기 쉽다 = easy to solve
보기 쉽다 = easy to see
듣기 쉽다 = easy to listen
말하기 쉽다 = easy to say
가기 쉽다 = easy to go

Spoken Forms

하기 쉬워 = easy to do
이해하기 쉬워 = easy to understand
풀기 쉬워 = easy to solve
보기 쉬워 = easy to see
듣기 쉬워 = easy to listen
말하기 쉬워 = easy to say
가기 쉬워 = easy to go

Written Forms

하기 어렵다 = difficult to do
이해하기 어렵다 = difficult to understand
풀기 어렵다 = difficult to solve
보기 어렵다 = difficult to see
듣기 어렵다 = difficult to listen
말하기 어렵다 = difficult to say
가기 어렵다 = difficult to go

Spoken Forms

하기 어려워 = difficult to do
이해하기 어려워 = difficult to understand
풀기 어려워 = difficult to solve
보기 어려워 = difficult to see
듣기 어려워 = difficult to listen
말하기 어려워 = difficult to say
가기 어려워 = difficult to go

Eg.

이 문제 풀어봤어? = Have you tried solving this problem? [[Try doing - 해 보다](#)]

어. 이 문제는 정말 풀기 어려워. = Yes. This problem is really difficult to solve.

우리 서커스 보러 가자. = Let's go watch a circus.

사람들이 너무 많아서 보기 어려워 = Because of the crowd, it's difficult to see.

여자는 이해하기 어려워요 = It's difficult to understand woman.

아니에요. 남자가 더 이해하기 어려워요 = No. Man is more difficult to understand.

그렇게 생각해요? = Do you think so?

네. 정말 그렇게 생각해요. = Yes. I surely do.

제 말 들리세요? = Can you hear me?

아니요. 음악 소리 때문에 듣기 어려워요. = No. Because of the sound of music, it's difficult to hear.

낚시 가르쳐 주세요 = please teach me how to do fishing [[Give the favour of doing - 해주다](#)]

그래요. 낚시는 하기 쉬워요. = Ok. Fishing is easy to do.

문제 = problem

풀다 = solve

풀어보다 = try solving

서커스 = circus

남자 = man

여자 = woman

생각하다 = think

그렇게 생각하다 = think so

정말 = really, very

너무 = very

음악 = music

소리 = sound

낚시 = fishing

I (don't) know how - 어떻게 하는지 알아/몰라

Written Form	I know how to do	I don't know how to do
Informal	어떻게 하는지 안다	어떻게 하는지 모른다
Formal	어떻게 하는지 압니다	어떻게 하는지 모릅니다.

Spoken Form	I know how to do	I don't know how to do
Informal	어떻게 하는지 알아	어떻게 하는지 몰라
Formal	어떻게 하는지 알아요	어떻게 하는지 몰라요

Note: I include the written form of this expression for the sake of completeness. However, please focus on the spoken form as the expression is mainly used in conversations.

Rules

1. Take 다 off a plain form/past tense of verbs and attach 는지 알아.
(Exception: For those verbs which contain ㄹ as a final consonant, take it off. eg. 만들다 → 만드느니 알아)

2. Attach 요 to 알아/몰라 to turn it into a formal form.

- 어떻게 하는지 알아 = I know how to do
- 어떻게 먹는지 알아 = I know how to eat
- 어떻게 가는지 알아 = I know how to go
- 어떻게 보는지 알아 = I know how to see
- 어떻게 듣는지 알아 = I know how to listen
- 어떻게 사용하는지 알아 = I know how to use
- 어떻게 만드느니 알아 = I know how to make
- 어떻게 입느니 알아 = I know how to wear
- 어떻게 하는지 몰라 = I don't know how to do
- 어떻게 가는지 몰라 = I don't know how to go

Example sentences

용준이는 김치찌게 어떻게 만드는지 알아요. = Yong-jun knows how to make(cook) kimchi stew.

"줄리아! 라면 어떻게 끓이는지 알아?" = "Julia! Do you know how to boil(cook) noodle soup?"

내가 이 큰 물고기 어떻게 잡았는지 알아? 이 물고기가 힘이 좋아서 정말 힘들게 잡았어. = Do you know how I caught this big fish? This fish has good strength and so I caught it with a lot of effort.

저는 나무 어떻게 심는지 알아요. = I know how to plant a tree.

이 리모콘 어떻게 사용하는지 알아? = Do you know how to use this remote controller?

서울에 어떻게 가는지 아세요? = Do you know how to go(get) to Seoul?

부산에 어떻게 가는지 몰라. = I don't know how to go to Busan.

넥타이 어떻게 매는지 몰라요. = I don't know how to tie a necktie.

할아버지는 문자 어떻게 보내는지 모르세요. = Grandpa doesn't know how to send a text message.

Note: 아세요 and 모르세요 are honorific forms of 알아 and 몰라 respectively. 아세요 and 모르세요 are only used for second- and third-persons.

For eg,

I know how to use the subway.

전 지하철 어떻게 이용하는지 아세요.

전 지하철 어떻게 이용하는지 알아요.

Do you know how to use the subway?

지하철 어떻게 이용하는지 아세요?

He/she already knows how to use the subway.

벌써 지하철 어떻게 이용하는지 아세요.

I'm in the habit of - ~되면 ~게 돼요

This phrase has two parts. The first part is ~게 되면, and the second part is ~게 돼요.

For example,

음식점에 가게 되면, 비빔밥을 주문하게 돼요 = When(If) I go to the restaurant, I'm in the habit of ordering Bibimbap

음식점 = a restaurant

가다 = go

가게 되면 = When(if) I go

비빔밥 = a Korean dish

주문 = order (n.)

주문하다 = order (v.)

주문하게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of ordering

Note: The plain form of 되면 and 돼요 is 되다 which means "to become." Therefore, the literal translation of the sentence above is:

음식점에 가게 되면, 비빔밥을 주문하게 돼요 = When(If) it becomes that I go to a restaurant, it becomes that I order bibimbap

Also, in the first part when a noun is used instead of a verb, 이/가 되면 is used instead.

For example,

아침이 되면, 신문을 보게 된다 = When it is morning, I'm in the habit of reading a newspaper

The literal translation of the sentence above is, "When it 'becomes' morning, I 'become' reading a newspaper."

This sentence doesn't make any sense in English, nevertheless I hope you get the nuance of the phrase.

Rule

Take 다 off a plain form of verbs and attach 게 되면/게 돼요 to it.

하다(do) → 하게 되면 = When I do

하다(do) → 하게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of doing

하게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of doing

가게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of going

오게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of coming

먹게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of eating

자게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of sleeping

말하게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of speaking

듣게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of listening

보게 돼요 = I'm in the habit of watching

Example Sentences

늦은 밤이 되면, 아이스크림을 먹게 돼요 = When(If) it is late at night, I'm in the habit of eating an icecream

정오가 되면 졸려서 낮잠을 자게 돼요 = When(If) it is noon, because I'm tired(sleepy), I'm in the habit of dozing(sleeping).

컴퓨터만 키게 되면, 음악을 듣게 돼요 = When(If) I turn on the computer, I'm in the habit of listening to music.

시내만 나가게 되면, 영화를 보게 돼요 = When(If) I go to town, I'm in the habit of watching movies.

운동만 하게 되면, 물을 많이 마시게 돼요 = When(If) I exercise, I'm in the habit of drinking lots of water.

Addressing friend's name

When a person is addressed 아/야 is attached to their name. If my name were 진우[Jin-u], my friend would call me, 진우야! [Jin-u-ya]. This is like "Hey 진우/Jin-u!"

This colloquialism should only be used between close friends. This is an informal expression. At school, friends call each other this way, and teachers to students but not vice versa.

Note that 야 is used for names without a final consonant and 아 for names with a final consonant.

Eg.

진욱 → 진욱아!

This is pronounced [지누가:Ji-nu-ga] since ㅇ has no sound when used as an initial consonant.

진우 → 진우야!

It is pronounced [지누야:Ji-nu-ya]

영희 → 영희야!

철수 → 철수야!

경일 → 경일아!

So when you call your Korean friend's name, just add 아/야 to their name.

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