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Free Lesson Notes

Korean Present Tense

To make the present tense in Korean you must take the basic 'dictionary form' of a verb (e.g. 먹다 [meok-da] = to eat) and conjugate it together with the correct ending.

Step 1

Remove **다** from the verb so you are left with the verb stem.
For example, if you drop **다** from 먹**다** [meok-da] you're left with **먹** [meok].

Step 2

Add one of the following endings: **아요 / 어요 / 여요**.
The ending you add depends on the conjugation rules below.

Present Tense Conjugation Rules

아요	어요	여요
Add **아요** if the last vowel in the verb stem is ㅏ or ㅗ.	Add **어요** if the last vowel in the verb stem is NOT ㅏ or ㅗ.	Add **여요** if the verb ends in **하다**.
Example:	**Example:**	**Example:**
살다 [sal-da] = to live	먹다 [meok-da] = to eat	일하다 [il-ha-da] = to work
살다 + 아요 = 살아요	먹다 + 어요 = 먹어요	일하다 + 여요 = 일해요