**Unit 1-lesson 3**

Okay, now it is time to get serious. Now it is time to start learning things that you can apply to *any*verb or *any*adjective. There are a few things you need to know about Korean verbs and adjectives:

1. I said this before (twice) but I’m going to say it again. Every Korean sentence must end in either a verb or an adjective (this includes 이다 and 있다). Every sentence absolutely must have a verb or adjective at the end of the sentence.
2. You should notice (it took me months to notice) that *every*Korean verb and adjective ends with the syllable ‘다.’ 100% of the time, the last syllable in a verb or adjective must be ‘다.’ Look up at the vocabulary from this lesson if you don’t believe me.
3. In addition to ending in ‘다’ many verbs and adjectives end with the two syllables ‘하다.’ ‘하다’ means ‘do.’ Verbs ending in 하다 are amazing, because you can simply eliminate the ‘하다’ to make the noun form of that verb/adjective.  
   Confused? I was at first too. In fact, I don’t think I knew this until 3 months after I started studying Korean – but it is something so essential to learning the language. It is confusing to English speakers because we don’t realize that words can have a verb/adjective form AND a noun form.

For example:  
행복하다 = happy  
행복 = happiness

성공하다 = succeed  
성공 = success

말하다 = speak  
말 = speech/words

성취하다 = achieve  
성취 = achievement

취득하다 = acquire  
취득 = acquisition

You don’t need to memorize those words yet (they are difficult), but it is important for you to realize that ‘하다’ can be removed from words in order to create nouns.

Verbs/adjectives that end in “~하다” are typically of Chinese origin and have an equivalent Hanja (한자) form. Verbs that do not end in “~하다” are of Korean origin and do not have a Hanja form. If you can speak Chinese, you will probably have an advantage at learning more difficult Korean vocabulary, as a lot of difficult Korean words have a Chinese origin.

Korean Verbs

We have already talked about verbs a little bit in previous lessons, but nothing has been formally taught. You learned the basic verb sentence structure in Lesson 1. Let’s look at this again. If you want to say “I eat food” you should know how to use the particles 는/은 and 를/을:

I eat food  
I는 food를 eat  
To make a sentence, you simply need to substitute the English words with Korean words:  
저는 + 음식을 + 먹다  
저는 음식을 먹다 = I eat food

\*Note – Although the structure of the sentences presented in this lesson is perfect, the verbs are not d, and thus, not perfect. You will learn about conjugating in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/) and [Lesson 6](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-6/). Before learning how to , however, it is essential that you understand the word-order of these sentences. However, because of some strange Korean grammatical rules, the sentences provided in the “Adjectives” section are technically perfect but are presented in an uncommon (but simplest) conjugation pattern.

As with the previous lessons, we have attached audio recordings only to sentences that are grammatically correct. Incorrect sentences (due to not being d) do not have audio recordings. Again, you will learn about these conjugations in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/) and [Lesson 6](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-6/). For now, try to understand the word order of the sentences and how the verbs/adjectives are being used.

As with previous lessons, d examples (one formal and one informal) are provided beneath the un- d examples. Use these only for reference at this point.

Let’s look at some examples:

나는 케이크를 만들다 = I make a cake  
([나는 케이크를 만들어 / 저는 케이크를 만들어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-3-1.mp3))

나는 배를 원하다 = I want a boat  
([나는 배를 원해 / 저는 배를 원해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-3-2.mp3))

나는 한국어를 말하다 = I speak Korean  
([나는 한국어를 말해 / 저는 한국어를 말해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-3-3.mp3))

나는 공원에 가다 = I go to the park (notice the particle 에)  
([나는 공원에 가 / 저는 공원에 가요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-3-4.mp3))

나는 문을 닫다 = I close the door  
([나는 문을 닫아 / 저는 문을 닫아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-3-5.mp3))

나는 창문을 열다 = I open the window  
([나는 창문을 열어 / 저는 창문을 열어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-3-6.mp3))

Remember that sentences with verbs don’t necessarily need to have an object in them if the context allows for it.

나는 이해하다 = I understand  
([나는 이해해 / 저는 이해해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-3-7.mp3))

Some verbs by default cannot act on an object. Words like: sleep, go, die, etc. You cannot say something like “I slept home”, or “I went restaurant”, or “I died her.” You can use nouns in sentences with those verbs, but only with the use of other particles – some of which you have learned already (~에) and some that you will learn in later lessons. With the use of other particles you can say things like:

I slept *at*home  
I went *to*the restaurant  
I died *with*her

We will get into more complicated particles in later lessons, but here I want to focus on the purpose of ~를/을 and its function as an object particle.

**Unit 1-lesson 4:**

Nouns:  
[길](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-1.mp3) = street

[거리](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-2.mp3) = street/road

[손](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-4.mp3) = hand

[영어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-5.mp3) = English

[택시](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-6.mp3) = taxi

[열차](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-7.mp3) = train

[역](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-8.mp3) = train/subway station

[버스 정류장](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-9.mp3) = bus stop

[비행기](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-10.mp3) = airplane

[자전거](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-11.mp3) = bicycle

[아내](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-12.mp3) = wife

[아이](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-13.mp3) = child

[아들](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-14.mp3) = son

[딸](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-15.mp3) = daughter

[남편](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-16.mp3) = husband

[아버지](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-17.mp3) = father

[어머니](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-18.mp3) = mother

[편지](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-19.mp3) = letter

[맛](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-20.mp3) = taste

[식사](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-21.mp3) = meal

[아침](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-22.mp3) = morning

[아침식사](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-23.mp3) = breakfast

[물](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-24.mp3) = water

[사과](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-25.mp3) = apple

[돈](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Lesson-11-vocab-14.mp3) = money

Verbs:  
[오다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-26.mp3) = to come

[끝내다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-27.mp3) = to finish

[춤추다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-28.mp3) = to dance

[알다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-29.mp3) = to know

[걷다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-30.mp3) = to walk

[배우다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-31.mp3) = to learn

[연습하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-32.mp3) = to practice

[생각하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-33.mp3) = to think

[살다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-34.mp3) = to live

Passive Verbs:  
[끝나다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-35.mp3) = to be finished

Adjectives:  
[위험하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-36.mp3) = to be dangerous

[잘생기다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-37.mp3) = to be handsome

[못생기다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-38.mp3) = to be ugly

[피곤하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-39.mp3) = to be tired

[다르다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-40.mp3) = to be different

[슬프다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-41.mp3) = to be sad

[맛있다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-42.mp3) = to be delicious

[재미있다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-43.mp3) = to be fun, to be funny

[많다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-44.mp3) = to be many of, to be a lot of

[행복하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-45.mp3) = to be happy

Adverbs and Other Words:  
[거기](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-46.mp3) = there

[저기](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-47.mp3) = there (when farther away)

[지금](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-48.mp3) = now

[하지만](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-49.mp3) = but

*There are 1050 vocabulary entries in Unit 1. All entries are linked to an audio file.  
You can download all of these files in one package*

For help memorizing these words, try using our

You might also want to try listening to all of the words on loop with this 

Common Greeting Words

I wish I could tell you not to worry about these. Of course, I can tell you “don’t worry about these,” but I don’t think that will do. When learning a language, everybody wants to learn these words as soon as possible. I understand that completely, but I have purposely waited to teach you these types of words. In fact, I *still* don’t want to show them to you – but at this point I am sure you are asking yourself “I’ve gotten this far and I still don’t even know how to say ‘goodbye’ yet!”

In Korean, it is much easier to understand these words/phrases if you also understand why they are used the way they are. Unfortunately, we haven’t reached the point where you can understand this. We will get to that in a few more lessons. Either way, here are some very common phrases which I am sure you are dying to know:

[안녕히 가세요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-4-1.mp3) = Goodbye (said to somebody going)  
[안녕히 계세요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-4-2.mp3) = Goodbye (said to somebody staying)  
[만나서 반갑습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-4-3.mp3) = Nice to meet you  
[실례합니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-4-4.mp3) = Excuse me  
[죄송합니다/미안합니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-4-5.mp3) = Sorry  
[이름이 뭐예요?](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-4-6.mp3) = What is your name?  
저의 이름은 \_\_\_\_\_\_이에요 = My name is  
 [어디에서 왔어요?](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-4-7.mp3) = Where are you from?  
저는 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_에서 왔어요 = I am from

If you can’t memorize them, that is okay. I still maintain the position that *you should put off memorizing these until you can understand the grammar within them.*

Now that we have gotten that out of the way, let’s start studying some actual material.

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Using Adjectives ~ㄴ/은

Alright, this won’t help you understand those greeting words any better, but what you are about to learn is a major step in learning Korean. You should remember these two important facts from the previous lesson:

* All sentences must end with either a verb or adjective
* All verbs/adjectives end with the syllable ‘다’

Although both of those are true (and always will be), let’s look at them more deeply:

* All sentences must end with either a verb or adjective  
  Yes, but verbs and adjectives can ALSO go elsewhere in a sentence. In the previous lesson, you learned this sentence:

저는 배를 원하다 = I want a boat  
([나는 배를 원해 / 저는 배를 원해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Lesson-4-new1.mp3))

But what if you want to say: “I want a big boat.” In that sentence, there is a verb and an adjective. Where should we put the adjective? In Korean, this adjective is placed in the same position as in English. For example:

나는 배를 원하다 = I want a boat  
나는 big 배를 원하다 = I want a big boat

Simple. So we just substitute the Korean word for big (크다) into that sentence?:

나는 크다 배를 원하다 = Not correct. Not by a long shot.

Remember that second rule I taught you?:

* All verbs/adjectives end with the syllable ‘다’  
  – Yes, but the version of the word with ‘다’ as the last syllable is simply the dictionary form of that word and is rarely used. Every verb/adjective in Korean has a ‘stem,’ which is made up of everything preceding 다 in the dictionary form of the word. Let’s look at some examples:

크다 = 크 (stem) + 다  
작다 = 작 (stem) + 다  
좋다 = 좋 (stem) + 다  
길다 = 길 (stem) + 다  
배우다 = 배우 (stem) + 다

Most of the time, when you deal with a verb/adjective, you eliminate ~다 and add something to the stem.

When you want to make an adjective that can describe a noun, as in:

small boy  
big boat  
delicious hamburger  
soft hand

you must eliminate ‘~다’ and add ~ㄴ or ~은 to the stem of the adjective.

Words in which the last syllable of the stem ends in a vowel  (크다/비싸다/싸다) you add ~ㄴ to the last syllable:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Stem | Adjective that can describe a noun | Example | Translation |
| 크다 | 크 | 큰 | 큰 배 | Big boat |
| 비싸다 | 비싸 | 비싼 | 비싼 음식 | Expensive food |
| 싸다 | 싸 | 싼 | 싼 것 | Cheap thing |

Words in which the last syllable of the stem ends in a consonant (작다/좋다/많다) you add ~은 to the stem:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Stem | Adjective that can describe a noun | Example | Translation |
| 작다 | 작 | 작은 | 작은 남자 | Small man |
| 좋다 | 좋 | 좋은 | 좋은 아들 | Good son |
| 많다 | 많 | 많은 | 많은 돈 | A lot of money |

Looking back to what we were trying to write before:

I want a big boat = 저는 크다 배를 원하다 = incorrect  
I want a big boat = 저는 큰 배를 원하다 = correct

The key to understanding this is being able to understand the difference between the following:

[음식은 비싸다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Food-is-expensive.mp3) = The food is expensive  
[비싼 음식](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Expensive-Food.mp3) = expensive food

The first example is a sentence. The second example is not a sentence. The second sentence needs more words in order for it to be a sentence. You need to add either a verb or adjective that predicates the noun of “expensive food.” For example:

나는 비싼 음식을 먹다 = I eat expensive food  
([나는 비싼 음식을 먹어 / 저는 비싼 음식을 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/111.mp3))  
The verb *“to eat”*predicates this sentence.

저는 비싼 음식을 좋아하다 = I like expensive food  
([나는 비싼 음식을 좋아해 / 저는 비싼 음식을 좋아해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/121.mp3))  
The verb *“to like”*predicates this sentence.

비싼 음식은 맛있다 = Expensive food is delicious  
([비싼 음식은 맛있어 / 비싼 음식은 맛있어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/132.mp3))  
The adjective*“to be delicious”*predicates this sentence. Notice that there is no object in this sentence.

(Remember, for the last time – you do not know how to verbs and adjectives at the end of a sentence yet. This will be introduced in the next lesson. Because you do not know how to verbs/adjectives at the ends of sentences, examples with un- d forms are presented in this lesson. Remember that these sentences are technically incorrect, but understanding them is crucial to your understanding of the Korean sentence structure.

As with the previous three lessons, I have provided d examples below each un- d example. You will probably not be able to understand these conjugations.)

More examples of using adjectives to describe nouns within a sentence:

나는 작은 집에 가다 = I go to the small house  
([나는 작은 집에 가 / 저는 작은 집에 가요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-1.mp3))

나는 큰 차를 원하다 = I want a big car  
([나는 큰 차를 원해 / 저는 큰 차를 원해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/151.mp3))

나는 잘생긴 남자를 만나다 = I meet a handsome man  
([나는 잘생긴 남자를 만나 / 저는 잘생긴 남자를 만나요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-2.mp3))

나는 많은 돈이 있다 = I have a lot of money  
([나는 많은 돈이 있어 / 저는 많은 돈이 있어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-3.mp3))

나는 뚱뚱한 학생을 만나다 = I meet a fat student  
([나는 뚱뚱한 학생을 만나 / 저는 뚱뚱한 학생을 만나요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-4-s9.mp3))

*In Lessons 1 and 2, I explained that adjectives cannot “act” on objects. Many learners look at the sentences above and say “Hey! Those sentences have an object and an adjective!” Adjectives cannot act on an object to predicate a sentence. This means you cannot use a sentence like this (in either language):*

나는 집을 작다 = I small house

*However, I didn’t say anything about adjectives and objects being used in the same sentence. Adjectives can be used to describe an object that is being predicated by a verb. I will continue to talk about this in the examples below.*

In all of the examples above, notice the difference in function between when an adjective is used to describe a noun compared to when it is used to predicate a sentence. For example:

나는 작은 집에 가다 = I go to the small house  
( [나는 작은 집에 가 / 저는 작은 집에 가요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-1.mp3))  
The verb*“to go”*predicates this sentence.

그 집은 작다 = That house is small  
([그 집은 작아 / 그 집은 작아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-4-s11.mp3))  
The adjective*“to be small”*predicates this sentence. Notice that there is no object in this sentence.

저는 큰 차를 원하다 = I want a big car  
([나는 큰 차를 원해 / 저는 큰 차를 원해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/151.mp3))  
The *verb “to want”*predicates this sentence.

이 차는 크다 = This car is big  
([이 차는 커 / 이 차는 커요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/221.mp3))  
The adjective*“to be big”*predicates this sentence. Notice that there is no object in this sentence.

In each of the examples above, even though the adjective always acts as a descriptive word, in the cases when they are placed before nouns to describe them – those nouns are able to be placed anywhere in the sentence (for example, as the subject, object, location, or other places). This same thing happens in English, where I can have a simple sentence like this:

남자는 음식을 먹다 = The man eats food  
([남자는 음식을 먹어 / 남자는 음식을 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/23.mp3))

I can use adjectives to describe each noun in the sentence. For example:

행복한 여자는 작은 차 안에 있다 = The happy girl is inside the small car  
([행복한 여자는 작은 차 안에 있어 / 행복한 여자는 작은 차 안에 있어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/24.mp3))

You will see some adjectives that end in “~있다.” The most common of these for a beginner are:

[맛있다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-42.mp3) = delicious  
[재미있다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-4-43.mp3) = fun, funny

When an adjective ends in “~있다” like this, instead of attaching ~ㄴ/은 to the stem, you must attach ~는 to the stem. For example:

그 남자는 재미있는 남자이다 = that man is a funny man  
([그 남자는 재미있는 남자야 / 그 남자는 재미있는 남자예요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-5.mp3))

나는 맛있는 음식을 먹다 = I eat delicious food  
([나는 맛있는 음식을 먹어 / 저는 맛있는 음식을 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-6.mp3))

The difference here is due to what I call the “~는 것” principle. For now, you do not need to think about why ~는 is added instead of ~ㄴ/은. It is sufficient at this point to just memorize it as an exception. The concept behind this grammatical rule is introduced in [Lesson 26](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/lesson-26/) and I continue to discuss it into [other Lessons in Unit 2](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/). This concept is related to *verbs*being able to describe nouns. For example:

“The man who I met yesterday will go to the park that I want to go to”

However, this is very complex and is the whole basis to the ~는 것 principle that I mentioned earlier. As I said, you will begin to learn about this in [Lesson 26](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/lesson-26/).

To be a lot of: 많다

A good way to practice your understanding of how adjectives can be used to describe a noun in a sentence or to predicate an entire sentence is to apply your knowledge to the word “많다.” 많다 is an adjective that describes that there is “many’ or “a lot” of something. Its translation to English usually depends on how it is used in a sentence. For example, when used to describe nouns in a sentence, it can be used in the following way:

나는 많은 음식을 먹다 = I eat a lot of food  
( [나는 많은 음식을 먹어 / 저는 많은 음식을 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-7.mp3))

나는 많은 돈이 있다 = I have a lot of money  
([나는 많은 돈이 있어 / 저는 많은 돈이 있어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-8.mp3))

나는 많은 아내가 있다 = I have a lot of wives (ha!)  
([나는 많은 아내가 있어 / 저는 많은 아내가 있어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-9.mp3))

Now, if we use “많다” to predicate a sentence, it can be used like this:

사람이 많다

In your Korean studies, you need to realize that it is never effective to think of a Korean sentence as an exact translation in English. The fact is, Korean and English grammar are completely different, and trying to force the rules/structure of English into Korean is unnatural. If we stuck with the translation of “a lot of” for the meaning of “많다” and forced the English translation to the sentence “사람이 많다”, we would get:

People are a lot of

… But that clearly is not accurate. Instead, what is the sentence “사람이 많다” describing? It is describing that there is a lot of something, therefore, the translation should be:

사람이 많다 = there is a lot of people  
( [사람이 많아 / 사람이 많아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-10.mp3))

Therefore, when 많다 predicates a sentence, its translation is usually “There is/are a lot of…”. Here is another example:

음식이 많다 = there is a lot of food  
( [음식이 많아 / 음식이 많아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-11.mp3))

Of course, this can be applied to very complex sentences as well, but this is just the very beginning. Eventually, you will be able to make a sentence like:

There are a lot of singers who become famous and spend all of their money too quickly

This sentence as well would also end in “많다.” The structure would basically be:

(singers who become famous and spend all of their money too quickly)가 많다

You are still very far from understanding how complex sentences like that work, but I want to show you that the content you learned in this lesson brings you one step closer.

Also notice that the particles 이/가 are attached to the subjects in sentences ending with “많다.” There are some words where the use of the particles ~이/가 on the subject of the sentence is more natural than the use of ~는/은. 많다 is one of these words. We will continue to tell you in which situations it is more natural to use ~이/가 instead of ~은/는 as we progress through our lessons.

Particle ~도

~도 is another particle that is very useful in Korean. It has the meaning of “too/as well.” It can replace the subject  particles (는/은) OR the object particles (를/을), depending on what you are saying “too” with. For example:

저도 한국어를 말하다 = I speak Korean as well (In addition to other people)  
( [나도 한국어를 말해 / 저**도**한국어를 말해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-12.mp3))

which is different from:

저는 한국어도 말하다 = I speak Korean as well (in addition to other languages)  
( [나는 한국어도 말해 / 저는 한국어**도** 말해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-13.mp3))

Make sure you notice the difference between the previous two examples. In English these two are written the same, but sound different when speaking. In the first example, you are emphasizing that YOU also speak Korean, in addition to other people that you are talking about. In the second example, you are emphasizing that (in addition to other languages), you also speak Korean.  
See the two examples below for the same issue:

저도 사과를 먹다 = I eat apples as well  
( [나도 사과를 먹어 / 저도 사과를 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-14.mp3))

저는 사과도 먹다 = I eat apples as well  
( [나는 사과도 먹어 / 저는 사과도 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-15.mp3))

Notice the difference in pronunciation in English. The first one has the meaning of “other people eat some apples, but I too eat some apples.” The second example has the meaning of “I eat some other food as well, but I also eat apples.” It is important to recognize that whatever noun “~도” is attached to is the thing that is being expressed as “too.” More examples:

나도 그것을 알다 = I know that, too  
( [나도 그것을 알아 / 저도 그것을 알아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson4nnsent1.mp3))

나도 피곤하다 = I am tired, too  
( [나도 피곤해 / 저도 피곤해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-17.mp3))

나의 딸도 행복하다 = My daughter is happy, too  
( [나의 딸도 행복해 / 저의 딸도 행복해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/sLesson-4-18.mp3))

**Unit 1-lesson 5:**

Nouns:  
[동생](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s1.mp3) = younger sibling

[남동생](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s2.mp3) = younger brother

[여동생](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s3.mp3) = younger sister

[형](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-1.mp3) = older brother

[오빠](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-2.mp3) = older brother

[누나](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-3.mp3) = older sister

[언니](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-4.mp3) = older sister

[삼촌](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-5.mp3) = uncle

[이모](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-6.mp3) = aunt (on mother’s side)

[고모](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-7.mp3) = aunt (on father’s side)

[아저씨](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-8.mp3)  = older man not related to you

[아주머니](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-9.mp3) = older woman not related to you

[할아버지](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-10.mp3) = grandfather

[할머니](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-11.mp3) = grandmother

[친구](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-12.mp3) = friend

[사진](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-13.mp3) = picture

[안경](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-14.mp3) = glasses

[비밀](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-15.mp3) = secret

[비](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-16.mp3) = rain

[가게](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-17.mp3) = store/shop

[박물관](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-18.mp3) = museum

[가스 레인지](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-19.mp3) = stove (gas range)

[오리](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-20.mp3) = duck (animal)

[꼬리](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-21.mp3) = tail

[공](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson18v18.mp3) = ball

Verbs:  
[기대하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-23.mp3) = to expect

[건너다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-24.mp3) = to cross (a road/etc)

[던지다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-25.mp3) = to throw

[싫어하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-27.mp3) = to not like

[떠나다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-28.mp3) = to leave somewhere

[농담하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-29.mp3) = to joke

[공부하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-14.mp3) = to study

Adjectives:  
[지루하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-30.mp3) = to be boring

[마르다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-31.mp3) = for a person to be too thin

[멀다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-33.mp3) = to be far away

[마르다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-31.mp3) = to be dry

[비슷하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-35.mp3) = to be similar

[싫다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-36.mp3) = to not be good

[오래되다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-32.mp3) = for an object to be old

[배고프다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Lesson27v45.mp3) = to be hungry

Adverbs and Other Words:  
[오늘](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-37.mp3) = today

[어제](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-45.mp3) = yesterday

[내일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-46.mp3) = tomorrow

[모레](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-47.mp3) = the day after tomorrow

[년](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-48.mp3) = year

[일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-49.mp3) = day

[시간](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-50.mp3) = time

Days of the Week:  
 [월요일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-38.mp3) = Monday  
 [화요일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-39.mp3) = Tuesday  
 [수요일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-40.mp3) = Wednesday  
 [목요일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-41.mp3) = Thursday  
 [금요일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-42.mp3) = Friday  
 [토요일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-43.mp3) = Saturday  
 [일요일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-5-44.mp3) = Sunday

*There are 1050 vocabulary entries in Unit 1. All entries are linked to an audio file.  
You can download all of these files in one package*[*here*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/audio/)*.*

For help memorizing these words, try using our [Memrise tool](http://www.memrise.com/course/150816/howtostudykoreancom-unit-1-2/5/).

You might also want to try listening to all of the words on loop with this [Vocabulary Practice video](https://youtu.be/I7a0fqpmNTE).

How to say “I” or “me” in Korean

First of all, I want to point out the difference between “I” and “me” in English. This is something that I never knew/realized until I started to learn Korean as you will find that learning a foreign language will vastly increase your understanding of your mother tongue and languages in general. In English “I” and “me” have the same meaning, but they differ in their usage. When the speaker is the subject of a sentence “I” is used. When the speaker is the object (or other part) of a sentence “me” is used. For example:

I love you (“I” is the subject of the sentence)  
You love me (“me” is the object of the sentence)

In Korean, the same word is used to say “I” or “me.” That is, there is no difference in the Korean word if it used as a subject or object. However, remember that different *particles*will have to be attached to these words.

Although the word in Korean for “I/me” doesn’t change based on its usage in a sentence, it *does* change based on the politeness of a sentence. For example:

저 means “I/me” and is used in formal situations  
나 means “I/me” and is used in informal situations

~는 can be attached to 저 and 나 to indicate “I” is the subject of a sentence. For example:  
저는  
나는  
*(I am purposely not providing example sentences because you still haven’t learned proper conjugations. You will finally learn about conjugations in this lesson)*

~를 can be attached to 저 and 나 to indicate that “me” is the object of a sentence. For example:  
저를  
나를  
*(I am purposely not providing example sentences because you still haven’t learned proper conjugations. You will finally learn about conjugations in this lesson)*

~가 can be attached to 저 and 나 to indicate “I” is the subject of a sentence or clause. I have already briefly distinguished the difference between ~이/가 and ~은/는 in [Lesson 2](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-2/). The difference between these particles is very subtle and takes years to fully grasp. I discuss these differences more deeply in [Lesson 17](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-17-25-2/lesson-17/) and [Lesson 22](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-17-25-2/lesson-22/) but this isn’t immediately important to you right now. What is immediately important to you is that you remember that when ~가 is attached 나 changes to 내, and 저 changes to 제. For example:

내가  
제가  
*(I am purposely not providing example sentences because you still haven’t learned proper conjugations. You will finally learn about conjugations in this lesson)*

In the lesson below, all of the sentences are d in an informal style. Therefore, all of the example sentences below use the informal “나” or “내.” In this lesson, don’t worry about formality and just focus on the information that I present. In the [next lesson](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-6/), you will learn more about formal and informal speech, and you will see “저” and “제” being used.

How to say “you”

You may have noticed that I still haven’t taught you one of those most common words in the English language. I know this sounds weird, but the word ‘you’ is not said very often in Korean. Korean people get around saying the word ‘you’ through a number of ways:

1. Most of the time, you use somebody’s (usually job) position when referring to them or talking about them. For example, boss (부장님), principal (교장선생님), vice principal (교감선생님), Mr. Name (for a teacher) (Name선생님), customer (고객님), guest (손님), 회장님/사장님 (president/CEO of a company).
2. It is very common in Korean to refer to people that you are close with as your own family member. For example, 오빠 means “older brother” (when you are a woman). But even if somebody is not your older brother, you can call him ‘오빠’ if you are close to him.
3. You can usually call any woman or man that looks very old “grandmother” and “grandfather” (할머니/할아버지). But other than that, you don’t really call somebody part of your family unless you are close with that person.
4. You can generally call any strange man or woman that you don’t know ‘아저씨’ (man) and ‘아주머니’ (woman).
5. In informal situations, you can use the word “너.” ~는 and ~를 can attach to “너” when “you” is the subject or object of a sentence, respectively. If ~가 is added to ~너, it changes to “네가.” In order to distinguish the pronunciation of “네가” and “내가” from each other (which, technically should be pronounced the same), “네가” is pronounced as “knee-ga.”
6. You can also use the word “당신” which means “you.” You may use this word when talking to anybody, but Korean people hardly ever use it. Most people that say ‘당신’ are foreigners and only do so because they are so used to saying “you” in a sentence.

Basic Conjugation: Past, Present, Future

As I have mentioned in every lesson so far – every sentence that you have learned thus far has ***not* been d**. All the sentences you have learned so far would never actually be used in Korean because they are not d. I felt you needed to know basic sentence structure before you learned how to . The good news, however, is that conjugating in Korean is much easier than other languages (including English and especially French!).

An important note before you begin

This lesson will show you how to past/present/future verbs in the *most basic way*. Although all of these conjugations are grammatically correct, they are rarely used in conversation. This form is sometimes called “diary form” because it is usually used when writing to yourself in a diary. It is also used when writing tests, books (not in dialogue), research papers, newspaper articles, magazine articles, and other times when one is not speaking/writing to a specific audience. It is also sometimes called the “plain form.”

If you used this form in a sentence, you should use the informal “나,” as this conjugation is seen as informal. As such, throughout this lesson, you will see the word “나” used for “I.” However, as I mentioned, this conjugation form is also used in print (books, newspapers, articles, etc…). When this is done, the sentence is neither formal or informal – as it is just relaying facts. When used like this, no specific person is the speaker, and nobody is getting directly spoken to. Therefore, you don’t generally see “저” or “나” in these forms of Korean, and there is no need to see these writings as formal or informal.

It is possible to use this “diary” or “plain” form in conversation, but you are more likely to hear one of the conjugations discussed in the [next lesson](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-6/). Although the plain form is not very common in conversation, the conjugation itself is *incredibly* important if you want to understand more complex grammar later on or learn to read most printed forms of Korean (books, newspaper, etc…). You will learn the most important conjugations for conversation in the next lesson, but I highly recommend you to understand the conjugations presented in this lesson first.

The only part of speech that gets d in Korean is verbs and adjectives (and 이다). As you already know, a sentence must end in either a verb or adjective or 이다.

Let’s look at how to verbs and adjectives into the past, present and future tenses.

Verb*s  
Present Tense*

When the last syllable of the stem ends in a consonant, you add ~는다 to the stem of the word:

먹다 = 먹는다 = to eat (먹 + 는다)  
닫다 = 닫는다 = to close (닫 + 는다)

Examples:

나는 문을 닫는다 = I close the door  
나는 밥을 먹는다 = I eat rice

When the last syllable of the stem ends in a vowel, you add ~ㄴto the last syllable followed by 다

배우다 = 배운다 = to learn (배우 + ㄴ다)  
이해하다 = 이해한다 = to understand (이해하 + ㄴ다)  
가다 = 간다 = to go (가 + ㄴ다)

Examples:  
 [나는 친구를 만난다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-1-I-meet-friends.mp3) = I meet a friend  
 [나는 그것을 이해한다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-2-I-understand.mp3) = I understand that  
 [나는 한국어를 배운다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-3-I-learn-Korean.mp3) = I learn Korean  
 [나는 집에 간다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-4-I-go-home.mp3) = I go home

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***Past Tense***

Before you learn this, you need to know something important. Korean grammar is based on adding things directly to verbs or adjectives to create a specific meaning. For example, earlier in this lesson you saw how ~는다 or ~ㄴ다 can be added to the stem of a verb in order to that verb to the present tense.

Hundreds of grammatical principles (not just conjugations, but grammatical principles that have actual meanings in sentences) are created by adding certain things to the stems of verbs and adjectives. You will learn about these in later lessons as you progress through your studies. For example, the following is a short list of additions that can be added to the stems of verbs and/or adjectives to create a specific meaning:

* ~기 to create a noun form of a verb or adjective ([Lesson 29](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/lesson-29/))
* ~아/어서 to give reason ([Lesson 37](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-34-41/lesson-37/))
* ~(으)시 to denote an honorific acting agent ([Lesson 39](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-34-41/lesson-39/))
* ~(으)세요 to make a command ([Lesson 40](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-34-41/lesson-40/))
* ~자 to make a suggestion ([Lesson 44](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-42-50/lesson-44/))
* ~아/어야 하다 to indicate that one must do something ([Lesson 46](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-42-50/lesson-46/))
* ~ㄴ/는다고 to quote somebody ([Lesson 52](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-3-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-3-lessons-51-58/lesson-52/))

The list could go on and on forever.

Notice that some of these grammatical principles require the addition of “~아/어.” Many grammatical principles (or conjugations, or any other thing) require the addition of “~아/어” to the stem of a verb or adjective. Notice that the “slash” indicates that you need to *choose*what actually gets added to the stem. In some cases it is “~아”, and in some cases it is “~어”. The following is the rule that you can use to determine if you should add “~아” or “~어”:

* If the last vowel in a stem is ㅏ or ㅗ (this includes rare cases of the last vowel being ㅑ or ㅛ) you add ~아 followed by the remainder of the grammatical principl*e. (The only exception is “*하.*” If the last syllable in a stem is “*하*“, ~*여*must be added to the stem followed by the remainder of the grammatical principle instead of* ~아.
* If the last vowel in a stem is anything but ㅏ or ㅗ you add ~어 followed by the remainder of the grammatical principle

When conjugating to the past tense, we need to add “~았/었다” to the stem of a word (or 였다 in the case of 하다). Following the rule above, ~았다 is added to words with the last vowel being ㅗ or ㅏ and ~었다 is added to words with the last vowel being anything but ㅏ or ㅗ. Finally, ~였다 is added to words with the last syllable being “하.” For example:

나는 밥을 먹다 = I eat rice (note that this sentence is *un d)*  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅓ. This is not ㅏ or ㅗ. So, we add 었다 to the stem:  
 [나는 밥을 먹었다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-6-I-ate-rice.mp3) = I ate rice (먹 + 었다)

나는 문을 닫다 = I close the door (note that this sentence is *un d)*  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅏ. So we add 았다 to the stem:  
 [나는 문을 닫았다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s4.mp3) = I closed the door (닫 + 았다)

나는 창문을 열다 = I open the window (note that this sentence is *un d)*  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅕ. This is not ㅏ or ㅗ. So we add 었다 to the stem:  
 [나는 창문을 열었다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s5.mp3) = I opened the window (열 + 었다)

나는 한국어를 공부하다 = I study Korean (note that this sentence is *un d)*The last syllable in the stem is “하”. Therefore, we add ~였다 to the stem:  
 [나는 한국어를 공부하였다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s6.mp3) = I studied Korean (공부하 + 였다)

What makes this complicated (at first) is that for verbs that have a last syllable that end in a vowel (including 하다), the ~았다/었다 gets merged to the actual stem itself. This is how ~아 and ~어 merge with syllables ending in a vowel:

* 아 + 아 = 아 (example: 가 + 았다 = 갔다)
* 오 + 아 = 와 (example: 오+ 았다 = 왔다)
* 우 + 어 = 워 (example: 배우+ 었다 = 배웠다)
* 이 + 어 = 여 (example: 끼+ 었다 = 꼈다)
* 어 + 어 = 어 (example: 나서 + 었다 = 나섰다)
* 여 + 어 = 여 (example: 켜다 + 었다 = 켰다)
* 하 + 여 = 해 (example: 공부하다 + 였다 = 공부했다)  
  *Although*하 + 여*can be written as “*해*,” there will be some situations (usually official documents) where you will see “*하여*” used instead of “*해*.” This comes up a lot on*[*street signs*](https://youtu.be/s2chwbAsJHM)*.*
* Words where the last vowel is “ㅡ” (for example: 잠그다) are complicated and will be covered in [Lesson 7](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-7/).

Many people have asked me “how do I merge ~아/어 to complex vowels like  ㅠ, ㅑ, ㅔ, etc…?” You will find that the stem of almost all verbs and adjectives in Korean do not end in these complex vowels. The most common words I can think of that have stem that ends in one of these complex vowels are:

바래다 (to fade)  
매다 (to tie up)  
메다 (to put on/carry something on one’s shoulder)

With these words (and others like it), the same rule applies as above. That is, the final vowel does not end in ㅏ or ㅗ, so we need to add “어” plus whatever we are adding. With these complex vowels, it is irrelevant if you merge the addition to the stem. Both forms (merged and non-merged) would be correct.

For example:

바래 + 었다 = 바랬다 or 바래었다  
매다 + 었다 = 맸다 or 매었다  
메다 + 었다 = 멨다 or 메었다

Here is a more detailed breakdown:

가다 = to go  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅏ. So we add 았다 to the stem.  
나는 박물관에 가았다  
But, because the stem ends in a vowel, 았다 can merge with 가:  
 [나는 박물관에 갔다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s7.mp3) = I went to the museum

오다 = to come  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅗ. So we add 았다 to the stem.  
삼촌은 가게에 오았다  
But, because the stem ends in a vowel, 았다 can merge with 오:  
 [삼촌은 가게에 왔다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s8.mp3) = (My) uncle came to the store

배우다 = to learn  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅜ. So we add 었다 to the stem.  
오빠는 영어를 배우었다  
But, because the stem ends in a vowel, 었다 can merge with 우:  
 [오빠는 영어를 배웠다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s9.mp3) = (My) older brother learned English

던지다 = to throw  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅣ. So we add 었다 to the stem.  
나는 공을 던지었다  
But, because the stem ends in a vowel, 었다 can merge with 지:  
 [나는 공을 던졌다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-8-I-threw-the-ball.mp3) = I threw the ball

건너다 = to cross  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅓ. So we add 었다 to the stem.  
나는 길을 건너었다  
But, because the stem ends in a vowel, 었다 can merge with 너:  
 [나는 길을 건넜다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-9-I-crossed-the-street.mp3) = I crossed the street

만나다 = to meet  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅏ. So we add 았다 to the stem.  
나는 친구를 만나았다  
But, because the stem ends in a vowel, 았다 can merge with 나:  
 [나는 친구를 만났다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-5-I-met-friends.mp3) = I met friends

공부하다 = to study  
The last vowel in the stem is 하. So, we add 였다 to the stem.  
 [나는 한국어를 공부하였다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s6.mp3)  
But, 하 and 여 can be merged to formed 해:  
 [나는 한국어를 공부했다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-7-I-studied-Korean.mp3) = I studied Korean

*Future Tense*

Future tense is easy, and is simply a matter of adding “~겠다” to the stem of a word. Unlike the past and present tense conjugations, there is no difference if the stem ends in a vowel or a consonant. For example:

나는 먹다 = I eat (*un d)*  
 [나는 먹겠다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s10.mp3) = I will eat

나는 가다 = I go (*un d)*  
 [나는 가겠다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-11-I-will-go.mp3) = I will go

나는 배우다 = I learn (*un d)*  
 [나는 배우겠다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-10-I-will-learn.mp3) = I will learn

Two verbs specifically that are often d in the future tense without actually having a meaning in the future tenses are 알다(to know) and 모르다(to not know). I don’t want to make any example sentences (because they would be too complicated at this point), but it would be good to remember that the words 알다 and 모르다 are often d to 알겠다 or 모르겠다. Although they are d to the future tense, those two words are typically used to express that somebody knows/doesn’t know something in the present tense.

Also note that the ending of the conjugation will often change as well depending on the different honorifics that you will learn in the [next lesson](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-6/).

Check out the table giving a breakdown of verbs in the past, present and future forms:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Verb | Stem | Past tense | Present tense | Future tense |
| 먹다 | 먹 | 먹었다 | 먹는다 | 먹겠다 |
| 닫다 | 닫 | 닫았다 | 닫는다 | 닫겠다 |
| 배우다 | 배우 | 배웠다 | 배운다 | 배우겠다 |
| 가다 | 가 | 갔다 | 간다 | 가겠다 |
| 이해하다 | 이해하 | 이해했다 | 이해한다 | 이해하겠다 |
| 오다 | 오 | 왔다 | 온다 | 오겠다 |
| 던지다 | 던지 | 던졌다 | 던진다 | 던지겠다 |

Adjectives  
*Present Tense*

You learned previously that you need to add ~ㄴ/는다 to a verb stem in order to it in the present tense. In order to an adjective into the present tense you don’t need to do anything! Just leave the adjective as it is, and it is d in the present tense. Some examples:

[그 선생님은 아름답다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-teacher-is-beautiful.mp3) = that teacher is beautiful  
 [그 길은 길다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-road-is-long.mp3) = that street is long  
 [나의 손은 크다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-12-My-hands-are-big.mp3) = my hand is big

*Past tense*

In order to adjectives to the past tense, you must follow the same rule as when you verbs to the past tense. This rule, again, is:

You must add 았다 or 었다 to the stem of a word. 았다 is added to words with the last vowel being ㅗ or ㅏ, and 었다  is added to words with the last vowel being anything but ㅏ or ㅗ. For example:

[그 길은 길었다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-road-was-long.mp3) = That street was long (길 + 었다)  
 [그 음식은 맛있었다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-food-was-delicious.mp3) = That food was delicious (맛있 + 었다)  
 [그 선생님은 좋았다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-teacher-was-good.mp3) = That teacher was good (좋 + 았다)  
 [그 식당이 오래되었다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-13-That-restaurant-is-old.mp3) = That restaurant is old\*\*\* (오래되 + 었다)

*The meaning of “*오래되다*” is not “old” in a bad, negative sense. Rather, it is indicating that something has existed for a long time, and now it is “old.” A more appropriate way to indicate that something is “old and decrepit” is to use the word “*낡다*”… not to be confused with the word “*늙다*”, which refers to an “old” person.*

*This is a little bit complicated for you now, but although ~*었다*is attached to* 되*to make “*되었다*”, this can be contracted. Teaching this is not the focus of this lesson, so don’t worry about this for now. You will learn more about*되다*in future lessons. See*[*Lesson 9*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-9-16/unit-1-lesson-9/)*or*[*Lesson 14*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-9-16/lesson-14-korean-passive-verbs/)*for lessons nearby that discuss ‘*되다*.’*

*Also, while*되다*is commonly used and d as a verb, in this case,*오래되다*is an adjective. Which means that [in addition to other ways it will change when used with other grammatical principles], ~*ㄴ*can be added to it to describe an upcoming noun.*

For example: 우리는 오래된 집에 갔다 = We went to the old house

Just like with verbs, if the final letter of a verb/adjective stem is a vowel, ~았다/었다 can be merged to the actual stem itself:

[이것은 비쌌다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/This-was-expensive.mp3) = This was expensive (비싸 + 았다)  
 [그 남자는 잘생겼다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-man-is-handsome.mp3) = That man was handsome (잘생기 + 었다)  
 [그 사람은 뚱뚱했다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-person-was-fat.mp3) = That person was fat (뚱뚱하 + 였다)

*Future tense*

Conjugating adjectives into the future tense is the same as conjugating verbs into the future tense. All you need to do is add 겠다 to the stem of the adjective:

[나는 행복하겠다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-14-I-will-be-happy.mp3) = I will be happy  
 [그것은 맛있겠다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-thing-is-delicious.mp3) = That thing will be delicious  
 [나는 배고프겠다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-5-15-I-will-be-hungry.mp3) = I will be hungry

In general, not only is this basic form rare in conversation, but Korean people do not use adjectives in the future as often as English speakers.

Check out the table giving a breakdown of adjectives in the past, present and future forms

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adjective | Stem | Past tense | Present tense | Future tense |
| 행복하다 | 행복하 | 행복했다 | 행복하다 | 행복하겠다 |
| 비싸다 | 비싸 | 비쌌다 | 비싸다 | 비싸겠다 |
| 길다 | 길 | 길었다 | 길다 | 길겠다 |
| 맛있다 | 맛있 | 맛있었다 | 맛있다 | 맛있겠다 |
| 낡다 | 낡 | 낡았다 | 낡다 | 낡겠다 |

Conjugating 있다 and 있다

있다 is one of the most complex and versatile words in Korean. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most common words. It is often very difficult for learners of a language to fully understand some of the most commonly used words in whatever language they are studying. For example, a native English speaker might think that the word “the” is one of the easiest words as it is used so frequently. However, try explaining the meaning and purpose of “the” to a Korean person and you will quickly discover that its usage is very complex.

있다 can be an adjective, or it can be a verb. Whether it is an adjective or a verb depends on its usage.

있다 is an adjective when it is used to indicate that one “has” something. You learned these sentences in [Lesson 2](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-2/):

[나는 펜이 있다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s11.mp3) = I have a pen  
 [나는 차가 있다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s12.mp3) = I have a car  
 [나는 가방이 있다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-5-s13.mp3) = I have a bag

Because this 있다 is considered an adjective, we follow the rule for conjugating an adjective to the present tense – which is do nothing and leave the adjective the way it is. So, those three sentences above are perfectly d and grammatically correct.

When 있다 is used to indicate that something/someone is “at/in” a location, it is also an adjective. This is also very difficult for an English speaker to wrap their head around. You learned these sentences in [Lesson 2](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-2/):

나는 은행 안에 있다 = I am inside the bank  
개는 집 안에 있다 = The dog is in the house  
고양이는 의자 밑에 있다 = The cat is under the chair

Again, because this usage of 있다 is considered an adjective, we follow the rule for conjugating an adjective to the present tense – which is do nothing and leave the adjective the way it is. So, those three sentences above are perfectly d in the plain form and grammatically correct.

However, the usage of 있다 is much more complex than just these two meanings. 있다 has *many*usages. In fact, there are times when 있다 is considered a verb. At this point, your understanding of Korean is not strong enough to see example sentences of 있다 as a verb because you haven’t learned some critical grammatical principles yet. What I want you to take from this is that 있다 *can* be a verb – and thus – is d as a verb sometimes. Therefore, although the example sentences above with 있다 are properly d, there are times when the proper conjugation of 있다 in the “plain form” would be 있는다.

있다 is considered a verb when a person (or animal) is not only “at” a location, but “staying” at a location or in a state for a period of time. The difference between the adjective “있다” (to indicate something/someone is at a location) and the verb “있다” (to indicate that someone stays at a location or in a state) is confusing.

Below are some complicated ways that 있다 can be seen as a verb. You absolutely do not need to understand these now. I suggest that you worry about them when you reach that particular lesson in your studies:

* In [Lesson 14](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-9-16/lesson-14-korean-passive-verbs/) when ~아/어 있다 is used to indicate the passive state of a verb
* In [Lesson 18](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-17-25-2/lesson-18/) when ~고 있다 is used to indicate one continues doing something
* In [Lesson 40](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-34-41/lesson-40/) when telling somebody to stay in a location or in a state
* In [Lesson 44](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-42-50/lesson-44/) when ~자 is used to make a suggestion to stay in a place

Wow, that is a lot of grammar. Understanding this will probably be your the hardest step you will need to make in learning Korean. I really mean that. If you can get through this lesson, almost everything you will learn will relate back to the principles in this lesson in one way or another. Don’t give up!

**UNIT 1-LESSON 6:**

Nouns:  
 [신발](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-1.mp3) = shoe

[남방](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-2.mp3) = shirt

[질문](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-3.mp3) = question

[문제](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-4.mp3) = question, problem

[나이](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-5.mp3) = age

[화장실](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-6.mp3) = bathroom, restroom

[부장님](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-7.mp3) = boss

[분위기](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-8.mp3) = the atmosphere of something

[차](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-9.mp3) = tea

[바지](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-10.mp3) = pants

[교실](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-11.mp3) = classroom

[급식](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-12.mp3) = food at school

[교감선생님](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-13.mp3) = vice principal

[교장선생님](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-14.mp3) = principal

[풀](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-15.mp3) = glue

[수도](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-16.mp3) = capital city

[병](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-17.mp3) = bottle

[병](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-17.mp3) = disease, sickness

[생선](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-19.mp3) = fish

[야채](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-20.mp3) = vegetable

[언덕](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-21.mp3) = hill

[선물](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-22.mp3) = present

[기타](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-23.mp3) = guitar

[종이](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-24.mp3) = paper

[우유](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-25.mp3) = milk

[손목](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-26.mp3) = wrist

[시계](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-27.mp3) = clock/watch

[손목시계](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-28.mp3) = wristwatch

[영화](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-29.mp3) = movie

Verbs:  
  [노력하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-30.mp3) = to try

  [앉다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-31.mp3) = to sit

  [만지다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-32.mp3) = to touch

  [자다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-33.mp3) = to sleep

  [보다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-35.mp3) = to see

  [기다리다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-36.mp3) = to wait

  [청소하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-37.mp3) = to clean

  [약속하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-38.mp3) = to promise

  [듣다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-39.mp3) = to hear

  [들어보다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-40.mp3) = to listen

  [그만하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-41.mp3) = to stop

  [운동하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-42.mp3) = to exercise

  [놀라다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-43.mp3) = to be surprised

Adjectives:  
  [빠르다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-44.mp3) = to be fast

  [느리다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-45.mp3) = to be slow

  [착하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-46.mp3) = to be nice

Adverbs and Other Words:  
 [곧](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-47.mp3) = soon

[항상](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-48.mp3) = always

[주](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-49.mp3) = week

[아래](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-6-50.mp3) = bottom

*There are 1050 vocabulary entries in Unit 1. All entries are linked to an audio file.  
You can download all of these files in one package*[*here*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/audio/)*.*

For help memorizing these words, try using our [Memrise tool](http://www.memrise.com/course/150816/howtostudykoreancom-unit-1-2/6/).

You might also want to try listening to all of the words on loop with this [Vocabulary Practice video](https://youtu.be/K-W06X06tV4).

Conjugating with Honorifics

In [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/), you learned how to verbs and adjectives into the past, present and future forms. You also learned that those conjugations are hardly ever used in speech and are most often used when writing a book, test, article or diary. In this lesson, you will learn the basic word conjugations that are more commonly used in speech.

What are Honorifics in Korean?

To this point, you haven’t learned anything about Honorifics (from this website, at least). In Korean, depending on who you are speaking to, you must use different conjugations of the same word. The different conjugations imply respect and politeness to the person you are speaking to. Depending on that person’s age and/or seniority in relation to yours, you must speak differently to that person.

The reason this is so hard for English speakers to understand is that we have nothing like this in English. We can make some sentences sound polite by adding ‘please’ and ‘thank you,’ but you can only use those words in a limited amount of sentences. For example, if somebody asked you “where did you go yesterday?” You could respond:

I went to school yesterday.

In English, regardless of whether you were speaking to your girlfriend’s grandfather or your best friend, that sentence would look and sound exactly the same. In Korean, you *must*use a higher respect form when speaking to somebody older or higher in position. Unless you are literally just starting to learn Korean (in which case, some Korean people would let it pass) you must always do this.

I can share a really funny experience that happened to me. I started learning Korean a few months before I moved to Korea. I was not studying very hard or often, so my Korean was extremely basic. When I arrived at the airport in Seoul, was driven directly to my school and introduced to my principal immediately. My principal said “I am happy you are working at my school,” to which I replied:

나도 (the lower respect form of saying “me too”)

Instead of being impressed that I at least knew some words in Korean, the look on his face was as if somebody had just kidnapped his daughter.

Never, *never*underestimate the importance of honorific endings in Korean.

Keep in mind that all these conjugations with different honorific endings have exactly the same meaning. You will learn how to using honorifics in the following ways:

1. Informal low respect  
   Used when talking to your friends, people you are close with, people younger than you and your family.
2. Informal high respect  
   This can be used in most situations, even in formal situations despite the name being “informal.” This is usually the way most people speak when they are trying to show respect to the person they are talking to.
3. Formal high respect  
   This is a very high respect form that is used when addressing people who deserve a lot of respect from you. It is hard to describe perfectly, but honestly, the difference between ‘Informal high respect’ and ‘Formal high respect’ is not very big. As long as you speak in either of these two ways, you will not offend anyone.

The names of each form of speech might be different in every source, but I have chosen the words above to describe each form. In addition, you learned the “Plain form” in the previous lesson.

Before you start! Remember the rule you learned in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/): When adding something to a word stem, if the last vowel in the stem is ㅏ or ㅗ, you must add 아 plus whatever you are adding. If the last vowel is anything other than ㅏ or ㅗ, you must add 어 plus whatever you are adding. If the syllable of the stem is 하, you add 하여 which can be shortened to 해.

Also, in the previous lesson, you learned that if a stem of a word ends in a vowel, “~았/었다” gets merged to the actual stem itself when conjugating into the past tense.

In this lesson, two of the conjugations you will learn will require the addition of ~아/어. When adding ~아/어 to the stem of a word, the same rule applies from previous lesson. That is, if ~아/어 gets added to a stem that ends in a vowel, ~아/어 will be merged to the stem itself. For example:

가다 + ~아/어 = 가 (가 + 아)  
오다 + ~아/어 = 와 (오 + 아)  
배우다 + ~아/어 = 배워 (배우 + 어)  
끼다 + ~아/어 = 껴 (끼 + 어)  
나서다 + ~아/어 = 나서 (나서 + 어)  
켜다 + ~아/어 = 켜 (켜 + 어)  
하다 + ~아/어 = 해 (하 + 여)

Conversely, if a stem ends in a consonant, ~아/어 is attached to the stem, but not merged to it. For example:

먹다 + ~아/어 = 먹어 (먹 + 어)  
앉다 + ~아/어 = 앉아 (앉 + 아)

There are *many*situations when you will have to add ~아/어 (or other vowels and consonants) to stems. Conjugating is just one of these situations. Always keep this rule in mind, as you will see it throughout this lesson, and throughout your studies.

Verbs *Present Tense*

You learned in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/) how to verbs to the present tense by adding ㄴ/는다 to the stem of the word. To review:

먹다 = to eat (not d)  
나는 먹는다 = I eat ( d – present tense)

배우다 = to learn (not d)  
나는 배운다 = I learn ( d – present tense)

There are three more conjugations in the present tense that you should know:

1) Informal low respect  
All you need to do is add ~어/아/여 to the stem of the verb:

*Remember, 나 is the informal way to say “I” and 저 is the formal way to say it. As such, you will always see 나 used in informal situations and in sentences d informally. Conversely, you will see 저 used in formal situations and in sentences d formally.*

[나는 항상 저녁에 음식을 먹어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/3-I-always-eat-food-in-evening.mp3) = I always eat food in the evening (먹 + 어)

[나는 나의 선생님을 항상 봐](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/4-I-always-see-my-teacher.mp3) = I always see my teacher (보 + 아)

[나는 항상 아침에 운동해](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/5-I-always-exercise-in-the-morning.mp3) = I always exercise in the morning (운동하 + 여)

*In*[*Lesson 1*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-1/)*, you were introduced to the function of*~에*as a particle which identifies a location or a time in which something occurs in a sentence. Since then, you have seen many cases of*~에*being used to indicate a place, but you have yet to see any examples of it being used to indicate a time. This is just a quick reminder that*~에 *is (in addition to other things) attached to part of a sentence to indicate a time.*

*Also notice in the examples above that “*항상*” (always) is placed in two different places within a sentence. Adverbs are usually able to be placed wherever the speaker desires. The usage and placement of adverbs is discussed in*[Lesson 8](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-8/)

2) Informal high respect  
This is done the exact same way as ‘Informal low respect’ but you also add ‘~요’ to the end of the word. Adding ~요 to the end of anything in Korean makes it more respectful:

[저는 항상 저녁에 음식을 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/4.mp3) = I always eat food in the evening (먹 + 어요)

[저는 저의 선생님을 항상 봐요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/7-I-always-see-my-teacher.mp3) = I always see my teacher (보 + 아요)

[저는 항상 아침에 운동해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/8-I-always-exercise-in-the-morning.mp3) = I always exercise in the morning (운동하 + 여요)

3) Formal high respect  
This is done very similar to the conjugation you learned in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/) – that is, adding ~ㄴ/는다 to the stem of the word. To using the Formal high respect honorific ending, you add ~ㅂ니다/습니다 to the end of the word stem. If a word stem ends in a vowel, you add ~ㅂ to the last syllable and 니다 follows. If a word stem ends in a consonant, you add ~습니다 to the word stem.

[저는 항상 저녁에 음식을 먹습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/9-I-always-eat-food-in-the-evening.mp3) = I always eat food in the evening (먹 + 습니다)

[저는 저의 선생님을 항상 봅니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/10-I-always-see-my-teacher.mp3) = I always see my teacher (보 + ㅂ니다)

[저는 항상 아침에 운동합니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-6-I-always-exercise-in-the-morning.mp3) = I always exercise in the morning (운동하 + ㅂ니다)

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Past Tense

You learned in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/) how to verbs to the past tense by adding 었다/았다/였다 to the stem of the word. To review:

먹다 = to eat (not d)  
나는 먹었다 = I ate ( d – past tense)

배우다 = to learn (not d)  
나는 배웠다 = I learned ( d – past tense)

The three new conjugations should be very simple for you now:

1) Informal low respect  
Instead of adding 었다/았다/였다 to a stem, remove 다 and add 어 after 었/았/였:

[나는 먹었어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/13-I-ate.mp3) = I ate (먹 + 었어)  
 [나는 들어봤어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/11.mp3) = I listened (들어보 + 았어)  
 [나는 운동했어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/12.mp3) = I exercised (운동하 + 였어)

2) Informal high respect  
Just add 요 to the end of the Informal low respect conjugations:

[저는 먹었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/131.mp3) = I ate (먹 + 었어요)  
 [저는 들어봤어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/141.mp3) = I listened (들어보 + 았어요)  
 [저는 운동했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/15.mp3) = I exercised (운동하 + 였어요)

3) Formal high respect  
After adding 었/았/였 instead of adding 다 add 습니다:

[저는 먹었습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent810.mp3) = I ate (먹 + 었습니다)  
 [저는 들어봤습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/19-I-listened.mp3) = I listened (들어보 + 았습니다)  
 [저는 운동했습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/20-I-exercised.mp3) = I exercised (운동하 + 였습니다)

Future Tense

You learned in Lesson 5 how to verbs to the future tense by adding 겠다to the stem of the word. To review:

먹다 = to eat (not d)  
나는 먹겠다 = I will eat ( d – future tense)

배우다 = to learn (not d)  
나는 배우겠다 = I will learn ( d – future tense)

The three new conjugations should be very simple for you now:

1) Informal low respect  
Instead of adding 겠다 to a word stem, remove 다 and add 어 after 겠:

[나는 먹겠어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/23-I-will-eat.mp3) = I will eat (먹 + 겠어)  
 [나는 배우겠어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/24-I-will-learn.mp3) = I will learn (배우 + 겠어)

2) Informal high respect  
Just add 요 to the end of the Informal low respect conjugations:

[저는 먹겠어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-6-s1.mp3) = I will eat (먹 + 겠어요)  
 [저는 배우겠어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/26-I-will-learn.mp3) = I will learn (배우 + 겠어요)

3) Formal high respect  
After 겠 instead of adding 다 add 습니다:

[저는 먹겠습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/27-I-will-eat.mp3) = I will eat (먹 + 겠습니다)  
 [저는 배우겠습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/29-I-will-learn.mp3) = I will learn (배우 + 겠습니다)

Lets try looking at all the verb conjugations you know together in one table. This table will include the conjugation you learned in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/), often called “Formal low respect,” “plain form,” or “diary form.”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 먹다 | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 먹었어 | 먹어 | 먹겠어 |
| Informal high | 먹었어요 | 먹어요 | 먹겠어요 |
| Plain form | 먹었다 | 먹는다 | 먹겠다 |
| Formal high | 먹었습니다 | 먹습니다 | 먹겠습니다 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 자다 | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 잤어 | 자 | 자겠어 |
| Informal high | 잤어요 | 자요 | 자겠어요 |
| Plain form | 잤다 | 잔다 | 자겠다 |
| Formal high | 잤습니다 | 잡니다 | 자겠습니다 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 이해하다 | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 이해했어 | 이해해 | 이해하겠어 |
| Informal high | 이해했어요 | 이해해요 | 이해하겠어요 |
| Plain form | 이해했다 | 이해한다 | 이해하겠다 |
| Formal high | 이해했습니다 | 이해합니다 | 이해하겠습니다 |

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Adjectives

Thankfully, adjectives are d the exact same way as verbs are when using these three honorific endings. The major difference in conjugating adjectives and verbs is when conjugating in the most basic form (which we did in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/)). To adjectives with ‘Informal low respect,’ Informal high respect’ and Formal high respect,’ follow the same rules as verbs:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 비싸다 | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 비쌌어 | 비싸 | 비싸겠어 |
| Informal high | 비쌌어요 | 비싸요 | 비싸겠어요 |
| Plain form | 비쌌다 | 비싸다 | 비싸겠다 |
| Formal high | 비쌌습니다 | 비쌉니다 | 비싸겠습니다 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 길다 | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 길었어 | 길어 | 길겠어 |
| Informal high | 길었어요 | 길어요 | 길겠어요 |
| Plain form | 길었다 | 길다 | 길겠다 |
| Formal high | 길었습니다 | 깁니다 \* | 길겠습니다 |

\*Irregular conjugation. You will learn about irregulars in the next lesson.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 착하다 | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 착했어 | 착해 | 착하겠어 |
| Informal high | 착했어요 | 착해요 | 착하겠어요 |
| Plain form | 착했다 | 착하다 | 착하겠다 |
| Formal high | 착했습니다 | 착합니다 | 착하겠습니다 |

*There are 1250 example sentences in Unit 1.  
All entries are linked to an audio file. You can download all of these files in one package*[*here*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/audio/)*.*

That’s it for this lesson! You are progressing really well in Korean! There are a few irregulars that you need to learn before anything else, so we will cover that in our next lesson

**UNIT 1-LESSON 7**

Nouns:  
 [눈썹](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-1.mp3) = eyebrow

[교사](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-2.mp3) = teacher

[반](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-4.mp3) = class of students in school

[직장](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-5.mp3) = location of work

[벽](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-10.mp3) = wall

[털](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-11.mp3) = hair (not on head), fur

[머리카락](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-12.mp3) = hair (on head)

[저녁](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Lesson-7-8.mp3) = dinner, evening

[점심](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Lesson7-9.mp3) = lunch, noonish

[옷](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-7-v1.mp3) = clothes

[오전](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-39.mp3) = morning

[오후](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-40.mp3) = afternoon

[여름](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-42.mp3) = summer

[가을](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-43.mp3) = fall

[겨울](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-44.mp3) = winter

[봄](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-45.mp3) = spring

Verbs:  
  [찾다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-13.mp3) = to search for, find

  [가르치다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-15.mp3) = to teach

  [일하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-16.mp3) = to work

  [짓다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-17.mp3) = to build

  [가지다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-18.mp3) = to own, to possess

  [잠그다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-19.mp3) = to lock

  [잊다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-20.mp3) = to forget

  [돕다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson3Vocab-help.mp3) = to help

  [주다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-21.mp3) = to give

  [맞다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-36.mp3) = to be correct

Adjectives:  
  [쉽다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-22.mp3) = to be easy

  [덥다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-23.mp3) = to be hot

  [그립다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-24.mp3) = to miss (a thing)

  [귀엽다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-25.mp3) = to be cute

  [춥다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-26.mp3) = to be cold

  [어렵다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-27.mp3) = to be difficult

  [더럽다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-28.mp3) = to be dirty

  [바쁘다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-29.mp3) = to be busy

  [같다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-30.mp3) = to be the same

  [안전하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-31.mp3) = to be safe

  [딱딱하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-32.mp3) = to be hard, to be rigid

  [부드럽다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-33.mp3) = to be soft

  [가능하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-34.mp3) = to be possible

  [불가능하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-35.mp3) = to be impossible

  [예쁘다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Lesson-11-vocab-36.mp3) = to be pretty

Adverbs:  
 [일찍](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-38.mp3) = early

[매일](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-7-41.mp3) = everyday

*There are 1050 vocabulary entries in Unit 1. All entries are linked to an audio file.  
You can download all of these files in one package*[*here*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/audio/)*.*

For help memorizing these words, try using our [Memrise tool](http://www.memrise.com/course/150816/howtostudykoreancom-unit-1-2/8/).

You might also want to try listening to all of the words on loop with this [Vocabulary Practice video](https://youtu.be/gwXJVRSyVGI).

Irregulars

As with all languages, there are some irregular conjugations that you need to know. Irregulars are applied to certain verbs or adjectives when adding something to the stem of the word. Korean grammar is based on these “additions” that are added to stems. I mentioned this in [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/), but I want to reiterate it here.

There are hundreds of additions that you can add to the stem of a verb or adjective. Some of these additions are conjugations and some of them are grammatical principles that have meaning in a sentence.

You have learned about some of these additions now. For example:

* ~ㄴ/는다 to to the plain form
* ~아/어 to to the informal low respect form
* ~아/어요 to to the informal high respect form
* ~ㅂ/습니다 to to the formal high respect form
* ~았/었어 to to the informal low respect form in the past tense
* ~ㄴ/은 added to an adjective to describe an upcoming noun

In future lessons, you will learn about many more of these additions. For example, some of them are:

* ~ㄴ/은 후에 to mean “after”
* ~기 전에 to mean “before”
* ~기 때문에 to mean “because”
* ~아/어서 to mean “because”
* ~(으)면 to mean “when”
* ~아/어야 하다 to mean “one must”
* ~아/어서는 안 되다 to mean “one should not”

Notice that some of these additions start with a vowel, and some of them start with a consonant. Most of the irregulars are applied when adding a vowel to a stem. The ㄹ irregular that is introduced at the end of the lesson is the only irregular that applies when adding a consonant to a stem.

Let’s look at one example before I introduce each irregular one by one. Let’s say we want to the word “어렵다” into the past tense using the informal low respect form. The following would happen:

어렵다 + ~았/었어 = 어려웠어

Here, you can see that the actual *stem*of the word changed. This is referred to as the “ㅂ irregular” because the same phenomenon happens with many (but not all) words whose stem ends in “ㅂ”.

As I mentioned previously, most of these irregulars are applied when adding a vowel to a stem.  There are many additions that start with a vowel, and you got a start on learning some of those conjugations in [Lessons 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/) and [6](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-6/):

* ~아/어
* ~아/어요
* ~았/었어
* ~았/었어요
* ~았/었습니다
* ~았/었다

As such, this lesson will present the Korean irregulars and how they change as a result of adding these conjugations. In later lessons when you learn about other additions, you can apply what you learned in this lesson to those concepts. For now, let’s get started.

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ㅅ Irregular

If the last letter of a word stem ends in ㅅ (for example: 짓다 = to build), the ㅅ gets removed when adding a vowel. For example, when conjugating:

짓다 = to make/build  
짓 + 어 = 지어  
 [나는 집을 지어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-1-I-build-a-house.mp3) = I build a house

짓 + 었어요 = 지었어요  
 [저는 집을 지었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-2-I-built-a-house.mp3) = I built a house

Notice that this only happens when adding a vowel. When conjugating to the plain form, for example, you only add “~는다” to a stem and thus ㅅ does not get removed. For example:

집을 짓는다 = to  build a house

The reason this irregular is done is to avoid changing the sound of a word completely after conjugating it.

Pronouncing 짓다 sounds like ‘jit-da.’  
Pronouncing 지어 sounds like ‘ji-uh’  
Pronouncing 짓어 sounds like ‘jis-suh’

The third one (which is incorrect) completely changes the sound of the word stem when a vowel is added (from ‘jit’ to ‘jis.’ Whereas in the second one, the sound of the word stem only changes from ‘jit’ to ‘ji,’ which is much smaller of a difference (especially considering the ‘t’ in the pronunciation of 짓 is not aspirated – which makes it barely audible). I know that is confusing, but if you can’t understand *why*it is done, that’s fine. Just know that it must be done.

Some other examples of words that follow this irregular are (these words are too difficult for you right now, but I’m just showing you):

낫다 = better (adjective) – You will learn more about this word in [Lesson 19](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-17-25-2/lesson-19/#comp31)잇다 = to continue (verb)

Common words that this does not apply to are:

웃다 (to laugh) =  [저는 웃었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-3-I-laughed.mp3) = I laughed  
벗다 (to take off clothes) =  [저는 저의 옷을 벗었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-4-I-took-off-my-clothes.mp3) = I took off my clothes  
씻다 (to wash) =  [저는 저의 손을 씻었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-1-I-washed-my-hands.mp3) = I washed my hands

Here is a table with the word “짓다 (to build)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~아/어 (or one of its derivatives like ~았/었어요) is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 짓다 = build | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **지었어** | **지어** | 짓겠어 |
| Informal high | **지었어요** | **지어요** | 짓겠어요 |
| Plain form | **지었다** | 짓는다 | 짓겠다 |
| Formal high | **지었습니다** | 짓습니다 | 짓겠습니다 |

*Note that when a word stem has*ㅅ*as the fourth consonant, this irregular does not apply. For example, this does not apply to*없다*, which you will learn about in the next lesson.*

ㄷ irregular

If the last letter of a word stem ends in ㄷ (for example: 걷다 = to walk), the ㄷ gets changed to ㄹ when adding a vowel. This is only done with verbs. For example:

걷다 = to walk  
걷 + 어 = 걸어  
 [저는 걸어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-5-I-walk.mp3) = I walk

걷 + 었어요 = 걸었어요  
 [저는 걸었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-6-I-walked.mp3) = I walked

I don’t mean to confuse you, but I will:

걷다 means “to walk.” When conjugating, by adding a vowel it changes to 걸어  
Another meaning of 걷다 is “to tuck.” But this meaning of 걷다 does not follow the irregular rule. So when conjugating by adding a vowel, it simply stays as 걷어.  
걸다 means “to hang.” When conjugating, by adding a vowel it stays as 걸어

Confusing enough? Let’s look at all three:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 걷다 To walk | 걷다 To tuck | 걸다 To hang |
| Past Formal | 걸었어요 | 걷었어요 | 걸었어요 |
| Present Formal | 걸어요 | 걷어요 | 걸어요 |
| Future Formal | 걷겠어요 | 걷겠어요 | 걸겠어요 |

Honestly, though, the whole 걷다/걷다/걸다 thing is probably the most confusing part of this conjugation, and don’t worry too much about it. “Walk” is a word that is used much more frequently than “tuck,” so it is not something that comes up a lot.

The reason this conjugation is done is simply because the sounds flows off your tongue better. It is similar to pronouncing the word “butter” in English. When pronouncing “butter” we don’t say “butt-tter,” we just say “bud-er.” Like the ㄷ irregular, it is simply to avoid saying a hard consonant.

This is done to most stems ending in ㄷ. Common words that this does not apply to (like 걷다 = to tuck) are:

받다 (to get/receive) =  [돈을 받았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-7-Received-money.mp3) = I received money  
묻다 = 묻어요 (to bury) =  [저는 저의 강아지를 묻었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-2-I-burried-my-dog.mp3) = I buried my dog  
닫다 = 닫아요 (to close) =  [저는 문을 닫았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-3-I-closed-the-door.mp3) = I closed the door

Here is a table with the word “걷다 (to walk)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~아/어 (or one of its derivatives like ~았/었어요) is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 걷다 = walk | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **걸었어** | **걸어** | 걷겠어 |
| Informal high | **걸었어요** | **걸어요** | 걷겠어요 |
| Plain form | **걸었다** | 걷는다 | 걷겠다 |
| Formal high | **걸었습니다** | 걷습니다 | 걷겠습니다 |

ㅂ Irregular

If the last letter of a word stem ends in ㅂ (쉽다 = easy), the ㅂ changes to 우 when adding a vowel. 우 then gets added to the next syllable in the d word.

This is mostly done with adjectives. Many verbs end with ㅂ but this rule is rarely applied to verbs (some of the few verbs where this rule applies are: 줍다 (to pick up), 눕다 (to lie down)). For example:

쉽다 = to be easy  
쉽 + 어 = 쉬 + 우 + 어 = 쉬워  
 [그것은 쉬워](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-8-That-thing-is-easy.mp3) = That is easy

어렵다 = to be difficult  
어렵 + 어요 = 어려 + 우 + 어요 = 어려워요  
 [그것은 어려워요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-9-That-is-difficult.mp3) = That is difficult

귀엽다 = cute  
귀엽 + 어요 = 귀여 + 우 + 어요 = 귀여워요  
 [그 여자는 귀여워요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/11-That-girl-is-cute.mp3) = That girl is cute

In the words “돕다” (to help) and “곱다” (an uncommon way to say “beautiful”) ㅂ changes to 오 instead of 우. For example:

돕다 = to help  
돕 + 았어요 = 도 + 오 + 았어요 = 도왔어요  
 [저는 저의 어머니를 도왔어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-10-I-helped-my-mother.mp3) = I helped my mother

*Note: The*ㅂ*in*돕다*and*곱다 *changes to*오*only when*~아/어 *(or any derivative like*~았/었다*or*~아/어요*) is added. When adding any other vowel,*ㅂ*changes to*우*. As of now, you haven’t learned when you would need to add a different vowel. For example, in future lessons you will learn about adding ~*ㄹ/을*to verbs. When this gets added to*돕다*, it changes to*도울*. This isn’t immediately pressing to you now, but you should make a mental note of it.*

Because the ㅂ irregular is found in adjectives, you will be conjugating it not only at the end of a sentence, but also in the middle of a sentence (before a noun). Remember the difference between these two sentences.

[사과는 크다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-4-Apples-are-big.mp3) = Apples are big  
 [나는 큰 사과를 좋아한다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-5-I-like-big-apples.mp3) = I like big apples

In the first sentence, ‘big’ is an adjective that describes the noun (apple) at the end of the sentence.  
In the second, ‘big’ *describes* the apple (as ‘a big apple’) and then “like” acts on the noun. In Lesson 4, you learned how to describe a noun by placing an adjective with ~ㄴ/은 before it. Adding ~ㄴ/은 to adjectives where the stem ends in “ㅂ” causes this irregular to come into .

When placing an adjective (who’s stem ends in “ㅂ”)  before a noun to describe it, you add ~ㄴ to the newly formed 우/오 syllable:

귀엽 + ㄴ = 귀여 + 우 + ㄴ = 귀여운  
 [저는 귀여운 여자를 좋아해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/12-I-like-cute-girls.mp3) = I like cute girls

More examples:  
쉽다 = easy  
쉽 + ㄴ = 쉬 + 우 + ㄴ = 쉬운  
 [저는 쉬운 일을 했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/13-I-did-easy-work.mp3) = I did easy work

부드럽다 = soft  
부드럽 + ㄴ = 부드러 + 우 + ㄴ = 부드러운  
 [나는 부드러운 손이 있어](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-6-I-have-soft-hands.mp3)= I have soft hands

춥다 = cold  
춥 + ㄴ = 추 + 우 + ㄴ = 추운  
 [저는 추운 날씨를 좋아해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/15-I-like-cold-weather.mp3) = I like cold weather

Note that in most irregulars, the word changes differently if the last vowel in the stem is ㅗ OR ㅏ. However, in the ㅂ irregular, except for 돕다 and 곱다, all applicable words are changed by adding 우. Therefore, even in words where the last vowel in the stem is ㅏ (ex: 아름답다) or ㅗ (ex: 새롭다), 우 is added. For example:

아름답다 = beautiful:  
아름답 + 어요 = 아름다 + 우 + 어요 = 아름다워요  
 [그 여자는 아름다워요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-7-That-girl-is-beautiful.mp3) = That girl is beautiful

새롭다 = new  
새롭 + 어요 = 새로 + 우 + 어요 = 새로워요  
 [그 학교는 새로워요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-8-That-school-is-new.mp3) = That school is new  
 [그것은 새로운 학교예요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-9-That-is-a-new-school.mp3) = That (thing) is a new school

Probably the most confusing of all irregulars, mainly because it seems strange that ㅂ can change to 우/오. The reason this happens is similar to the ㅅ irregular. As you know already, when pronouncing a syllable with the last letter ㅂ, you don’t really pronounce the ‘B’ sound. If you don’t know what I mean, check out the [Pronunciation guide](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/?page_id=197). But, if you add a vowel after ㅂ the sound of ‘B’ would be pronounced. The purpose of the irregular is to eliminate the ‘B’ sound which isn’t actually in the word. Confusing? Yes, I know, but again, you don’t really need to care about *why* it is done.

This is done to some words ending in ㅂ. Some common words in which this does not apply:

좁다 (narrow) =  [이 방은 좁아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-10-This-room-is-small.mp3) = This room is narrow  
잡다 (to catch/grab) =  [저는 공을 잡았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-12-I-caught-the-ball.mp3) = I caught the ball  
넓다 (wide)  [이 방은 넓어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-11-This-room-is-wide.mp3) = This room is wide  
(Korean people often describe a room/place being “big” by saying it is “wide”)

Here is a table with the word “춥다 (cold)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~아/어 (or one of its derivatives like ~았/었어요) is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 춥다 = cold | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **추웠어** | **추워** | 춥겠어 |
| Informal high | **추웠어요** | **추워요** | 춥겠어요 |
| Plain form | **추웠다** | 춥다 | 춥겠다 |
| Formal high | **추웠습니다** | 춥습니다 | 춥겠습니다 |
| Adjective form | **추운**날씨 = cold weather |

ㅡ Irregular

If the final vowel in a stem is ㅡ (for example: 잠그다 = to lock), when adding ~아/어, you can not determine whether you need to add ~어 or ~아 to the stem by looking at ㅡ. Instead, you must look at the vowel in the second last syllable. For example, in the word “잠그다”, the second last syllable in the stem is “잠”, and the vowel here is ㅏ. Therefore, as usual, we add ~아  to 잠그. For example:

잠그다 + ~아/어  
= 잠그아

In cases like this where a word ends in “ㅡ” (that is, there is no final consonant after “ㅡ”) and is followed by ~아/어 (or any of its derivatives)*,*the ~아/어~ the “ㅡ” is eliminated and the addition of ~아/어~ merges to the stem. For example:

잠그다 = to lock  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅡ. The vowel in the second last syllable is ㅏ, so we add ~아.  
For example: 잠그 + 아  
Because there is no final consonant after “ㅡ”, ~아 replaces ㅡ.  
잠그 + 아 = 잠가

This would be the same in the past tense as well, for example:

잠그 + 았어요 = 잠갔어요  
 [저는 문을 잠갔어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/16-I-locked-the-door.mp3) = I locked the door

Let’s look at another example:

바쁘다 = to be busy  
The last vowel in stem is ㅡ. The vowel in the second last syllable is ㅏ, so we add 아.  
For example: 바쁘 + 아  
Because there is no final consonant after “ㅡ”, ~아 replaces ㅡ.  
바쁘 + 아요 = 바빠요  
 [저는 바빠요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/17-I-am-busy.mp3) = I am busy

Let’s look at another example:

예쁘다 = pretty  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅡ. The vowel in the second last syllable is not ㅏ or ㅗ, so we add 어.  
For example: 예쁘 + 어  
Because there is no final consonant after “ㅡ”, ~어 replaces ㅡ.  
예쁘 + 어요 = 예뻐  
 [그 여자는 예뻐요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-13-That-girl-is-pretty.mp3) = That girl is pretty

Some stems only have one syllable. For example, the stem of 크다 is just 크. In this case, we know that we need to use the ㅡ irregular, but there is no previous syllable to draw on to determine what should be added to the stem. In these cases, ~어 is added to the stem. For example:

크다 = to be big  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅡ. 크 is the only syllable in the stem, so we add 어  
For example: 크 + 어  
Because there is no final consonant after “ㅡ”, ~어 replaces ㅡ  
크 + 어요 = 커요  
 [그 집은 커요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-7-s1.mp3) = That house is big

This same rule applies when adding ~아/어 to words where, not only is the last vowel in the stem ㅡ, but all the vowels in the stem are ㅡ. For example, in the word “슬프다,” not only does the stem end in “ㅡ” but the vowel in the second last syllable is also “ㅡ”. In this case as well, ~어 should merge to the stem. For example:

슬프다 = to be sad  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅡ. The second last vowel in the stem is also ㅡ, so we add 어  
For example: 슬프 + 어  
Because there is no final consonant after “ㅡ”, ~어 replaces ㅡ  
슬프 + 어요 = 슬퍼요  
 [저는 아주 슬퍼요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-15-I-am-very-sad.mp3) = I am very sad

Sometimes the last vowel of a stem is ㅡ, but the stem ends in a consonant. In these cases, all of the above rules still apply, but the addition of ~아/어 does not merge to the stem (because it is blocked by the consonant). For example:

긁다 = to scratch  
The last vowel in the stem is ㅡ. 긁 is the only syllable in the stem, so we add 어  
For example: 긁 + 어  
Because there is a final consonant after “ㅡ”, ~어 does not merge to the stem  
긁 + 어요 = 긁어요  
 [저는 머리를 긁었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson-7-14-I-scratched-my-head.mp3) = I scratched my head

Another example where we find a single-syllable word with “ㅡ” as the only vowel is “듣다 (to hear)”

듣다 = to hear  
Last vowel in stem is ㅡ. There is no syllable preceding 듣, so we must add 어.  
듣 ends in a consonant, so 어 does not get added directly to the syllable.  
듣 + 었어요 = 듣었어요

But wait! Don’t forget the ㄷ irregular. In this example, both ㅡ and ㄷ irregulars are used:

듣 + 었다 = 들었다  
 [저는 쥐를 들었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/18-I-heard-a-mouse.mp3) = I heard a mouse

An irregular to this already irregular rule is “만들다 (to make).” Even though the second last syllable in the stem has the vowel “ㅏ”, ~어~ is added instead of ~아~. For example:

만들다 + ~아/어요  
= 만들어요

Here is a table with the word “잠그다 (to lock – which is a verb)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~아/어 (or one of its derivatives like ~았/었어요) is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 잠그다 = lock | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **잠갔어** | **잠가** | 잠그겠어 |
| Informal high | **잠갔어요** | **잠가요** | 잠그겠어요 |
| Plain form | **잠갔다** | 잠근다 | 잠그겠다 |
| Formal high | **잠갔습니다** | 잠급니다 | 잠그겠습니다 |

And here is a table with the word “예쁘다 (pretty – which is an adjective)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~아/어 (or one of its derivatives like ~았/었어요) is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 예쁘다 = pretty | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **예뻤어** | **예뻐** | 예쁘겠어 |
| Informal high | **예뻤어요** | **예뻐요** | 예쁘겠어요 |
| Plain form | **예뻤다** | 예쁘다 | 예쁘겠다 |
| Formal high | **예뻤습니다** | 예쁩니다 | 예쁘겠습니다 |

Finally, here is a table with the word “만들다 (to make – which is a verb)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 만들다 = to make | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **만들었어** | **만들어** | 만들겠어 |
| Informal high | **만들었어요** | **만들어요** | 만들겠어요 |
| Plain form | **만들었다** | 만든다 | 만들겠다 |
| Formal high | **만들었습니다** | 만듭니다 | 만들겠습니다 |

*You will learn how*만든다 *and*만듭니다 *are formed later in the lesson when you learn about the*ㄹ *irregular.*

르 Irregular

If the final syllable in a stem is 르 (마르다), it is d differently when adding ~아/어. This irregular only applies when adding ~아/어(or any of its derivatives) to a stem and not when adding any other grammatical principles that starts with a vowel or consonant. Up until now, you haven’t learned about any of these other grammatical principles, that can start with anything other than ~아/어~, so don’t worry about this distinction too much.

When adding ~아/어 to these words, an additional ㄹ is created and placed in the syllable preceding 르 as the last consonant. The 르 also gets changed to either 러 or 라 (depending on if you are adding 어 or 아). This is done to both verbs and adjectives (the only exception is 따르다 = to follow/to pour). This is difficult to explain, and much easier to show with examples:

다르다 = different   
다르 + 아요 = 다 + ㄹ + 라요 = 달라요  
 [그것은 달라요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-thing-is-different.mp3) = That thing is different

빠르다 = to be fast  
빠르 + 아요 = 빠 + ㄹ + 라요 = 빨라요  
 [그 남자는 빨라요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-man-is-fast.mp3) = That man is fast

부르다 = to call somebody’s name  
부르 + 었어요 = 부 + ㄹ + 렀어요 = 불렀어요  
 [저는 저의 누나를 불렀어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/19-I-called-my-sister.mp3) = I called my sister

Here is a table with the word “고르다 (to choose – which is a verb)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~아/어 (or one of its derivatives like ~았/었어요) is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 고르다 = choose | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **골랐어** | **골라** | 고르겠어 |
| Informal high | **골랐어요** | **골라요** | 고르겠어요 |
| Plain form | **골랐다** | 고른다 | 고르겠다 |
| Formal high | **골랐습니다** | 고릅니다 | 고르겠습니다 |

And here is a table with the word “마르다 (thin – which is an adjective)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~아/어 (or one of its derivatives like ~았/었어요) is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 마르다 = thin | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **말랐어** | **말라** | 마르겠어 |
| Informal high | **말랐어요** | **말라요** | 마르겠어요 |
| Plain form | **말랐다** | 마르다 | 마르겠다 |
| Formal high | **말랐습니다** | 마릅니다 | 마르겠습니다 |
| Adjective form | 마른 여자 = thin girl |

ㄹ Irregular

Okay, last one, I promise.

As you know, there are times when you must choose between two things to add to a stem. For example:

~아/어 means you must choose between adding ~아 or ~어  
~ㄴ/은 means you must choose between adding ~ㄴ or ~은  
~ㅂ/습 means you must choose between adding ~ㅂ or ~습  
~ㄹ/을 means you must choose between adding ~ㄹ or ~을

As you know, you choose the correct addition based on the stem.

If the final letter of a stem is ㄹ AND you add any of the following:

~ㄴ/은  
~ㄴ/는  
~ㅂ/습  
~ㄹ/을

The first option (~ㄴ/ ~ㅂ / ~ㄹ ) should be used. In addition, the ㄹ is removed from the stem and the ~ㄴ / ~ㅂ / ~ㄹ is added directly to the stem. Let’s look at each one individually.

ㄹ Irregular: Adding ~ㄴ/은 to words

You have learned about adding ~ㄴ/은 to adjective stems when describing nouns. Usually, you add ~ㄴ directly to the stem of an adjective ending in a vowel, and ~은 to the stem of an adjective ending in a consonant, for example:

크다 = 큰 남자  
작다 = 작은 남자

When adding ~ㄴ/은 to a stem which ends in ㄹ, the ㄹ is removed and ㄴ is added to the stem:

길다 = long  
길 + ㄴ = 긴  
 [저는 긴 거리를 건넜어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/20-I-crossed-the-long-street.mp3) = I crossed the long street

멀다 = far away  
멀 + ㄴ = 먼  
 [저는 먼 병원에 갔어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/21-I-went-to-a-far-away-hospital.mp3) = I went to a far away hospital (a hospital that is far away)

There will be times when you have to add ~ㄴ/은 to verbs stems as well, but you haven’t learned about this yet. I introduce this concept in [Lesson 26](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/lesson-26/), and then talk about the irregular being applied in [Lesson 28](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/lesson-28/). I don’t want you to think about this too much until those lessons, but just so you know, the concept is the same as adding ~ㄴ/은 to an adjective. For example:

열다 = to open  
열 + ㄴ = 연

Although you haven’t learned about adding ~ㄴ/은 to stems, you *have* learned about adding ~ㄴ/는다 to verb stems. Normally, you add ~ㄴ다 to the stem of a verb ending in a vowel, and ~는다 to the stem of a verb ending in a consonant. For example:

나는 집에 간다 = I go home  
나는 밥을 먹는다 = I eat rice

But when adding ~ㄴ/는다 to a verb stem that ends in ㄹ, you must remove ㄹ and add ~ㄴ다 to the verb stem:

나는 문을 연다 = I open the door  
 [나는 케이크를 만든다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-25-I-make-a-cake.mp3) = I make a cake

ㄹ Irregular: Adding ~ㅂ/습 to words

You have also learned about adding ~ㅂ/습니다 to verb and adjective stems when conjugating in the Formal high respect form: Normally, you add ~ㅂ니다 to the stem of a word ending in a vowel, and ~습니다 to the stem of a word ending in a consonant. For example:

Verbs:  
 [저는 집에 갑니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-7-s2.mp3) = I go home  
 [저는 밥을 먹습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-7-s3.mp3) = I eat rice

Adjectives:  
 [그 여자는 예쁩니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-7-s4.mp3) = That girl is pretty  
 [이 방은 넓습니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-7-s5.mp3) = This room is big/wide

But when adding ~ㅂ니다 to the stem of a word that ends in ㄹ, you must remove ㄹ and add ~ㅂ directly to the stem. For example:

Verbs:  
 [저는 문을 엽니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/24-I-open-the-door.mp3) = I open the door  
 [저는 케이크를 만듭니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-7-s6.mp3) = I make a cake

Adjectives:  
 [그 병원은 멉니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/26-That-hospital-is-far.mp3) = That hospital is far  
 [그 여자의 머리카락은 깁니다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-7-27-That-girls-hair-is-long.mp3) = That girls hair is long

*머리 can mean ‘head’ or ‘hair’ depending on the context. If you want to specifically mention your hair, you can say 머리카락, which always means the hair on one’s head. 머리 or 머리카락 does not refer to the hair on an animal, or the body hair of a human. This hair is referred to as “털” and extends to most of the hair that can be found on animals (fur, the wool on a sheep, etc).*

The addition of ~ㅂ/습니다 only affects words that end in ㄹ. There is no irregular that occurs if adding ~ㅂ/습니다 to any other type of stem. For example, notice how only the stem of 길다 changes as a result of adding this:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Irregular | Example Word | + ~ㅂ/습니다 |
| ㅅ Irregular | 짓다 | 짓습니다 |
| ㄷ Irregular | 걷다 | 걷습니다 |
| ㅂ Irregular | 쉽다 | 쉽습니다 |
| ㅡ Irregular | 예쁘다 | 예쁩니다 |
| 르 Irregular | 마르다 | 마릅니다 |
| ㄹ Irregular | 길다 | **깁니다** |

Here is a table with the word “열다 (to open – which is a verb)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. The irregular conjugations are in bold. Notice that this only occurs when ~ㄴ or ~ㅂ is added to the verb stem.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 열다 = open | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 열었어 | 열어 | 열겠어 |
| Informal high | 열었어요 | 열어요 | 열겠어요 |
| Plain form | 열었다 | **연다** | 열겠다 |
| Formal high | 열었습니다 | **엽니다** | 열겠습니다 |

And here is a table with the word “길다 (long – which is an adjective)” being d using all the honorific forms you have learned so far. Notice that this only occurs when ~ㄴ or ~ㅂ is added to the verb stem (it would happen when ~ㄴ is added, but you don’t add ~ㄴ/는 to an adjective when you it like this. There are times, however, when this would happen, but you haven’t even gotten close to learning about them yet. For example, in [Lesson 76](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/upper-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-4-lessons-76-83/lesson-76/), we talk about the addition of ~ㄴ/는데 to clauses. This would make 길다 turn into 긴데. Please don’t even think about looking ahead to [Lesson 76](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/upper-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-4-lessons-76-83/lesson-76/) until you’ve finished with this lesson, and the 69 lessons in between.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 길다 = long | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 길었어 | 길어 | 길겠어 |
| Informal high | 길었어요 | 길어요 | 길겠어요 |
| Plain form | 길었다 | 길다 | 길겠다 |
| Formal high | 길었습니다 | **깁니다** | 길겠습니다 |
| Adjective form | **긴**거리 = long road |

I don’t want to confuse you too much more because I am sure you are already really confused. Just the amount of content on this page alone is enough to make somebody cry. That being said, I think it is a very good exercise to try to compare how the words 듣다 and 들다 differ in their conjugations. Don’t worry about the meaning of 들다 yet (it is a very complex word that has many meanings), but just assume it is a verb in this case. For now, let’s just focus on how they are d.

Notice that when conjugating 듣다, you need to consider the following irregular patterns:

* ㄷ irregular (because it ends in ㄷ)
* ㅡ irregular (because the final vowel is ㅡ)

The following table shows how 듣다 should be d across the honorifics and tenses you have learned so far: *(Irregular conjugations are in bold)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 듣다 = to hear | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | **들었어** | **들어** | 듣겠어 |
| Informal high | **들었어요** | **들어요** | 듣겠어요 |
| Plain form | **들었다** | 듣는다 | 듣겠다 |
| Formal high | **들었습니다** | 듣습니다 | 듣겠습니다 |

Notice when conjugating 들다, you need to consider the following irregular patterns:

* ㄹ irregular (because it ends in ㄹ)
* ㅡ irregular (because the final vowel is ㅡ)

The following table shows how 들다 should be d across the honorifics and tenses you have learned so far: *(Irregular conjugations are in bold)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 들다 | Past | Present | Future |
| Informal low | 들었어 | 들어 | 들겠어 |
| Informal high | 들었어요 | 들어요 | 들겠어요 |
| Plain form | 들었다 | **든다** | 들겠다 |
| Formal high | 들었습니다 | **듭니다** | 들겠습니다 |

I feel that comparing these two is a very good exercise because you can see that sometimes, because of the irregular conjugations, 듣다 might look exactly like 들다. For example, in all of the past tense conjugations, there is no way to distinguish between the two based on sound, and the only way to distinguish them is by context in a sentence.

There is no easy way around memorizing stuff like this. The only words of encouragement I can give you is that – as you become more and more familiar with the language, and as you expose yourself to it more and more, it *does*become second nature. I know you can’t believe that now, but it does.

Adding ~ㄴ/은 to Adjectives

I mentioned this in some of the sections above, but I would like to organize it all here. In [Lesson 4](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-4/), you learned how to add ~ㄴ/은 to adjectives to describe an upcoming noun. Some irregulars will come into when doing this because of the possibility of adding a vowel to a stem. Let’s look at the word “어렵다” as an example. 어렵다 has a consonant as its final letter, which means that ~은 must be added (instead of ~ㄴ). Therefore, we end up with:

어렵은

Because of this, we now have the final consonant “ㅂ” followed by a vowel, which causes the ㅂ irregular to be applied. The correct conjugation of 어렵다 + ~ㄴ/은 is therefore “어려운.”

Below is a table that shows how irregular adjectives can change because of adding ~ㄴ/은:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Irregular | Example Word | Does this apply? | Application |
| ㅅ Irregular | 낫다 (better) | YES | 나은 |
| ㄷ Irregular | NA | NA | NA |
| ㅂ Irregular | 쉽다 (easy) | YES | 쉬운 |
| ㅡ Irregular | 바쁘다 (busy) | NO | 바쁜 |
| 르 Irregular | 빠르다 (fast) | NO | 빠른 |
| ㄹ Irregular | 길다 (long) | YES | 긴 |

Looking Ahead to Grammatical Principles that you will Learn in Future Lessons

There are many additions that you will learn in future lessons. You will learn the meaning and usage of all of these when they become important for your level of study. When you learn about a new addition in a future lesson, I will explain how it causes irregular words to change.

The good thing is – if you learn how one format of addition causes irregulars to change, every addition with the same initial letters will cause the same change. For example, adding ~아/어 causes ㅅ to be eliminated in words that follow the ㅅ irregular. Likewise, any other addition that *starts* with ~아/어 causes the same change. For example, if I add ~아/어 or ~았/었다 to 짓다, we see the same change to the word stem – that is 짓다 changes to 지어 and 지었다 respectively.

This same idea can be applied to grammatical additions that will be introduced in later lessons. For example, in Lesson 43 you will learn how ~(으)면 causes irregular words to change. The change that results from adding ~(으)면 is exactly the same as the change that results from adding similar additions like ~(으)며 and ~(으)면서. Therefore, you don’t need to memorize how each one affects irregulars, but rather how the general format of adding ~(으)ㅁ… will affect irregulars. I know the road ahead to memorizing these new additions and their effects on irregulars looks daunting, but this grouping of formats will allow your brain to compartmentalize the information.

Each time a new format/style of addition is introduced in my lessons, I will explain how irregulars adapt to it. This only needs to be done once for each format, because each successive addition with the same format will create the same change to irregulars. Below is a list of grammatical principles you will learn in future lessons. Each one follows a particular style. In each of these lessons, I will explain how they cause irregular words to change. Furthermore, I will explain the other grammatical principles that follow the same format that will create the same change:

~ㄹ/을 ([Lesson 9](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-9-16/unit-1-lesson-9/))  
~니 ([Lesson 21](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-17-25-2/lesson-21-asking-questions-in-korean-why-when-where-and-who/))  
~ㅁ/음 ([Lesson 29](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/lesson-29/))  
~(으)려고 ([Lesson 32](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-26-33/lesson-32/))  
~(으)시다 ([Lesson 39](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-34-41/lesson-39/))  
~(으)면 ([Lesson 43](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit-2-lower-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-2-lessons-42-50/lesson-43/))  
~(으)니까 ([Lesson 81](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/upper-intermediate-korean-grammar/unit-4-lessons-76-83/lesson-81/))

For now, focus on the concepts that were introduced in this lesson. When you reach each of the lessons above, I will bring up the discussion of irregulars again. At that point, we can talk about how that grammatical principle causes irregular words to change.

[Check out our Irregular Guide if you are confused (I’m sure you are!).](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/?page_id=448)

Everybody is confused when they learn these irregulars. Eventually you will reach a point where all of these will come natural to you. Whenever you learn a new word where the stem ends in ㅅ/ㄹ/ㅂ/ㄷ/르/ㅡ just make a mental note about how you should that word in the future. I don’t even have to think about these irregulars anymore because they just flow out naturally. If you can’t memorize them all right now, just try to understand them, which will allow you to recognize them later. Eventually, you will memorize them simply from using and hearing them so much.

**UNIT 1-LESSON 8**

Nouns:  
 [기계](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8.mp3) = machine

[대학교](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-1.mp3) = college, university

[트럭](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-2.mp3) = truck

[검은색](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-3.mp3) = (the color) black

[흰색](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-white.mp3) = (the color) white

[음료수](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-4.mp3) = beverage, drink

[외국](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-5.mp3) = foreign country

[외국인](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-6.mp3) = foreigner

[고등학교](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-7.mp3) = high school

[도서관](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-9.mp3) = library

[곳](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-32.mp3) = place

[동시](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Lesson-8-12.mp3) = same time

[밤](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-33.mp3) = night

[어젯밤](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-34.mp3) = last night

[낮](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-37.mp3) = daytime

[동](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-east.mp3) = East

[남](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-38.mp3) = South

[서](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-west.mp3) = West

[북](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-39.mp3) = North

Verbs:  
  [놀다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-10.mp3) = to

  [쓰다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-11.mp3) = to use

  [쓰다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-11.mp3) = to write

  [실수하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Lesson8-14.mp3) = to make a mistake

  [수리하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Lesson8-15.mp3) = to repair

  [잡다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-15.mp3) = to catch, to grab, to grasp

  [읽다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-16.mp3) = to read

  [내다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-17.mp3) = to pay for

  [받다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Lesson-8-28.mp3) = to get, to receive, to acquire

  [도착하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-20.mp3) = to arrive

  [여행하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Lesson8-21.mp3) = to travel

Adjectives:  
  [완벽하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-21.mp3) = to be perfect

  [아프다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-sick.mp3) = to be sick, to be sore

  [똑똑하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-22.mp3) = to be smart

  [중요하다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-23.mp3) = to be important

  [젊다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-24.mp3) = to be young

  [늙다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-25.mp3) = to be old

  [나쁘다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Lesson8vocabbad.mp3) = to be bad

Adverbs:  
 [바로](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-28.mp3) = immediately

[즉시](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-27.mp3) = immediately

[빨리](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-quickly.mp3) = quickly/fast

[자주](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-29.mp3) = often

[가끔](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-30.mp3) = sometimes

[많이](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-31.mp3) = many/a lot of

[방금](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-amoment.mp3) = a moment ago

[갑자기](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-suddenly.mp3) = suddenly

[매년](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-35.mp3) = every year

[다시](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vLesson-8-36.mp3) = again

[혼자](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Lesson8vocab-alone.mp3) = alone

[안](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/wLesson-1-28.mp3) = not

*There are 1050 vocabulary entries in Unit 1. All entries are linked to an audio file.  
You can download all of these files in one package*[*here*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/audio/)*.*

For help memorizing these words, try using our [Memrise tool](http://www.memrise.com/course/150816/howtostudykoreancom-unit-1-2/8/).

You might also want to try listening to all of the words on loop with this [Vocabulary Practice video](https://youtu.be/csOGN-qlY9I).

Korean Adverbs

To this point, you have studied Korean verbs and adjectives in great depth, but you have yet to learn much about Korean adverbs. First of all, what is an adverb? Adverbs are words in sentences that tell you when, where, or to what degree something is being done.

When: I went to work on **Tuesday**  
Where: I am **inside** the house  
Degree: I opened the door **quickly**

In this lesson, you will learn how to use adverbs in Korean sentences. Let’s get started!

When and Where

Anytime you put a word in a sentence that indicates when or where something is taking place, you must add the particle 에 to the end of that word. Keep in mind, however, that 에 is not the only particle that can go at the end of words of position or time. There are other particles that can go at the end of these words to indicate *from* when/where something occurred, *until* when/where, etc. For now, though, lets just talk about 에.

This is very important. Even though all places (park, house, hospital, school, office, room, kitchen, etc.) are *also*nouns, when they are being talked about **as a place**, the particle 에 must be attached to them. Notice the difference between the following two sentences:

[저는 병원을 지었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-1I-built-a-hospital.mp3) = I built a hospital  
 [저는 병원에 갔어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-2I-went-to-thea-hospital.mp3) = I went to the/a hospital

In the first sentence, “hospital” is the thing that you are building – so it is an object, which requires you to use the  을/를 particle.  
In the second sentence, the hospital is the place in which you went to – so it is a place, which requires it to have the 에 particle.

However, if you wanted to say *where*you built that hospital, you could say this:

[저는 병원을 공원 옆에 지었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/1-I-built-a-hospital.mp3) = I built a hospital beside the park

In addition to this, any word that indicates when something is taking place, needs to have the Korean particle 에 attached to it. For example:

[저는 화요일에 가겠어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2-I-will-go-on-Tuesday.mp3) = I will go on Tuesday  
 [저는 저녁에 공부했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/3-I-studied-in-the-evening.mp3) = I studied in the evening  
 [저는 가을에 공원 옆에 병원을 지었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-3I-built-a-hospital-beside-the-park-in-the-fall.mp3) = I built a hospital beside the park in the fall

The best part about Korean adverbs is that they can essentially be placed at any place in the sentence. The only place they cannot be placed is at the end of the sentence – because a sentence must always end in an adjective or verb. They could even be placed at the beginning of a sentence:

[여름에 저는 공부하겠어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/5-I-will-study-in-the-summer.mp3) = I will study in the summer

Korean people don’t add ~에 when using 오늘 (today), 내일 (tomorrow) and 어제 (yesterday):

[저는 한국에 오늘 도착했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-8-s1.mp3) = I arrived in Korea today  
 [저는 도서관에 어제 갔어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Lesson-8-s2.mp3) = I went to the library yesterday  
 [저는 내일 한국어를 공부하겠어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-6-I-will-study-Korean-tomorrow.mp3) = I will study Korean tomorrow.

To what degree/How much

In addition to “when” and “where” adverbs, many adverbs can tell us to what degree something is being done. These adverbs usually (but not always) end in ‘ly’ in English:

I ran *really quickly*  
I ate *fast*  
I left *immediately*  
I *often* meet my friend on Thursday  
I eat *too much sometimes*

When adding these types of adverbs to sentences, no particle needs to be attached.  
While other adverbs are generally free to be placed anywhere in a sentence, adverbs like this that indicate a degree to which something is done are typically placed immediately before the verb. For example:

[저는 저의 친구를 자주 만나요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-4I-meet-my-friend-often.mp3) = I meet my friend often  
 [저는 밥을 많이 먹었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-5I-ate-a-lot-of-food-rice.mp3) = I ate a lot of food (rice)  
 [저는 집에 바로 갔어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-6I-went-home-immediately.mp3) = I went home immediately  
 [저는 숙제를 빨리 했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-7I-did-my-homework-quickly.mp3) = I did my homework quickly

Also, many of these words are just transferred from their adjective forms to create an adverb. This is done in English as well, for example:

Quick   -> Quickly  
Easy     -> Easily  
Quiet    -> Quietly

A lot of adverbs in Korean are simply made by adding ‘게’ to the stem of an adjective:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Adverb** |
| 쉽다 = easy | 쉽게 = easily |
| 비슷하다 = similar | 비슷하게 = similarly |
| 다르다 = different | 다르게 = differently |

Adjectives that end in 하다 are sometimes changed into adverbs by changing 하다 to 히.  With most adjectives you can either add 게 to the stem or 히 with no difference in meaning. The only thing I can suggest is try to listen to which one is said in a specific situation, because even Korean people don’t know the answer to the question “what is the difference between 조용하게 and 조용히”:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Adverb** |
| 조용하다 = quiet | 조용하게/조용히 = quietly |
| 안전하다 = safe | 안전하게/안전히 = safely |

Finally, some adjectives are changed into adverbs in a different way. When this happens, they are usually very similar to their original adjective form:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Adverb** |
| 많다 = many | 많이 = many/a lot\* |
| 빠르다 = quick/fast | 빨리 = quickly |

\*많다/많이 essentially have the same meaning aside from the fact that one is an adverb and one is an adjective. Most of the time, the difference between the adjective and adverb form is very clear, but with 많이/많다, the meaning is similar. See the following:

[저는 많은 밥을 먹었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-8I-ate-a-lot-of-rice.mp3) = I ate a lot of rice  
 [저는 밥을 많이 먹었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-9I-ate-a-lot-of-rice.mp3) = I ate a lot of rice.  
Now that you know ALL that, using adverbs in sentences is easy as pie!:

[저는 조용하게 먹었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-7-I-ate-quietly.mp3) = I ate quietly  
 [저는 거리를 안전하게 건넜어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-8-I-crossed-the-street-safely.mp3) = I crossed the street safely  
 [저는 행복하게 살았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/9-I-lived-happily.mp3) = I lived happily

You can, of course, use more than one adverb in a sentence. To look at the list I showed you earlier:

[저는 매우 빨리 달렸어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-10-I-ran-really-quickly.mp3) = I ran really quickly  
 [저는 빨리 먹었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-11-I-ate-fast.mp3) = I ate fast  
 [저는 바로 떠났어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-12-I-left-immediately.mp3) = I left immediately  
 [저는 저의 친구를 목요일에 자주 만나요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-13-I-often-meet-my-friend-on-Thursday.mp3) = I often meet my friend on Thursday  
 [저는 가끔 너무 많이 먹어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-14-I-eat-too-much-someitmes.mp3) = I eat too much sometimes

Though you can do that, using two adverbs that indicate the ‘degree of something’ is generally not done in Korean. For example, this would sound awkward:

저는 거리를 쉽게 빨리 건넜어요 = I easily quickly crossed the street (It’s also awkward in English!)

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Negative Sentences

There are two ways you can make a sentence negative:

1. By adding 안, which acts as an adverb in the sentence. 안 is typically placed immediately before the final verb or adjective. For example:

[그 여자는 안 예뻐요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-10That-girl-isnt-pretty.mp3) = That girl isn’t pretty  
 [저는 생선을 안 좋아해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-21-I-dont-like-fish.mp3) = I don’t like fish  
 [저는 내일 학교에 안 가겠어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-19-Im-not-going-to-school-tomorrow.mp3) = I’m not going to school tomorrow

2. By adding ~지 않다 to the stem of the final verb or adjective. 않다 then becomes the verb or adjective in that sentence and must be d accordingly. For example:

[그 여자는 예쁘지 않아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-11That-girl-isnt-pretty.mp3) = That girl isn’t pretty  
 [저는 생선을 좋아하지 않아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-22-I-dont-like-fish.mp3) = I don’t like fish  
 [저는 내일 학교에 가지 않겠어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-20-Im-not-going-to-school-tomorrow.mp3) = I’m not going to school tomorrow

Their respective meanings are identical. It is up to the speaker to decide which one will be used. There are times when it will be more natural to use “안” and there will be times when it will be more natural to use “~지 않다.” At this point, you can consider them the same. Throughout your studies you will constantly be exposed to 안 and ~지 않다, and through this exposure you can gradually develop a preference for which one should be used and in which circumstance.

I like to share my observations that I have made through my experiences with the Korean language. I think this can be helpful to learners as they struggle to understand when to use some grammatical principles over others. There are a few things I would like to talk about regarding these negative sentences.

As you know, most verbs ending in ~하다 can be turned into a noun-form of that verb by removing ~하다. For example:

공부하다 = to study  
공부 = the noun form of “study”

실수하다 = to make a mistake  
실수 = a mistake

여행하다 = to travel  
여행 = a trip

When indicating that one “does not do” a ~하다 verb, it is common to separate ~하다 from the noun and place “안” in between them. For example:

[저는 공부를 안 했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent7.mp3) = I didn’t study  
Instead of:  
저는 안 공부했어요

[저는 실수를 안 했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent8.mp3) = I didn’t make (do) a mistake  
Instead of:  
저는 안 실수했어요

[저는 여행을 안 했어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent.mp3) = I didn’t travel  
Instead of:  
저는 안 여행했어요

It would also be appropriate to use the ~지 않다 form with these words. However, in these cases, it doesn’t matter if the noun is separated from ~하다 or not. For example:

[저는 공부하지 않았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-16-I-didnt-study.mp3) = I didn’t study  
 [저는 공부를 하지 않았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent2.mp3) = I didn’t study

[저는 실수하지 않았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent3.mp3) = I didn’t make a mistake  
 [저는 실수를 하지 않았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent4.mp3) = I didn’t make a mistake

[저는 여행하지 않았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent5.mp3) = I didn’t travel  
 [저는 여행을 하지 않았어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent6.mp3) = I didn’t travel

Many adjectives end in ~하다. It is unnatural to remove the ~하다 in these words and place “안” between them. You can’t separate an adjective and “act” on it with ~하다 because they are adjectives. For example, the following would be incorrect:

저는 행복을 안 해요 (This does not mean “I am not happy”)

However, you could use ~지 않다 on a -하다 adjective or place “안” before the verb without separating it. For example:

[저는 안 행복해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent1.mp3) = I am not happy  
 [저는 행복하지 않아요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Lesson-8-18-Im-not-happy.mp3) = I am not happy

I have had people ask me about the word order of sentences using an adverb *and*the negative adverb “안”. One learner asked me if this sentence would be okay:

저는 빨리 안 공부했어요

While it might be understood, this sentence sounds very awkward in Korean. The reason is probably due to the fact that there are two adverbs being used. In this sentence, both “빨리” and “안” act as adverbs that indicate the degree to which the studying was done. As I mentioned earlier, this usually isn’t done in Korean. Instead, if you wanted to express that meaning, you can use the ~지않다 negative addition instead. By doing this, you effectively remove one of the adverbs and are left with:

저는 빨리 공부하지 않았어요 = I didn’t study quickly

Even still, though. This sentence could still be a little awkward in Korean – because when would you ever say “I didn’t study quickly”? In most cases, it would be more natural to simply use an adverb that has the opposite meaning. For example, this sentence:

저는 밥을 빨리 먹지 않았어요 = I didn’t eat (rice) quickly

Would be more naturally said as:

[저는 밥을 천천히 먹었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-12I-ate-rice-slowly.mp3)= I ate rice slowly

To not be: 아니다

아니다 (to not be) is the opposite of the word 이다 (to be), but they are used a little bit differently. Remember that 이다 is always attached directly to a noun. For example:

나는 선생님이다 = I am a teacher  
나는 대학생이다 = I am a university student

However, when using 아니다, the particle ~이/가 is attached to the noun, and 아니다 is used as a separate word:

나는 선생님이 아니다 = I am not a teacher  
나는 대학생이 아니다 = I am not a university student

Below are some examples, with possible conjugations of 아니다. You have learned how to verbs and adjectives, but you still haven’t learned how to 이다 and 아니다. You will learn this in [the next lesson](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-9-16/unit-1-lesson-9/).

나는 선생님이 아니다 = I am not a teacher  
( [저는 선생님이 아니에요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-13I-am-not-a-teacher.mp3))

나는 너의 친구가 아니다 = I am not your friend  
( [나는 너의 친구가 아니야](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-14I-am-not-your-friend.mp3))

나는 대학생이 아니다 = I am not a University Student  
( [저는 대학생이 아니에요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-15I-am-not-a-University-Student.mp3))

To not have: 없다

Just like how 아니다 is the opposite of 이다 – 없다 is the opposite of 있다. In [Lesson 5](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-5/), you learned some ways to use 있다. 없다 can indicate that one “does not have” something or that something “wasn’t at a particular location.” For example:

To not have:  
 [저는 돈이 없어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/25-I-dont-have-money.mp3) = I don’t have money  
 [저는 시간이 없어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/26-I-dont-have-time.mp3) = I don’t have time  
 [우리는 차가 없어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-16We-dont-have-a-car.mp3) =  We don’t have a car

To not be in a location:  
 [저의 친구는 지금 한국에 없어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/27-My-friend-is-not-in-Korea-now.mp3) = My friend is not in Korea now  
 [사람이 없었어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/28-There-was-nobody-there.mp3) = There was no people

To not like: 싫어하다 and 싫다

While we are talking about negative words, I want to talk about 싫어하다 quickly. “싫어하다” is a verb that is used to indicate that one dislikes something. 싫어하다 is the opposite of 좋아하다 (to like). For example:

[저는 과일을 싫어해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/29-I-dislike-fruit.mp3) = I dislike fruit  
 [저는 과일을 좋아해요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Lesson8nnsent9.mp3) = I like fruit

In [Lesson 3](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-1-8/unit-1-lesson-3/), you learned how 좋다 and 좋아하다 are different. I explained that 좋다 is an adjective (meaning “to be good”), and thus cannot act on an object. For example:

[그 선생님은 좋다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/That-teacher-is-good.mp3) = That teacher is good  
 [이 학교는 좋다](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/22.mp3) = This school is good

The adjective form of 싫어하다 is 싫다. However, contrary to what you probably expect, 싫다 is not used to mean “to not be good.” In order to indicate that something is “not good” (i.e. “bad”), the adjective 나쁘다 is commonly used. Instead, 싫다 is often used to indicate that one dislikes something (just like 싫어하다). For example:

[저는 과일이 싫어요](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Lesson8-18I-dislike-fruit.mp3) = I dislike fruit

Notice that because 싫다 is an adjective, it cannot act on an object, so the particles ~이/가 are attached to the noun. This type of sentence is a little bit too complex right now, so I don’t want to dig too deep into it. I discuss this more deeply in [Lesson 15](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/unit1/unit-1-lessons-9-16/lesson-15/).

Be careful to not make double negative sentences. Although technically grammatically correct, this one reads funny:

저는 과일을 싫어하지 않아요 = I don’t dislike fruit

*There are 1250 example sentences in Unit 1.  
All entries are linked to an audio file. You can download all of these files in one package*[*here*](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/audio/)*.*

That’s it for this lesson! I don’t think this one was very hard. I went easy on you!

How about testing your knowledge on what you learned in the past 8 lessons with our [Lessons 1 – 8 Mini-Test](https://www.howtostudykorean.com/?page_id=711).

**UNIT1-MINI TEST**

Make it through Lessons 1 through 8 without being *too*confused? That’s great! But now it is time to test your knowledge on what you have learned so far!  
After every eight lessons, a Mini-Test like this will be uploaded. In addition, at the end of every unit, a Unit Test will be uploaded so you can test your knowledge on everything you learned from that unit!

Doing tests like this are a great way to help you remember things. If you forget something, don’t worry! You can always go back and review what you have forgotten! Either way, good luck on the test!

UNIT 1-Mini Test

1) Choose the Korean particle that is being used correctly:

a) 저는 공원를 갔어요  
b) 저는 펜을 있어요  
c) 나는 친구가 만났어  
d) 나는 병원 옆에 있어

2) Choose the adjective that is being used correctly:

a) 나의 친구는 행복해 사람이다  
b) 나의 형은 똑똑했 남자이다  
c) 나의 아버지는 재미있은 사람이다  
d) 나의 어머니는 예쁜 사람이다

3) Choose the correct verb conjugation:

a) 저는 문을 열었어요  
b) 저는 밥을 먹았어요  
c) 저는 학교에 간았어요  
d) 저는 친구를 만났요

4) Choose the honorific ending that is being used correctly:

a) 나는 학교에 갔어요  
b) 나는 학교에 가요  
c) 저는 학교에 갔어요  
d) 저는 학교에 가겠어

5) Choose the irregular conjugation that is being d correctly:

a) 저는 집을 짓었어요  
b) 그 일이 어렵었어요  
c) 저는 어제 너무 바빴어요  
d) 저의 어머니는 예쁜다

6) Choose the proper translation for “I am a teacher”:

a) 나는 선생님이 아니다  
b) 나는 선생님이다  
c) 니는 학생이다  
d) 나는 선생님을 만납니다

7) Choose the correct sentence:

a) 저는 빨리 조용하게 달렸어요  
b) 나는 학교에 간았어요  
c) 나는 의사를 아니다  
d) 나는 돈이 없어