KR

LANGUAGE COURSE

Korean Grammar 2

10 Chapters

Philip Osztromok

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KOREAN GRAMMAR 2

Contents

Chapter 1	Speech Levels	2
Chapter 2	Honorifics	10
Chapter 3	Irregular Verbs	18
Chapter 4	Tenses and Aspect	26
Chapter 5	And, But, So	34
Chapter 6	Purpose, Time, Condition	42
Chapter 7	Modifiers	50
Chapter 8	Reported Speech	58
Chapter 9	Can, Must, May, Seems	65
Chapter 10	Sentence Endings	74

🎚️ Speech Levels in Depth — 말씨의 단계

*Korean Grammar 1 (chapter 10, Putting It Together) gave you three levels: formal polite, everyday polite and casual. This chapter shows the whole system. Grammarians describe **seven speech levels**, each with its own sentence-final endings for statements, questions, commands and suggestions. Only four of them are common in modern speech, but you will meet the other three in dramas, signs, novels and the speech of older people, so it pays to recognise them.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The **speech level** is chosen by the **listener and the situation**, and it is shown in the **last ending of the sentence**. It is separate from the **honorific** -(으)시-, which shows respect to *someone mentioned in the sentence* (Chapter 2). The four common levels are: **합쇼체 (formal polite) · 해요체 (everyday polite) · 해체 (casual) · 해라체 (plain)**

The seven levels

The names are built from the imperative of **하다** ("do") plus **체** ("style"): each name shows how that level makes a request. For example, **하십시오체** is the style whose command is **하십시오**.

LEVEL	NAME	POLITENESS	FORMALITY	WHERE YOU MEET IT
1	**하소서체**	very high	very high	historical dramas, scripture and prayer, speech to royalty (uncommon)
2	**하십시오체** (also **합쇼체**)	high	high	strangers at the start, customer service, news announcers, speeches; **common**
3	**해요체**	high	low	everyday speech with strangers, colleagues, older people; **very common**
4	**하오체**	neutral	high	some older speakers, signs and notices, historical dramas; **rare today**

LEVEL	NAME	POLITENESS	FORMALITY	WHERE YOU MEET IT
5	**하게체**	neutral	neutral	some older men to juniors, professors to students, novels; **rare**
6	**해라체**	low	high	close friends and relatives of the same age, adults to children, impersonal writing, indirect quotation; **common**
7	**해체**	low	low	close friends and family, talking to children; **very common** (casual speech, **반말**)

The ratings follow Wikipedia's description of the levels. Sources disagree on details, and the page itself is marked as needing more citations, so treat the table as a guide to how the levels feel, not a precise measure. Sources also count the levels differently: one notes that traditionally there were eight levels, of which four to six are still in use today. Two points are generally agreed: **하오체 and 하게체 are being replaced by 해요체** in modern speech, and **learners need to produce only 합쇼체, 해요체 and 해체** (plus 해라체 in writing).

Endings of the six everyday-to-rare levels

The table shows one verb, **가다** ("to go"), in each mood. (The seventh level, 하소서체, is left out: its forms such as **가나이다** belong to prayer and drama.)

LEVEL	STATEMENT: "(I) GO"	QUESTION: "DO (YOU) GO?"	COMMAND: "GO!"	SUGGESTION: "LET'S GO"
합쇼체	**갑니다**	**갑니까?**	**가십시오**	**갑시다**
해요체	**가요**	**가요?**	**가세요**	**가요** / **갈까요?**
하오체	**가오**	— (not given by the source used)	**가오** / **가시오**	—
하게체	**가네**	**가나?** / **가는가?**	**가게**	**가세**

LEVEL	STATEMENT: "(I) GO"	QUESTION: "DO (YOU) GO?"	COMMAND: "GO!"	SUGGESTION: "LET'S GO"
해라체	간다	가니? / 가냐?	가라	가자
해체	가	가?	가 / 가지	가 / 가자

Watch out: one form, four jobs

In 해요체 and 해체 the **statement, question and suggestion** are written the same way (**가요**, **가**); only **intonation** (and the context) tells them apart. 해요체 has a separate command form, **-(으)세요**, which is also the polite request you already know. In writing the question mark is the only clue.

Watch out: the suggestion forms vary by source

The suggestion ending of 합쇼체 is usually given as **-(으)ㅂ시다** (**갑시다**, **먹읍시다**). The Wikipedia page used for this chapter lists **-(으)십시다** and **-(으)시지요** for the same job, so check a grammar reference before relying on one form in a formal setting, and prefer a request such as **같이 가시겠습니까?** ("would you like to go together?").

Forming the four common levels

합쇼체 — formal polite

After a **vowel** stem add **-ㅂ니다**; after a **consonant** stem add **-습니다**; ㄹ stems drop the ㄹ (**살다** → **삽니다**). Questions end in **-ㅂ니까 / -습니까?**. After a noun use **입니다** / **입니까?**. Past: **-았/었습니다**. Command: **-(으)십시오**, which includes the honorific -(으)시-.

해요체 — everyday polite

Stem + **-아요 / -어요**, with contractions (**가요**, **마셔요**, **해요**). After a noun, **이에요 / 예요**. Past: **-았/었어요**. Command: **-(으)세요**.

해체 — casual (반말)

Take the 해요체 form and drop **요**: **먹어**, **가**, **해**. After a noun, **(이)야**. Past: **-았/었어**. The same ending can be a statement, question, suggestion or command, and a suggestion can also be made with **-자** or **-(으)ㄹ까?**.

해라체 — plain

This is the most system-like level: it is the form used in **writing** (articles, essays, grammar books), in **indirect quotation** (Chapter 8) and when speaking to children or close friends. Its present tense depends on the word type:

- **Verbs:** after a vowel **-ㄴ다**, after a consonant **-는다**: **간다**, **먹는다**, **한다**. (ㄹ stems drop the ㄹ: **산다**.)
- **Adjectives, 있다, 없다 and 이다:** the plain **-다**: **좋다**, **있다**, **학생이다**.
- **Past: -았/었다**: **갔다**, **좋았다**.
- **Question: -니? / -냐?**: **가니?**, **먹냐?**. **Command: -아/어라** (**먹어라**). **Suggestion: -자** (**가자**).

WORD	합쇼체	해요체	해체	해라체
가다 go	**갑니다**	**가요**	**가**	**간다**
먹다 eat	**먹습니다**	**먹어요**	**먹어**	**먹는다**
하다 do	**합니다**	**해요**	**해**	**한다**
좋다 be good	**좋습니다**	**좋아요**	**좋아**	**좋다**
학생이다 be a student	**학생입니다**	**학생이에요**	**학생이야**	**학생이다**
갔다 (past of 가다)	**갔습니다**	**갔어요**	**갔어**	**갔다**

Watch out: 합쇼체 is not "more polite" than 해요체

Both are highly polite. The difference is **formality**: 합쇼체 sounds official and distant (news, presentations, first meetings), while 해요체 sounds friendlier and is the default for ordinary contact. Using 합쇼체 with a friendly neighbour can sound stiff; using 해요체 in a formal presentation is usually fine but sounds softer.

Watch out: 해라체 and 해체 are not rude in themselves

Both are low in politeness, so using them to a stranger, a boss or an older person is rude. But 해라체 is also the neutral form of **writing**, and 해체 is the warm form for friends and family. The same word is rude or friendly depending on the listener.

Choosing a level

LISTENER OR SITUATION	SAFE LEVEL	EXAMPLE
customer, announcement, speech, interview	**합쇼체**	**도와드리겠습니다.** I'll help you.
stranger, colleague, older person, shop	**해요체**	**어디 가요?** Where are you going?
close friend of your age, family, a younger person you know well	**해체**	**어디 가?** Where are you off to?
child, or writing in an essay or news article	**해라체**	**밥 먹어라.** Eat your meal. / **그는 서울에 산다.** He lives in Seoul.
unsure of status or age	**해요체**	the "never wrong" choice

Switching levels

Korean speakers often start with **해요체** and move to **해체** when they become close, and it is polite to wait for the more senior person to suggest the change. Phrases such as **말 편하게 하세요** ("feel free to speak casually") or the question **말 놓아도 될까요?** ("may I speak casually?") are used for this; these phrases, and the habit of mixing a few casual endings into otherwise polite speech between people who are close, come from general knowledge and were not in the sources consulted, so listen to how native speakers do it.

🗣️ In Use — 실제 예문

One question, four levels, and a rare one.

① A reception desk (합쇼체)

A:

어서 오십시오. 무엇을 도와드릴까요?

Welcome. How may I help you?

B:

김 과장님을 만나러 왔습니다.

I've come to see Manager Kim.

② Two colleagues (해요체)

A:

점심 먹었어요?

Have you had lunch?

B:

아니요, 아직이요. 같이 먹어요.

No, not yet. Let's eat together.

③ Two friends (해체)

A:

점심 먹었어?

Have you eaten lunch?

B:

아니, 아직. 같이 먹자.

No, not yet. Let's eat together.

④ A parent to a child (해라체)

A:

손 씻었니? 밥 먹자.

Did you wash your hands? Let's eat.

B:

네, 씻었어요.

Yes, I washed them.

⑤ A professor to a student (하게체, rare)

A:

자네, 이리 오게. 이 책을 읽어 보게.

You, come here. Try reading this book.

B:

네, 교수님. 감사합니다.

Yes, professor. Thank you.

Notes on the rare levels

하오체 (**가오**) is described as almost completely out of everyday use in South Korea, though it still appears on signs and notices (with the command form, as in **들어오지 마시오**, "do not enter"), in historical dramas and in North Korean standard speech. **하게체** (**가게**, **가네**) is limited to some older

male speakers, such as a professor or boss speaking to a younger person, and to novels; it is not used to children or blood relatives. A learner does not need to *produce* either, only to understand them.

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

LEVEL	STATEMENT ENDING	QUESTION ENDING	USE IT WITH
합쇼체	-ㅂ니다 / -습니다	-ㅂ니까 / -습니까?	customers, official speech
해요체	-아요 / -어요	-아요? / -어요?	almost anyone, the default
해체	-아 / -어	-아? / -어?	close friends and family
해라체	-ㄴ다 / -는다 / -다	-니? / -냐?	children, writing, quotation
하게체	-네	-나? / -는가?	rare: older men to juniors
하오체	-오	—	rare: signs, drama

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Ask "Are you going?" in 합쇼체, 해요체 and 해체.

▼ Show answer

갑니까? · 가요? · 가?

2. Put **학생이에요** into 합쇼체, 해체 and 해라체.

▼ Show answer

학생입니다 · 학생이야 · 학생이다

3. Give the 해라체 present of **먹다**, **하다** and **좋다**.

▼ Show answer

먹는다 · **한다** · **좋다** (adjectives take plain -다, not 좋는다).

4. Say "Let's eat" in 해체, and say "Please sit" in 합쇼체 and 해요체.

▼ Show answer

먹자 · **앉으십시오** · **앉으세요**

5. Which level would you use to a shop assistant you have never met?

▼ Show answer

해요체, the safe default; 합쇼체 if the setting is formal.

6. Name the level of each: **먹는다**, **먹네**, **먹어요**, **먹습니다**.

▼ Show answer

해라체 · 하게체 · 해요체 · 합쇼체

7. Make the 해체 sentence "I went to school" and the 해라체 sentence "I went to school".

▼ Show answer

학교에 갔어. · **학교에 갔다.**

8. Why is it wrong to say **어디 가?** to your friend's grandmother?

▼ Show answer

It is 해체, a casual level with low politeness, which is rude to an older person. Use 해요체 with the honorific: **어디 가세요?** (the honorific is explained in Chapter 2).

Coming up in Chapter 2: Honorifics and Humble Forms. You will learn the honorific -(으)시- in full, the special honorific verbs (드시다, 주무시다, 계시다), the humble verbs (드리다, 뵙다, 말씀드리다) and how titles with 님 work.

🙇 Honorifics and Humble Forms — 높임말과 낮춤말

*The speech level (Korean Grammar 2, chapter 1, Speech Levels in Depth) shows respect to the **listener**. **Honorifics** show respect to the **person you are talking about**, and **humble forms** lower **you** when you speak to or about someone senior. Together they make up **높임말** ("raising language"). This chapter covers the honorific verb suffix **-(으)시-**, the special honorific verbs and nouns, the particles **께서** and **께**, the humble verbs, and how to address people with **님** and **씨**.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Honour the doer of the action, never yourself.

A respected *subject* → **-(으)시-** on the verb (and 께서 after the subject); or a special honorific word.

A respected *receiver* of your action → a **humble** verb (드리다, 뵙다, 여쭙다, 모시다).

저 / 저희 replace **나 / 우리** when you speak to someone senior.

1. The honorific suffix -(으)시-

Attach **-시-** to a **vowel** stem and **-으시-** to a **consonant** stem, before any tense or ending: **가다 → 가시다**, **받다 → 받으시다**, **작다 → 작으시다**. It works on verbs and adjectives alike. Then the ending is added as usual.

PLAIN VERB	HONORIFIC STEM	해요체 (PRESENT)	합쇼체 (PRESENT)	PAST (해요체)	FUTURE (해요체)
가다 go	가시-	가세요	가십니다	가셨어요	가실 거예요
읽다 read	읽으시-	읽으세요	읽으십니다	읽으셨어요	읽으실 거예요
바쁘다 be busy	바쁘시-	바쁘세요	바쁘십니다	바쁘셨어요	바쁘실 거예요

PLAIN VERB	HONORIFIC STEM	해요체 (PRESENT)	합쇼체 (PRESENT)	PAST (해요체)	FUTURE (해요체)
살다 live (ㄹ stem)	**사시-**	**사세요**	**사십니다**	**사셨어요**	**사실 거예요**
이다 be (noun)	**(이)시-**	**선생님이세요**	**선생님이십니다**	**선생님이셨어요**	—

How the forms come about: **-시-** + **어요** → **-세요** (the everyday polite ending contracts), **-시-** + **ㅂ니다** → **-십니다**, and the past is **-셨-**. A stem ending in ㄹ drops the ㄹ before -시-, as it does before -ㅂ니다 (**살다** → **사시다**, **만들다** → **만드시다**). The casual form is **-셔** (**선생님이 오셔**, "the teacher is coming"). The command **-(으)세요** and the formal command **-(으)십시오** are the same suffix. In 합쇼체 the question is **-(으)십니까?**.

> **Watch out: never honour yourself**
> Say **저는 학교에 가요**, never **저는 학교에 가세요**. -(으)시- is for the person you respect. For your own action toward a senior, use a humble verb (section 4), or the plain verb.

2. Special honorific verbs and nouns

A few common words do not take -(으)시-. They are replaced by a **different word**. You must memorise the pairs.

PLAIN	HONORIFIC	EVERYDAY POLITE HONORIFIC	MEANING
있다	**계시다**	**계세요**	be (somewhere); stay
있다 (to have)	**있으시다**	**있으세요**	have (**시간 있으세요?**)
먹다 / 마시다	**드시다** (also **잡수시다**)	**드세요**	eat; drink
자다	**주무시다**	**주무세요**	sleep

PLAIN	HONORIFIC	EVERYDAY POLITE HONORIFIC	MEANING
말하다	말씀하시다	말씀하세요	speak; say
배고프다	시장하시다	시장하세요	be hungry
죽다	돌아가시다	돌아가셨어요	pass away (a respectful way to say it)

PLAIN NOUN	HONORIFIC NOUN	MEANING
밥	진지	meal
나이	연세	age
이름	성함	name
집	댁	house; home
말	말씀	words; speech
사람	분	person

Kinship terms also take **-님** for elders: **할머니 → 할머님**, **아버지 → 아버님**. Questions you will hear: **성함이 어떻게 되세요?** ("may I have your name?") and **연세가 어떻게 되세요?** ("how old are you, sir/madam?"). Remember the speech level (Chapter 1) must also match: honorific nouns are used with a polite level, not with casual speech.

3. Particles: 께서 and 께

When the subject is respected, the subject particle **이/가** changes to **께서**, and the topic **은/는** to **께서는**. The dative **에게 / 한테** ("to") changes to **께**. The place particle 에 has no honorific form for things.

PLAIN	HONORIFIC
선생님이 오세요.	**선생님께서 오세요.** The teacher is coming.

PLAIN	HONORIFIC
할머니는 주무세요.	**할머니께서는 주무세요.** Grandmother is sleeping.
친구에게 선물을 줘요.	**선생님께 선물을 드려요.** I give a present to the teacher.

Notice the last row: giving to a respected person needs **both** the particle **께** and the humble verb **드리다**.

4. Humble forms: lowering yourself

A humble verb is used for **your own action** directed at someone you respect. It does not honour the subject: it honours the **receiver**.

PLAIN	HUMBLE	EXAMPLE
주다 give	**드리다**	**선생님께 책을 드렸어요.** I gave the teacher a book.
-아/어 주다 do for	**-아/어 드리다**	**도와 드릴게요.** I'll help you.
보다 / 만나다 see; meet	**뵙다**	**내일 뵙겠습니다.** I'll see you tomorrow.
묻다 ask	**여쭙다 / 여쭈다**	**하나 여쭤봐도 될까요?** May I ask something?
데리고 가다 take (someone)	**모시고 가다**	**부모님을 모시고 가요.** I take my parents along.
말하다 tell	**말씀드리다**	**제가 말씀드릴게요.** I'll tell you.

The pronouns follow the same logic: **나** → **저** ("I") and **우리** → **저희** ("we", humble) when speaking to a senior or a customer. **말씀** is two-faced: it is the honorific word for *their* speech (**선생님 말씀**) and the humble word for *your* speech to them (**말씀드리다**).

> **Watch out: no "you" for a senior**
>
> Second-person pronouns are avoided in honorific speech. Use the person's **title** + **님** (**선생님**, **사장님**) or a name, not **너**. The pronoun **당신** is described as used only between married partners, or sarcastically between strangers, so it is not a safe "you" for a learner. For a respected third person who is present or absent you can say **그분** ("that person", honorific), from **분** above.

5. Titles: 님 and 씨

- **-님** is the highest form of address. It goes on titles and kinship terms (**선생님**, **사장님**, **부장님**) and is used for customers, guests and people you do not know (**손님**). A title is not used bare to someone senior: **사장님**, not 사장.
- **-씨** is used between people of about equal rank, after a full name or first name: **민수 씨**, **김 민수 씨**. A **surname alone with 씨** (**김 씨**) can sound rude.
- A person's name with a space and 님 (**민수 님**) is also heard, especially online and in service settings.

Watch out: honouring a person who is below another senior

Traditional etiquette (**압존법**, "relative honorifics") dropped the honorific for someone junior to the person you are speaking to: a child told a grandparent **할아버지, 아버지가 아직 안 왔습니다** ("Grandfather, father hasn't come yet"), without the honorific on *father*. Today at work this is considered out of date, and people use the honorific for their own senior even to a more senior listener: **부장님, 이 과장님은 지금 자리에 안 계십니다** ("Director, Manager Lee is not at his desk at the moment"). Family usage still varies.

Watch out: do not honour objects

A common service-language habit is to use -(으)시- on objects: **커피 나오셨습니다** ("your coffee has come out, sir/madam"). The honorific goes with *people*, so the correct form is **커피 나왔습니다**. This is general knowledge about usage and was not in the sources consulted for this chapter.

🗣️ In Use — 실제 예문

Honorific and humble forms in four settings.

① Visiting grandparents

A:
할머니, 진지 드셨어요?
Grandmother, have you had your meal?

B:

② A phone call

A:
김 부장님 계세요?
Is Director Kim there?

B:

그래, 먹었다. 너는 먹었니?

Yes, I've eaten. Have you eaten?

지금 회의 중이십니다. 메모 남겨 드릴까요?

He is in a meeting at the moment. Shall I leave a message for him?

③ In the classroom

A:

선생님, 하나 여쭤봐도 될까요?

Teacher, may I ask something?

B:

네, 말씀하세요.

Yes, go ahead.

④ Meeting someone senior

A:

성함이 어떻게 되세요?

May I have your name?

B:

박민수입니다. 만나 뵙게 되어 반갑습니다.

I'm Park Minsu. I'm glad to meet you.

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

JOB	FORM	EXAMPLE
honour the subject	-(으)시- + ending	**가세요, 읽으세요**
special words	계시다, 드시다, 주무시다, 말씀하시다	**드세요, 주무세요**
honorific nouns	진지, 연세, 성함, 댁, 말씀, 분	**성함이 어떻게 되세요?**
honorific particles	께서, 께서는, 께	**선생님께서, 선생님께**
humble verbs	드리다, 뵙다, 여쭙다, 모시다, 말씀드리다	**도와 드릴게요**
humble pronouns	저, 저희	**저희 회사**
titles	님 (senior, customers); 씨 (equals)	**사장님, 민수 씨**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Make these honorific (해요체): **가요**, **읽어요**, **바빠요**.

▼ Show answer

가세요 · **읽으세요** · **바쁘세요**

2. Make it honorific: **할머니는 밥을 먹어요.** (Grandmother is eating.)

▼ Show answer

할머니께서는 진지를 드세요.

3. Make it honorific: **선생님이 자요.** (The teacher is sleeping.)

▼ Show answer

선생님께서 주무세요.

4. Say "I'll give this to the teacher."

▼ Show answer

이것을 선생님께 드릴게요.

5. What is wrong with **저는 내일 가세요**? Correct it.

▼ Show answer

It honours the speaker. Correct: **저는 내일 가요.**

6. Say in 합쇼체: "The president is in the office."

▼ Show answer

사장님은 사무실에 계십니다.

7. Ask politely for someone's name and age.

▼ Show answer

성함이 어떻게 되세요? 연세가 어떻게 되세요?

8. Say "May I ask you something?" to a teacher.

▼ Show answer

하나 여쭤봐도 될까요?

Coming up in Chapter 3: Irregular Verbs and Adjectives. You will learn the ㅂ-, ㄷ-, ㅅ-, ㅎ-, ㅡ-, 르- and ㄹ-irregulars, with a full conjugation table for each, since the clause endings in the chapters after that need them.

🔀 Irregular Verbs and Adjectives — 불규칙 용언

*So far every stem has simply taken its ending. Some stems change a sound when they meet certain endings. These are the **irregular** verbs and adjectives (**불규칙 용언**), and they are common: 춥다, 듣다, 쓰다, 모르다 and 살다 are all irregular. The changes follow patterns, so each type can be learned as a rule plus a short list. This chapter gives each rule, a full conjugation table, and the **regular look-alikes** that do not change. It is placed before the clause chapters, because the clause endings in Chapters 5 to 9 need these forms.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

First find the **last sound of the stem** and the **first sound of the ending**:

vowel-initial ending (-아/어요, -았/었-, -아/어서, -(으)ㄴ, -(으)ㄹ, -(으)면, -(으)니까, -(으)세요) → many irregulars change.

consonant-initial ending (-고, -지만, -습니다, -는) → most irregulars stay as they are (the main exception is ㄹ).

Learn each class by its **final letter**: ㅂ · ㄷ · ㅅ · ㅎ · ㅡ · 르 · ㄹ.

Where you met these before

Korean Basic Conversation 2 (chapter 4, Describing) introduced the ㅂ-irregular, and chapter 11 (Opinions) the 르-irregular. Korean Grammar 1 (chapter 6, Verbs 1: The Everyday Polite Present) gave the vowel rule for -아요/-어요 and the ㅡ-stem contractions you need here: 쓰다 → 써요. This chapter collects them in one place, adds the others, and shows each with the endings from later chapters.

1. Quick map of the classes

CLASS	WHICH WORDS	WHAT HAPPENS	EXAMPLE
ㅂ	many adjectives, some verbs	ㅂ → 우 before a vowel	**춥다 → 추워요**

CLASS	WHICH WORDS	WHAT HAPPENS	EXAMPLE
ㄷ	verbs only	ㄷ → ㄹ before a vowel	**듣다 → 들어요**
ㅅ	a few verbs and 낫다	ㅅ drops before a vowel	**짓다 → 지어요**
ㅎ	colour adjectives, 그렇다 and kin	ㅎ drops, and 아/어 merges	**빨갛다 → 빨개요**
ㅡ	stems ending in ㅡ	ㅡ drops before 아/어	**쓰다 → 써요**
르	most stems ending in 르	르 → ㄹㄹ before 아/어	**모르다 → 몰라요**
ㄹ	stems ending in ㄹ	ㄹ drops before ㄴ, ㅂ, ㅅ	**살다 → 삽니다**
러	푸르다, 이르다 (arrive), 누르다 (be yellow)	ending is 러, not 어	**푸르다 → 푸르러요**

2. The ㅂ-irregular

When a stem ends in ㅂ and the ending begins with a vowel, **ㅂ becomes 우**, and the 우 merges with 어 to 워: **춥다 → 추워요**. Before a consonant-initial ending the ㅂ stays: **춥고**, **춥습니다**. Most ㅂ-irregulars are adjectives: **덥다** (hot), **쉽다** (easy), **어렵다** (difficult), **맵다** (spicy), **가깝다** (near), **무겁다** (heavy), **귀엽다** (cute), **그립다** (miss), and the verb **눕다** (lie down).

Special case: 돕다 and 곱다. The two stems **돕다** (help) and **곱다** (pretty) change ㅂ to **와** before 아/어: **도와요**, **고와요**; before other vowels it is the normal 우: **도우면**.

Regular look-alikes (no change): 입다 (wear), **잡다** (catch), **좁다** (narrow), **씹다** (chew), **뽑다** (pick), **넓다** (wide): **입어요**, **좁아요**, **넓어요**. You must learn which -ㅂ words are regular.

3. The ㄷ-irregular

A **verb** stem ending in ㄷ changes to ㄹ before a vowel: **듣다 → 들어요** (listen), **걷다 → 걸어요** (walk), **묻다 → 물어요** (ask). It is verbs only. **Regular look-alikes: 받다** (receive), **닫다** (close), **믿다** (believe), **얻다** (get). **묻다** "to bury" and **걷다** "to roll up" are regular, so check the meaning: **질문을 물어요** (ask) but **땅에 묻어요** (bury).

4. The ㅅ-irregular

A stem ending in ㅅ **drops the** ㅅ before a vowel: **짓다 → 지어요** (build; make), **낫다 → 나아요** (get better), **붓다 → 부어요** (pour; swell), **잇다 → 이어요** (connect). The two vowels stay separate: 지어요, not 져요. **Regular look-alikes: 웃다** (laugh), **씻다** (wash), **벗다** (take off): **웃어요**, **씻어요**, **벗어요**.

5. The ㅎ-irregular

This class is made of **colour adjectives** and a few "how/like that" adjectives: **빨갛다** (red), **노랗다** (yellow), **파랗다** (blue), **하얗다** (white), **까맣다** (black), **그렇다** (be so), **이렇다**, **어떻다** (be how). The ㅎ **drops** before a vowel and the vowel of the ending merges with the stem, so 아/어 becomes **애** (or **얘** after ㅑ): **빨갛다 → 빨개요**, **하얗다 → 하얘요**, **그렇다 → 그래요**, **어떻다 → 어때요**. Before **-(으)ㄴ** the ㅎ simply drops: **빨간**, **노란**, **하얀**. Before -ㅂ니다 and consonant endings it stays: **빨갛습니다**, **빨갛고**. **좋다 is regular** (**좋아요**, **좋은**), and so are **많다**, **괜찮다**, **싫다** and the verbs **낳다**, **놓다**, **쌓다**.

6. The ㅡ-irregular

A stem whose last vowel is ㅡ loses it before **아/어**. To choose between 아 and 어, look at the vowel in the *syllable before* the ㅡ: ㅏ or ㅗ gives 아, anything else gives 어, and a **one-syllable stem** (쓰, 크, 끄) takes 어:

- **바쁘다 → 바빠요** (preceding vowel ㅏ → 아), **아프다 → 아파요**, **나쁘다 → 나빠요**, **고프다 → 고파요**
- **예쁘다 → 예뻐요** (ㅖ → 어), **슬프다 → 슬퍼요**, **기쁘다 → 기뻐요**
- **쓰다 → 써요**, **크다 → 커요**, **끄다 → 꺼요**, **뜨다 → 떠요** (one syllable → 어)
- **잠그다 → 잠가요**, **담그다 → 담가요** (preceding vowel ㅏ → 아)

Before consonant endings or -(으)면, -(으)니까, -(으)ㄴ nothing changes: **쓰면**, **바쁘고**, **예쁜**, **바쁩니다**. A few stems ending in 르 follow this class and not the 르-class: **따르다 → 따라요** (follow), **치르다 → 치러요** (pay), **들르다 → 들러요** (drop in). Learn them as exceptions.

7. The 르-irregular

Most stems ending in **르** double the ㄹ before 아/어: the 르 splits, the ㅡ drops and the ㄹ joins the *previous* syllable. **모르다** → **몰라요** (모ㄹ + 라요), **다르다** → **달라요**, **고르다** → **골라요**, **빠르다** → **빨라요**, **자르다** → **잘라요**, **오르다** → **올라요**, **부르다** → **불러요**, **흐르다** → **흘러요**. The choice of 라 or 러 follows the same vowel rule as 아/어: ㅏ and ㅗ give 라, all others give 러. Before other endings, nothing changes: **모르면**, **모릅니다**, **모른**.

8. The ㄹ-irregular ("ㄹ-drop")

A stem ending in ㄹ **loses the ㄹ before ㄴ, ㅂ and ㅅ**: **살다** → **삽니다** (ㅂ), **사니까** (ㄴ), **사세요** (ㅅ of -(으)시-), **산** (modifier -ㄴ), **사는** (-는). Before every other ending the ㄹ stays, and endings that normally add 으 (-(으)면) do not add it after ㄹ: **살면** (not 살으면), **살아요**, **살고**. Common ㄹ-stems: **살다** (live), **알다** (know), **만들다** (make), **팔다** (sell), **열다** (open), **놀다** (play), **길다** (long), **멀다** (far).

9. The 러-irregular and 이다 / 아니다

Three adjectives take **러** instead of 어: **푸르다** → **푸르러요** (be blue-green), **이르다** → **이르러요** (reach), **누르다** → **누르러요** (be yellow). They are rare; the verb **누르다** "press" is the 르-class (**눌러요**). A related oddity is **푸다** (scoop): **퍼요** (the 우 drops).

이다 and **아니다** are special in a different way: **이다** attaches to the noun and changes with the final sound: **학생이에요 / 의사예요**, **학생이었어요 / 의사였어요**, **학생이고**, **학생이면**, **학생인**, **학생입니다**; **아니다**: **아니에요**, **아니었어요**, **아니고**, **아니면**, **아닌**, **아닙니다**.

10. Full conjugation tables

One example for each class, with a regular look-alike for comparison. The columns: 해요체 present, past, **-(으)면** (if), **-고** (and), **-(으)ㄴ** (modifier, for adjectives; for verbs the past modifier), and 합쇼체.

DICTIONARY FORM	해요체	PAST	-(으)면	-고	-(으)ㄴ	합쇼체
춥다 cold *(ㅂ)*	**추워요**	**추웠어요**	**추우면**	**춥고**	**추운**	**춥습니다**
입다 wear *(regular)*	**입어요**	**입었어요**	**입으면**	**입고**	**입은**	**입습니다**
듣다 listen *(ㄷ)*	**들어요**	**들었어요**	**들으면**	**듣고**	**들은**	**듣습니다**
받다 receive *(regular)*	**받아요**	**받았어요**	**받으면**	**받고**	**받은**	**받습니다**
짓다 build *(ㅅ)*	**지어요**	**지었어요**	**지으면**	**짓고**	**지은**	**짓습니다**
웃다 laugh *(regular)*	**웃어요**	**웃었어요**	**웃으면**	**웃고**	**웃은**	**웃습니다**
빨갛다 red *(ㅎ)*	**빨개요**	**빨갰어요**	**빨가면**	**빨갛고**	**빨간**	**빨갛습니다**
좋다 good *(regular)*	**좋아요**	**좋았어요**	**좋으면**	**좋고**	**좋은**	**좋습니다**
쓰다 write *(ㅡ)*	**써요**	**썼어요**	**쓰면**	**쓰고**	**쓴**	**씁니다**
바쁘다 busy *(ㅡ)*	**바빠요**	**바빴어요**	**바쁘면**	**바쁘고**	**바쁜**	**바쁩니다**
모르다 not know *(르)*	**몰라요**	**몰랐어요**	**모르면**	**모르고**	**모른**	**모릅니다**
살다 live *(ㄹ)*	**살아요**	**살았어요**	**살면**	**살고**	**산**	**삽니다**
만들다 make *(ㄹ)*	**만들어요**	**만들었어요**	**만들면**	**만들고**	**만든**	**만듭니다**

Watch out: the "-ㄴ" column mixes two jobs

For **adjectives**, -(으)ㄴ is the present modifier (**추운 날**, "a cold day"). For **verbs**, -(으)ㄴ is the *past* modifier (**들은 노래**, "a song I heard"), and the present modifier is -는 (**듣는 노래**, "a song I'm listening to"). Modifiers are the topic of Chapter 7.

Watch out: how to spot the class from the dictionary form

The letters give you only a guess: ㅂ, ㄷ, ㅅ, ㅎ, ㅡ, 르 and ㄹ at the end of the stem *might* be irregular, but many are regular (입다, 받다, 웃다, 좋다). Dictionaries mark the class; learn each new word with its 해요체 form (**춥다 / 추워요**) and you will never have to guess.

In Use — 실제 예문

① A cold morning (ㅂ, ㄷ)

A:

오늘 정말 추워요. 저는 음악을 들어요.

It's really cold today. I'm listening to music.

B:

저는 더웠어요. 그래서 코트를 벗었어요.

I was hot. So I took my coat off.

② At work (ㅡ, 르, ㄹ)

A:

요즘 많이 바빠요? 이 일을 알아요?

Are you very busy these days? Do you know about this job?

B:

네, 많이 바빠요. 그리고 잘 몰라요. 사무실도 멀어요.

Yes, very busy. And I don't know it well. The office is far, too.

③ Describing colours (ㅎ)

A:

얼굴이 왜 이렇게 빨개요?

Why is your face so red?

B:

하얀 셔츠를 입었어요. 덥고 부끄러워요.

I put on a white shirt. I'm hot and I feel shy.

Quick Reference — 요약표

CLASS	CHANGE	BEFORE VOWEL-INITIAL ENDING	BEFORE CONSONANT-INITIAL ENDING
ㅂ	ㅂ → 우	추워요, 추우면, 추운	춥고, 춥습니다
ㄷ	ㄷ → ㄹ	들어요, 들으면, 들은	듣고, 듣습니다

CLASS	CHANGE	BEFORE VOWEL-INITIAL ENDING	BEFORE CONSONANT-INITIAL ENDING
ㅅ	ㅅ drops	**지어요, 지으면, 지은**	**짓고, 짓습니다**
ㅎ	ㅎ drops; 아/어 → 애	**빨개요, 빨가면, 빨간**	**빨갛고, 빨갛습니다**
ㅡ	ㅡ drops before 아/어	**써요, 바빠요**	**쓰고, 쓰면, 바쁩니다**
르	르 → ㄹ라/ㄹ러 before 아/어	**몰라요, 불러요**	**모르고, 모르면, 모릅니다**
ㄹ	ㄹ drops before ㄴ, ㅂ, ㅅ	**살아요, 살면**	**삽니다, 사세요, 사니까, 산**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the 해요체 of: **덥다**, **돕다**, **입다**.

▼ Show answer

더워요 · **도와요** · **입어요** (입다 is regular)

2. Give the past of: **듣다**, **걷다**, **받다**.

▼ Show answer

들었어요 · **걸었어요** · **받았어요** (받다 is regular)

3. Give the 해요체 of: **짓다**, **웃다**, **낫다**.

▼ Show answer

지어요 · **웃어요** (regular) · **나아요**

4. Say "The house is white" and "a red apple" with **하얗다** and **빨갛다**.

▼ Show answer

집이 하얘요. · **빨간 사과**

5. Give the 해요체 and past of **쓰다**, **예쁘다** and **크다**.

▼ Show answer

써요 / 썼어요 · **예뻐요 / 예뻤어요** · **커요 / 컸어요**

6. Give the 해요체 of **모르다**, **부르다**, **고르다**.

▼ Show answer

몰라요 · **불러요** · **골라요**

7. Give the 합쇼체 and the honorific 해요체 of **살다** and **만들다**.

▼ Show answer

삽니다 / 사세요 · **만듭니다 / 만드세요**

8. Which is regular: **닫다**, **묻다** (ask) or **믿다**? Give the 해요체 of each.

▼ Show answer

닫아요 and **믿어요** are regular. **묻다** "to ask" is ㄷ-irregular: **물어요**.

Coming up in Chapter 4: Tenses and Aspect. The past, the past perfect (-았/었었-), future and intent (-겠-, -(으)ㄹ 거예요), -고 있다 versus -아/어 있다, the "remembered past" -던 and the "since" pattern -(으)ㄴ 지.

⏳ Tenses and Aspect — 시제와 상

__Tense__ (__시제__) says when something happens; __aspect__ (__상__) says how it unfolds: in progress, finished with a result that remains, or remembered from the past. Korean marks tense with suffixes on the stem (-았/었-, -겠-) and builds aspect with helper verbs (있다) and extra endings (-던, -(으)ㄴ 지). Here the forms are grouped by what they let you say. The stems use the changes from Chapter 3, so check a stem there if a form looks odd.

THE TENSE MAP

Past -았/었- · **Past, now cut off** -았/었었- · **Future / plan** -(으)ㄹ 거예요 · **On-the-spot guess or will** -겠- · **In progress** -고 있다 · **Resulting state** -아/어 있다 · **Remembered / habitual past** -던 · **Time since** -(으)ㄴ 지.

1. The past: -았/었-

You know the forms from Korean Grammar 1: -았- after ㅏ or ㅗ in the last stem vowel, -었- after other vowels, and -했- for 하다. It covers the simple past and the "present perfect": **밥 먹었어요?** means both "Did you eat?" and "Have you eaten?", and **민수는 벌써 집에 갔어요** "Minsu has already gone home". Adjectives take it too: **어제는 추웠어요** "It was cold yesterday". Irregular stems follow Chapter 3: **들었어요**, **몰랐어요**, **바빴어요**.

The honorific -(으)시- sits *before* the tense marker (Chapter 2): **드셨어요**, **가셨어요**.

2. The past, now cut off: -았/었었-

Doubling the marker gives a past situation that is **over**, reversed or no longer holding. It is not the English "had done" for plain anteriority. **서울에서 일 년 살았었어요** says you lived in Seoul for a year, and (the form implies) you do not live there now. **미국에 갔었어요** can mean "I went to the U.S. (and have since come back)". Compare **미국에 갔어요**, which on its own says only that the going happened.

Use -았/었었- when the contrast with now matters; if it does not, the plain -았/었- is the normal choice, and learners who put -았/었었- on everything sound odd.

3. The future: -(으)ㄹ 거예요

Attach **-ㄹ 거예요** to a vowel stem and **-을 거예요** to a consonant stem. ㄹ-stems keep the ㄹ and add only 거예요: **살 거예요**. Irregular stems change first (Chapter 3): **추울 거예요**, **들을 거예요**, **지을 거예요**, **쓸 거예요**, **부를 거예요**. It covers **plans** and expectations: **이번 방학에 유럽에 갈 거예요** "I'm going to Europe this vacation". For a more formal register use **-(으)ㄹ 겁니다**: **갈 겁니다**. With 이다: **학생일 거예요** "(they) will be / must be a student".

Korean often uses the plain present with a time word for a firm plan: **내일 가요** "I'm going tomorrow".

4. On-the-spot will and guess: -겠-

The suffix -겠- attaches directly to the stem, before the ending. It leans toward **conjecture from what you see now**, **willingness** and **immediate intention**, where -(으)ㄹ 거예요 leans toward a planned or expected future.

USE	EXAMPLE	MEANING
Conjecture	**하늘을 보니 곧 비가 오겠어요.**	Looking at the sky, it's going to rain soon.
Conjecture	**맛있겠어요.**	That looks tasty.
Willingness	**제가 하겠습니다.**	I'll do it.
Plan	**이번 방학에 유럽에 갈 거예요.**	I'm going to Europe this vacation. (not -겠-)
Frozen phrase	**알겠습니다.** / **모르겠어요.**	Understood. / I don't know.
Frozen phrase	**잘 먹겠습니다.**	Thank you for the meal. (said before eating)

In a question, -겠- asks about the listener's will or a polite offer: **뭐 드시겠어요?** "What will you have?" (Chapter 2's 드시다). Be careful with your own plans: **갈 거예요** is the usual way to report a plan, and **가겠어요** sounds like a decision made just now.

Watch out: 알겠습니다 is not "I will know"

The phrases 알겠습니다, 모르겠어요 and 잘 먹겠습니다 are learned as wholes. 알겠어요 / 알겠습니다 is the polite "OK, understood" you say when given an instruction.

5. In progress: -고 있다

Stem + **-고 있다** is "be doing": **지금 밥을 먹고 있어요** "I'm eating right now". It takes any tense: **먹고 있었어요** "was eating", **먹고 있을 거예요** "will be eating". Korean uses the plain present more than English uses "-ing" in many contexts, so do not add -고 있다 to everything; use it when the "in the middle of" idea matters. For an honoured subject the 있다 becomes 계시다 (Chapter 2): **선생님은 책을 읽고 계세요** "The teacher is reading a book".

6. A state that remains: -아/어 있다

With **intransitive** verbs of change, **-아/어 있다** describes the state left behind by a completed action: **문이 열려 있어요** "The door is (standing) open", **의자에 앉아 있어요** "(someone) is seated on the chair". Compare:

FORM	EXAMPLE	MEANING
-고 있다	**앉고 있어요**	is in the act of sitting down
-아/어 있다	**앉아 있어요**	is seated (already sat down)

Other common verbs: **서 있다** (be standing), **누워 있다** (be lying), **켜져 있다** (be on), **닫혀 있다** (be closed). The honorific uses 계시다: **앉아 계세요**. For verbs of wearing (입다, 신다, 쓰다), Korean uses -고 있다 for the resulting state: **모자를 쓰고 있어요** "(they) are wearing a hat". This last point is general knowledge, not from the sources checked for this chapter.

7. The remembered past: -던 and -았/었던

Before a noun, the past modifier -(으)ㄴ says the action was **finished**, while -던 says it was **in progress, habitual or left unfinished**, as remembered. Compare: **다 마신 커피 잔은 여기 두**

세요 "Put the coffee cups you've finished here" and **마시던 커피는 그대로 두세요** "Leave the coffee you were drinking as it is". The rule of thumb: if you can say "used to" or "was -ing" in English, use -던.

FORM	EXAMPLE	MEANING
-(으)ㄴ	**먹은 밥**	the rice I ate (completed)
-던	**먹던 밥**	the rice I was eating / used to eat
-았/었던	**먹었던 밥**	the rice I ate (that time, now recalled and done with)

More examples: **우리가 자주 가던 카페가 문을 닫았어요** "The café we used to go to a lot has closed down"; **예전에 살았던 동네에 오랜만에 가 봤어요** "I visited the neighbourhood I used to live in, for the first time in ages". Unlike -(으)ㄴ, -던 does not change after a vowel or consonant stem: **가던**, **만들던**, **먹던**, while the -(으)ㄴ forms are 간, 만든 and 먹은. Modifiers in general come in Chapter 7.

8. Time since: -(으)ㄴ 지

Verb stem + **-(으)ㄴ 지**, then a length of time, then **됐어요** (or **지났어요**), says how long it has been since something happened: **한국어를 배운 지 일 년이 됐어요** "It's been a year since I started learning Korean". Use -ㄴ 지 after a vowel stem or ㄹ-stem (**산 지**, **만든 지**) and -은 지 after a consonant stem (**먹은 지**). The 지 is a separate word, so leave a space before it. A long gap works the same way: **만난 지 오래됐어요** "It's been a long time since we met". It is for verbs, not adjectives. The forms and examples in this section come from general knowledge, not from the sources checked for this chapter.

9. Experience: -(으)ㄴ 적이 있다 / 없다

Verb stem + **-(으)ㄴ 적이 있다** says "I have (ever) done it"; **-(으)ㄴ 적이 없다** says "I have never done it". Use -ㄴ after a vowel or ㄹ stem and -은 after a consonant stem: **한국에 간 적이 있어요** "I have been to Korea", **김치를 만든 적이 없어요** "I have never made kimchi". The question is **먹어 본 적이 있어요?** "Have you ever tried eating it?" (본 = 보다 "try", the same helper as -아/어 보다).

Compare -(으)ㄴ 지, which counts time since; 적 is the "occasion" itself. This section is from general knowledge, not from the sources checked for this chapter.

> **Watch out: the 있다 aspects with irregulars and honorifics**
> -고 있다 uses the bare stem, so there is no irregular change: **듣고 있어요**, **춥고 있어요** is not used because adjectives do not take it. An honoured subject needs 계시다: **주무시고 계세요** "is sleeping".

🗣️ In Use — 실제 예문

① Plans (past and future)

A:

어제 뭐 했어요? 내일은 뭐 할 거예요?

What did you do yesterday? What will you do tomorrow?

B:

어제는 집에 있었어요. 내일은 친구를 만날 거예요.

I was at home yesterday. I'm meeting a friend tomorrow.

② On the phone (progressive)

A:

지금 뭐 하고 있어요?

What are you doing now?

B:

저는 음악을 듣고 있어요. 아버지는 앉아 계세요.

I'm listening to music. My father is sitting down.

③ Time and memory

A:

서울에서 산 지 얼마나 됐어요?

How long has it been since you started living in Seoul?

B:

이 년 됐어요. 전에는 부산에서 살았었어요.

Two years. I used to live in Busan before (and no longer do).

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-았/었-	past; present perfect	**먹었어요**
-았/었었-	past, now over	**살았었어요**
-(으)ㄹ 거예요	plan; expectation	**갈 거예요**
-겠-	on-the-spot guess or will	**맛있겠어요**
-고 있다	in progress	**먹고 있어요**
-아/어 있다	resulting state	**앉아 있어요**
-던	remembered / habitual past (modifier)	**가던 카페**
-(으)ㄴ 적이 있다	experience	**간 적이 있어요**
-(으)ㄴ 지 … 됐어요	time since	**배운 지 일 년 됐어요**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Put into the past: **춥다**, **듣다**, **바쁘다** (해요체).

▼ Show answer

추웠어요 · **들었어요** · **바빴어요**

2. Say "I'm going to cook tomorrow" and "I'm going to live in Seoul" (-(으)ㄹ 거예요; 만들다 and 살다).

▼ Show answer

내일 만들 거예요. · **서울에서 살 거예요.** (ㄹ-stems keep the ㄹ and add only 거예요.)

3. Which suits better, -겠- or -(으)ㄹ 거예요: "It looks delicious!" and "I'm going to Jeju in July"?

▼ Show answer

맛있겠어요! (-겠-, a guess from what you see) · **7월에 제주도에 갈 거예요.** (a plan)

4. Say "The door is open" and "I'm reading a book now".

▼ Show answer

문이 열려 있어요. · **지금 책을 읽고 있어요.**

5. Give the honorific 해요체 of "My grandfather is sleeping" (**주무시다** + -고 있다).

▼ Show answer

할아버지는 주무시고 계세요.

6. Choose -(으)ㄴ or -던: "the book I finished" and "the song I used to sing as a child".

▼ Show answer

다 읽은 책 (finished) · **어릴 때 부르던 노래** (habitual, in the past)

7. Say "It's been two years since I started working" (일하다).

▼ Show answer

일한 지 이 년 됐어요.

8. What is the difference between **부산에 갔어요** and **부산에 갔었어요**?

▼ Show answer

The first simply says you went to Busan. The second suggests the trip is over and no longer relevant, for example that you went and came back.

Coming up in Chapter 5: Connecting Clauses 1: And, But, So. Joining two clauses with -고, -지만, -(으)ㄴ/는데, -아/어서, -(으)니까, -(으)면, -거나 and -(으)ㄹ 때, and the contrast between

the two "because" endings, -아/어서 and -(으)니까.

🔗 Connecting Clauses 1 — 연결 어미

*A Korean sentence can chain many clauses, and each clause (except the last) ends with a **connecting ending** (**연결 어미**) attached to the stem. This chapter covers the everyday set: and, but, background, because, if/when, or and at the time of. The main skill is knowing, for each ending, **what may sit in front of it** (tense?) and **what may follow it** (a command or suggestion?).*

THE TWO QUESTIONS TO ASK OF EVERY CONNECTOR

1. Does it allow a tense marker inside it? -고, -아/어서 and -거나 usually take the tense only on the *final* verb. -지만, -는데, -(으)니까 and -(으)면 can carry -았/었- or -겠- themselves.

2. Can the last clause be a command or suggestion? After -아/어서: no. After -(으)니까, -(으)면, -는데, -(으)ㄹ 때 and -거나: yes.

1. And: -고

-고 attaches to the bare stem of any verb, adjective or 이다 (**학생이고**), with no irregular change at all: **춥고**, **듣고**, **살고**, **바쁘고**. It **lists** things (**이 집은 크고 예뻐요** "This house is big and pretty") or puts actions in **sequence** (**밥을 먹고 학교에 가요** "I eat and go to school"). Tense goes on the last verb and covers the whole sentence: **밥을 먹고 학교에 갔어요**. The sentence connector for starting a new sentence is **그리고**.

2. But: -지만

-지만 attaches directly to the stem of verbs, adjectives and 이다. Because it begins with ㅈ, there are **no irregulars**: **춥지만**, **듣지만**, **바쁘지만**. It can carry its own tense: **밥을 먹었지만 배고파요** "Even though I ate, I'm hungry"; **한국에 안 갈 거지만 한국어를 배우고 싶어요** "Even though I won't go to Korea, I want to learn Korean". Examples: **저는 먹고 싶지만 배고프지 않아요** "I want to eat but I'm not hungry". The sentence connector is **그렇지만**.

3. Background and soft contrast: -(으)ㄴ/는데

-(으)ㄴ/는데 sets the scene, softly contrasts, or eases into a request or question. Its form depends on the word class:

WORD	PRESENT	PAST	EXAMPLES
Verb (incl. 있다 / 없다)	-는데	-았/었는데	**가는데** · **있는데** · **갔는데**
Adjective	-(으)ㄴ데	-았/었는데	**큰데** · **좋은데** · **추운데** · **추웠는데**
이다	-인데	-였는데 / -이었는데	**학생인데** · **학생이었는데**

ㄹ-stems drop the ㄹ before -는/-ㄴ: **사는데**, **만드는데**, **먼데**. It is used in three main ways:

- **Background: 지금 시장에 가는데 같이 갈래요?** "I'm going to the market now; will you come with me?"
- **Soft contrast: 음식은 맛있는데 값이 비싸요.** "The food is tasty, but it's expensive."
- **Easing into a request: 길을 잘 모르는데 좀 도와 주세요.** "I don't know the way well; please help me."

The sentence connector is **그런데** ("by the way", "but").

4. Because (1): -아/어서

Attach **-아서** after a stem vowel ㅏ or ㅗ and **-어서** after any other vowel; 하다 gives **해서**. Contractions work as for -아/어요: **봐서**, **마셔서**, **예뻐서**, and Chapter 3's irregulars apply: **추워서**, **몰라서**, **바빠서**. 이다 becomes **(이)라서**: **학생이라서**, **의사라서**. It has two jobs:

- **Reason: 피곤해서 쉬고 있어요.** "I'm tired, so I'm resting."
- **"And then" (sequence): 공원에 가서 운동해요.** "I go to the park and then exercise." With 가다 and 오다 the "and then" reading is by far the usual one: **저는 학교에 가서 공부할 거예요** "I will go to school and then study".

Two limits:

- **No tense marker before -아/어서.** The tense belongs only on the final verb: **머리가 아파서 학교에 안 갔어요** "My head hurt, so I didn't go to school", never 아팠어서. For the future, **피곤해서 일찍 잘 거예요**.
- **No command or suggestion in the last clause.** You cannot say 바빠서 나중에 전화하세요. Use -(으)니까: **바쁘니까 나중에 전화하세요** "I'm busy, so please call later".

The sentence connector is **그래서** ("so, therefore").

5. Because (2): -(으)니까

Attach **-으니까** to a consonant stem and **-니까** to a vowel stem: **먹으니까**, **가니까**. ㄹ-stems drop the ㄹ (**사니까**, **만드니까**), and irregulars from Chapter 3 change as before a vowel: **추우니까**, **들으니까**, **지으니까**. 이다 gives **학생이니까**. It may carry a tense: **비가 왔으니까**.

-(으)니까 is the ending for a reason that leads to a **suggestion or command**: **날씨가 좋으니까 나가요** (or **나가자** in plain speech) "The weather is good, so let's go out"; **비가 오니까 가지 마세요** "It's raining, so don't go".

-아/어서 versus -(으)니까

	-아/어서	-(으)니까
Tense inside the clause	No	Yes (-았/었으니까)
Command / suggestion after it	No	Yes
Reason sounds…	an objective cause leading to a result	the speaker's own ground for a decision or request
Also means "and then"	Yes (가서, 와서)	No
Example	**피곤해서 잤어요.**	**피곤하니까 자요.**

Teachers and researchers admit that the line between the two is not always sharp: in some sentences either works, depending on the speaker's intent and the relationship between speaker and listener. The two firm limits above are the safe rules.

6. If / when: -(으)면

Vowel stem + **-면**, consonant stem + **-으면**: **가면**, **먹으면**. ㄹ-stems add only -면 (**살면**, **만들면**); the ㅂ-, ㄷ- and ㅅ-irregulars change as before a vowel (**추우면**, **들으면**, **지으면**), while ㅡ- and 르-stems are unchanged because -면 has no 아/어 (**쓰면**, **모르면**). 이다 gives **학생이면**. Uses:

- **Future "when/if": 집에 도착하면 빨래를 할 거예요.** "When I arrive home, I'll do the laundry." **학교에 가면 알려 주세요.** "When you go to school, let me know."
- **Condition: 진정하지 않으면 콜라를 주지 않을 거예요.** "If you don't calm down, I won't give you a cola."
- **General truths: 비가 오면 날씨가 추워져요.** "When it rains, the weather gets colder."
- **"If it had been..." (unreal past): 내가 공부했으면 합격했을 거예요.** "If I had studied, I would have passed."

The sentence connector is **그러면** (also 그럼): "in that case".

7. Or: -거나

-거나 joins verbs or adjectives as alternatives. It attaches to the bare stem with no irregular change (like -고 and -지만): **주말에는 영화를 보거나 책을 읽어요** "On weekends I watch a film or read a book". The tense goes on the last verb only: **영화를 보거나 책을 읽었어요**. The noun version is **이나 / 나** (Korean Grammar 1). The sentence connector is **또는** or **아니면**.

8. When / at the time of: -(으)ㄹ 때

Vowel stem + **-ㄹ 때**, consonant stem + **-을 때**: **갈 때**, **먹을 때**. ㄹ-stems keep the ㄹ (**살 때**, **만들 때**), and irregulars change as before a vowel: **추울 때**, **들을 때**. 이다 gives **학생일 때**. It means "when", "at the time that", and it can add 마다 for "every time": **한국에 있을 때마다** "every time I'm in Korea".

The tense in the 때-clause is relative to the main verb, not to the sentence's time. The plain form (**갈 때**) means "while going / at the moment of going", the past form (**갔을 때**) means "when (I) went / after going":

CLAUSE	MEANING
집에 갈 때 전화할 거예요.	I'll call *on the way* home (during the going).
집에 갔을 때 전화할 거예요.	I'll call *when I've got* home.
집에 가면 전화할 거예요.	I'll call *when/if I get* home.

The source checked (howtostudykorean Lesson 42) warns that 집에 갈 때 means calling *during* the going, and recommends 집에 가서 or 집에 가면 for "after arriving". The 갔을 때 row is from general knowledge, and usage varies with the verb.

Watch out: what these endings do not change

-고, -지만 and -거나 start with a consonant (ㄱ, ㅈ, ㄱ), so **none of the Chapter 3 irregulars change** in front of them: 춥고, 듣지만, 짓거나. The vowel-starting group (-아/어서, -(으)니까, -(으)면, -(으)ㄹ 때, and -(으)ㄴ데 on adjectives) triggers every irregular, and ㄹ-stems drop the ㄹ before -(으)니까 and -(으)ㄴ데 and before -는데.

Watch out: sentence connectors

The same ideas, starting a new sentence: **그리고** and, **그렇지만 / 하지만** but, **그런데** but, by the way, **그래서** so, **그러니까** so (leads to a request), **그러면 / 그럼** in that case, **또는 / 아니면** or. These are formed with 그렇다 / 하다 plus the endings above, which is why they look alike.

In Use — 실제 예문

① A weekend plan

A:

이번 주말에 뭐 해요?

What are you doing this weekend?

B:

날씨가 좋으면 공원에 가고, 비가 오면 집에서 영화를 보거나 책을 읽을 거예요.

② Asking politely

A:

길을 잘 모르는데 좀 도와 주세요.

I don't know the way well; please help me.

B:

저도 이 동네는 처음이지만 같이 찾아 봐요.

If the weather is good I'll go to the park, and if it rains I'll watch a film or read a book at home.

It's my first time in this area too, but let's look together.

③ Reasons

A:

왜 일찍 갔어요?

Why did you leave early?

B:

머리가 아파서 일찍 갔어요. 지금도 아프니까 오늘은 쉴 거예요.

My head hurt, so I left early. It still hurts now, so I'll rest today.

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

ENDING	MEANING	TENSE INSIDE?	COMMAND AFTER?	EXAMPLE
-고	and; and then	No	Yes	**먹고 가요**
-지만	but	Yes	Yes	**비싸지만 맛있어요**
-(으)ㄴ/는데	background; soft "but"	Yes	Yes	**가는데 같이 가요**
-아/어서	because; and then	No	No	**피곤해서 잤어요**
-(으)니까	because / since	Yes	Yes	**추우니까 입으세요**
-(으)면	if; when	Yes	Yes	**오면 전화하세요**
-거나	or	No	Yes	**보거나 읽어요**
-(으)ㄹ 때	when; at the time	Relative	Yes	**갈 때 전화하세요**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Join with -고: **집이 크다 / 예쁘다**, and with -지만: **춥다 / 좋다**.

▼ Show answer

집이 크고 예뻐요. · **춥지만 좋아요.** (no irregular change before -고 or -지만)

2. Make -는데 / -(으)ㄴ데 forms: **가다**, **크다**, **살다**, **학생이다**.

▼ Show answer

가는데 · **큰데** · **사는데** · **학생인데**

3. Say "I was tired, so I slept" and "I'm tired, so I'll sleep early" with -아/어서.

▼ Show answer

피곤해서 잤어요. · **피곤해서 일찍 잘 거예요.** (the tense goes on the last verb only)

4. Why is "바빠서 도와 주세요" wrong, and how do you fix it?

▼ Show answer

-아/어서 cannot be followed by a command. Use -(으)니까: **바쁘니까 도와 주세요**.

5. Make -(으)니까 forms: **춥다**, **살다**, **듣다**.

▼ Show answer

추우니까 · **사니까** · **들으니까**

6. Say "If it's cold, wear a coat" (**입다**, imperative -(으)세요).

▼ Show answer

추우면 코트를 입으세요.

7. What is the difference in meaning between **집에 갈 때** and **집에 갔을 때**?

▼ Show answer

갈 때: at the time of going (on the way). **갔을 때**: when you had gone (after arriving).

8. Say "On weekends I sleep or watch TV" with -거나 (**자다**, **텔레비전을 보다**).

▼ Show answer

주말에는 자거나 텔레비전을 봐요.

Coming up in Chapter 6: Connecting Clauses 2: Purpose, Time and Condition. -(으)려고, -(으)러, -기 위해, -(으)면서, -자마자, -다가, -기 전에 and -(으)ㄴ 후에, -아/어야, and -(으)ㄹ수록.

🎯 Connecting Clauses 2 — 목적, 시간, 조건

*Chapter 5 gave the everyday connectors: and, but, because, if, or, when. This chapter adds the ones that say **why you do something** (purpose), **how two actions are timed** (at once, before, after, immediately, interrupted) and **what must happen first** (only if, the more … the more). As in Chapter 5, keep two questions in mind: does the ending allow a tense of its own, and what can follow it? For all of these, the tense sits on the final verb.*

THE MAP

Purpose: -(으)려고 · -(으)러 (+ go/come) · -기 위해(서)
At the same time: -(으)면서
Immediately after: -자마자 · **Interrupted / changed:** -다가
Before / after: -기 전에 · -(으)ㄴ 후에
Only if / must first: -아/어야 · **The more … the more:** -(으)ㄹ수록

1. Purpose: -(으)려고

Vowel stem + **-려고**, consonant stem + **-으려고**; ㄹ-stems take -려고 directly (**살려고**, **만들려고**). Chapter 3's irregulars apply before the 으: **도우려고**, **걸으려고**, **지으려고**; ㅡ- and 르-stems are unchanged (**잠그려고**, **자르려고**). It means "in order to / with the intention of", and no tense goes inside it:

- **밖에 일찍 나가려고 숙제를 빨리 했어요.** "I did my homework fast in order to go out early."
- **저는 신발을 신으려고 잠깐 앉았어요.** "I sat down for a minute in order to put on my shoe."
- **저는 그 사람을 살리려고 경찰관을 불렀어요.** "I called the police officer in order to save that person."

It also ends sentences, softly, as a reply about what you intend: **마트에 갔어요? – 아니요, 지금 가려고요.** "Have you been to the supermarket?" "No, I'm going now." And **-(으)려고 노력하다** means "try to": **매 주말 그 친구를 만나려고 노력해요** "I try to meet that friend every weekend". It is used with verbs; the sources checked do not say whether adjectives can take it.

2. Purpose with movement: -(으)러

The same attachment as -(으)려고 (**보러**, **먹으러**, **만나러**), but -(으)러 is used when the main verb is **going or coming** (가다, 오다 and compounds such as 들어가다, 내려오다, 나가다): **친구를 만나러 왔어요** "I came to meet my friend", **공부하러 학교에 가고 있어요** "I'm going to school to study", **영화를 보러 나가고 싶어요** "I want to go out to see a film". So -(으)려고 can replace -(으)러, but not the other way round: 숙제를 빨리 했어요 is not a movement verb, so **나가러** would be wrong there.

3. Purpose, formal: -기 위해(서)

Verb stem + **-기 위해** (also written -기 위해서) is the neutral, slightly formal "for the purpose of", and it carries no movement restriction: **친구를 만나기 위해 여기로 왔어요** "I came here to meet a friend". With a noun use **를/을 위해(서)** "for": **가족을 위해 일해요** "I work for my family". It also appears in writing and speeches.

ENDING	NEEDS GO/COME?	FEEL	EXAMPLE
-(으)러	Yes	everyday	**보러 가요**
-(으)려고	No	everyday	**보려고 샀어요**
-기 위해(서)	No	formal, written	**보기 위해 갔어요**

4. At the same time: -(으)면서

Vowel stem (and ㄹ-stems) + **-면서**; consonant stem + **-으면서**: **가면서**, **살면서**, **먹으면서**. The ㄷ-irregular changes (**들으면서**). A shortened written form is **-(으)며**. With verbs it means "while": **저는 밥을 먹으면서 공부했어요** "I studied while eating". With adjectives and 이다 it means "and also": **이 음식은 매우면서 짜요** "This food is spicy and salty", **그 사람은 저의 부장이면서 친구예요** "That person is my boss and also my friend". It can also carry a "yet" contrast: **식당을 열고 싶다고 하면서 요리를 못해요** (this quotation form comes in Chapter 8). The usual "while doing two things" use has the **same subject** in both clauses (general knowledge; the source's examples mostly agree, though one has two different subjects).

Careful: **앉으면서** means during the movement of sitting down. For "having sat, ..." use **앉아서**.

5. Immediately after: -자마자

Attach **-자마자** to the bare stem of a verb (no change, no irregulars): **집에 도착하자마자 충전했어요** "As soon as I arrived home, I charged it", **집에 가자마자 침대에 누웠어요** "As soon as I got home, I lay down on the bed". The tense goes on the last verb only. The first action leads straight to the second.

6. Interrupted or changed: -다가

Attach **-다가** to the bare stem of a verb or adjective (no irregular changes), with the shortened form **-다** common in speech. It means that an action or state was **broken off** and something else began: **학교에 가다가 친구를 만났어요** "On my way to school I met a friend" (the going was interrupted by the meeting). With a past marker, **-았/었다가**, it means that something was done and then the opposite or a different action followed: **집에 갔다가 다시 왔어요** "I went home and then came back". Sometimes it explains a cause: **걷다가 넘어졌어요** "I fell while walking" (the falling interrupted the walking). The two clauses normally share a subject. This section is from general knowledge, not from the sources checked for this chapter.

7. Before and after: -기 전에 and -(으)ㄴ 후에

-기 전에 "before" attaches to the bare stem of a verb, with no change: **결과를 발표하기 전에 자료를 검토해야 돼요** "Before announcing the results, we have to review the data", **바다에 들어가기 전에 수영복으로 갈아입어요** "Before going into the sea, I change into a swimsuit". It never takes a tense: the "before" is relative to the main verb. With a noun: **식사 전에**, **일주일 전에**.

-(으)ㄴ 후에 "after" attaches to a verb stem: -ㄴ 후에 after a vowel or ㄹ-stem (**간 후에**, **만든 후에**), -은 후에 after a consonant (**먹은 후에**), and the Chapter 3 changes apply (**들은 후에**, **지은 후에**). **책을 읽은 후에 제자리에 둬야 해요** "After reading the book, you must put it back". **-(으)ㄴ 다음에** is an everyday alternative, and a noun takes 후에: **수업 후에**.

MEANING	VERB FORM	NOUN FORM
before	**먹기 전에**	**식사 전에**
after	**먹은 후에**	**식사 후에**
as soon as	**먹자마자**	–

8. Only if / must: -아/어야

The ending **-아/어야** (built like -아/어요: **가야**, **먹어야**, **해야**, with Chapter 3's changes: **추워야**, **몰라야**, **들어야**) says that the first clause is **needed** for the second to follow. Two uses:

- **-아/어야 하다 / 되다 "must, have to": 저는 밥을 먹어야 해요.** "I have to eat." **우리는 빨리 가야 돼요.** "We have to go quickly." Using 되다 in place of 하다 gives the same meaning and is, in speech, more common. Past: **열심히 일해야 됐어요**; future: **가야 될 거예요**. Chapter 9 returns to obligation with the other ways of saying it.
- **"only if" (general knowledge): 공부해야 합격해요** "Only if you study will you pass". This use is not from the sources checked.

Related conversational endings: **-아/어야지** / **-아/어야죠** "we must" (**빨리 가야지!**) and **-아/어야겠다** "I think I'd better" (**나는 지금 가야겠다** "I'd better go now").

9. The more ... the more: -(으)ㄹ수록

Vowel stem + **-ㄹ수록**, consonant stem + **-을수록**; ㄹ-stems keep the ㄹ (**살수록**). It attaches to both verbs and adjectives and shows a growing degree: **날이 흐릴수록 사람의 기분도 우울해져요** "The cloudier the day, the gloomier people feel" (the sources' sentence, with 감정 changed to 기분). Another: **한국어는 배울수록 재미있어요** "The more you learn Korean, the more fun it is". The main clause often adds **더** "more": **먹을수록 더 먹고 싶어요**. This ending, apart from the one example, is from general knowledge.

> **Watch out: no tense inside most of these**
> -(으)려고, -(으)러, -기 위해, -기 전에 and -자마자 take no tense marker of their own; the final verb shows the tense. Only -(으)ㄴ 후에 (built on the past modifier) and -았/었다가 carry the past inside the

clause. And only -(으)러 requires a movement verb in the main clause.

Watch out: 전에 and 후에 with nouns

-기 전에 and **-(으)ㄴ 후에** join clauses, while 전에 and 후에 alone follow a noun with no particle: 식사 전에, 수업 후에. Do not use -기 전에 on a noun.

In Use — 실제 예문

① Why did you come?

A:

여기에는 왜 왔어요?

Why did you come here?

B:

한국어를 배우러 왔어요. 일찍 일어나려고 어제 일찍 잤어요.

I came to learn Korean. I went to bed early yesterday in order to get up early.

② Daily routine

A:

저는 집에 오자마자 샤워해요. 샤워한 후에 저녁을 먹어요.

As soon as I get home I shower. After showering I eat dinner.

B:

저는 자기 전에 책을 읽으면서 음악을 들어요.

Before going to bed, I listen to music while reading a book.

③ An interruption

A:

어제 왜 늦었어요?

Why were you late yesterday?

B:

회사에 오다가 친구를 만났어요. 그리고 이야기를 해야 됐어요.

On my way to the office I met a friend. And I had to talk to them.

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

ENDING	MEANING	ATTACHES TO	EXAMPLE
-(으)려고	in order to	verb stem	**보려고 왔어요**
-(으)러	to (go / come and) do	verb stem + 가다/오다	**보러 왔어요**
-기 위해(서)	for the purpose of	verb stem	**보기 위해 왔어요**
-(으)면서	while; and also	verb / adjective / 이다	**먹으면서 해요**
-자마자	as soon as	verb stem	**도착하자마자 전화했어요**
-다가	while … (interrupted)	verb / adjective	**가다가 만났어요**
-기 전에	before	verb stem	**먹기 전에 씻어요**
-(으)ㄴ 후에	after	verb stem	**먹은 후에 씻어요**
-아/어야	only if; must (하다/되다)	verb / adjective	**가야 돼요**
-(으)ㄹ수록	the more … the more	verb / adjective	**배울수록 재미있어요**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say "I came to meet a friend" with -(으)러 and "I called to save him" with -(으)려고 (**살리다**).

▼ Show answer

친구를 만나러 왔어요. · **그 사람을 살리려고 불렀어요.**

2. Why is "숙제를 하러 늦게 잤어요" wrong? Fix it.

▼ Show answer

-(으)러 needs a going or coming verb in the main clause. Use -(으)려고: **숙제를 하려고 늦게 잤어요.**

3. Make -(으)면서 forms: **듣다**, **살다**, **가다**.

▼ Show answer

들으면서 · **살면서** · **가면서**

4. Say "As soon as I got home I fell asleep" (**집에 오다**, **잠들다**).

▼ Show answer

집에 오자마자 잠들었어요.

5. Say "I met a friend on the way home" with -다가 (**집에 가다**).

▼ Show answer

집에 가다가 친구를 만났어요.

6. Say "Wash your hands before eating" and "Wash your hands after eating" (**손을 씻다**, imperative -(으)세요).

▼ Show answer

먹기 전에 손을 씻으세요. · **먹은 후에 손을 씻으세요.**

7. Say "I have to go now" and "Only if you study will you pass" with -아/어야.

▼ Show answer

지금 가야 돼요. · **공부해야 합격해요.**

8. Say "The more I eat, the more I want to eat" with -(으)ㄹ수록.

▼ Show answer

먹을수록 더 먹고 싶어요.

Coming up in Chapter 7: Modifiers and Relative Clauses. The modifiers -는, -(으)ㄴ, -(으)ㄹ and -던 before nouns, how adjectives and 있다/없다 behave, and noun clauses with -는 것, -기 and -(으)ㅁ.

🧩 Modifiers and Relative Clauses — 관형사형과 명사형

*English builds long noun phrases after the noun: "the book **that I read yesterday**". Korean puts the whole clause **before** the noun, with no "that / who / which" at all: **어제 읽은 책**. A verb or adjective that ends in a modifier ending (**관형사형**) works like a long adjective. This chapter gives the forms for every word class, how to read and write relative clauses, and the three ways of turning a whole clause into a noun: **-는 것**, **-기** and **-(으)ㅁ**.*

THE CORE PATTERN

[clause ending in a modifier] + noun

영어를 공부하는 학생 "the student who studies English"

어제 읽은 책 "the book (that) I read yesterday"

내일 만날 친구 "the friend (whom) I'll meet tomorrow"

The modifier ending carries the **tense** (present / past / future); the noun after it is the one being described, and it is simply "missing" from the clause.

1. The forms

	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE	REMEMBERED / HABITUAL PAST
Verb	**-는** 가는, 먹는	**-(으)ㄴ** 간, 먹은	**-(으)ㄹ** 갈, 먹을	**-던 / -았/었던** 가던, 갔던
Adjective	**-(으)ㄴ** 큰, 좋은	**-았/었던** 컸던, 좋았던	**-(으)ㄹ** 클, 좋을	(same as past)
있다 / 없다	**-는** 있는, 없는	**-었던** 있었던, 없었던	**-을** 있을, 없을	있던, 없던
이다	**인** 학생인	**이었던 / 였던** 학생이었던	**일** 학생일	(same as past)

The three things that decide the form:

- **Verbs have all three plain tenses.** Present **-는**: **영어를 공부하는 학생** "the student who studies English". Past **-(으)ㄴ**: **한국어를 가르친 선생님** "the teacher who taught Korean". Future **-(으)ㄹ**: **한국어를 가르칠 선생님** "the teacher who will teach Korean". For -던 see Chapter 4.
- **Adjectives use -(으)ㄴ for the present**, not for the past: **예쁜 여자** "a pretty girl", **똑똑한 학생** "a smart student", **가까운 좌석** "a closer seat". For an adjective in the past use -았/었던: **예뻤던 여자**, **시끄러웠던 교실** "the classroom that was noisy".
- **있다 / 없다 behave like verbs** in the present (**-는**): **돈이 있는 사람** "a person who has money", **재미있는 영화**, **맛없는 음식**. This is general knowledge; the sources checked for this chapter were not conclusive on this point.

The same applies to compounds of 있다/없다 (맛있다, 재미있다, 관심 없다). The helper 싶다 takes **-은**, as an adjective: **이 수업을 등록하고 싶은 사람이 적어요** "Few people want to register for this class".

2. Spelling rules

STEM TYPE	-는 (PRESENT)	-(으)ㄴ (PAST/ADJ.)	-(으)ㄹ (FUTURE)
vowel stem	**가는**	**간 · 큰** (ㄴ)	**갈** (ㄹ)
consonant stem	**먹는**	**먹은 · 좋은** (은)	**먹을** (을)
ㄹ-stem	**사는 · 만드는** (ㄹ drops)	**산 · 만든** (ㄹ drops)	**살 · 만들** (ㄹ stays)
ㅂ-irregular	**돕는**	**도운 · 추운**	**도울 · 추울**
ㄷ-irregular	**듣는**	**들은**	**들을**
ㅅ-irregular	**짓는**	**지은**	**지을**
ㅎ-irregular	(adjectives only)	**빨간 · 하얀**	**빨갈**
ㅡ and 르 stems	**쓰는 · 모르는**	**쓴 · 모른 · 바쁜**	**쓸 · 모를**

Remember that ㅂ-, ㄷ- and ㅅ-stems change only before a *vowel*, and -(으)ㄴ / -(으)ㄹ count here as vowel-initial endings, while -는 starts with a consonant, so the stem is unchanged (**듣는**, **짓는**, **돕는**). The ㄹ-stem rule is the mirror of Chapter 3: the ㄹ drops before -는 and -ㄴ, but stays before -ㄹ (**사는 집**, **산 집**, **살 집**).

3. Building relative clauses

A relative clause is just an ordinary sentence with the described noun left out and the verb or adjective turned into a modifier. The noun can be any part of the original sentence:

ROLE OF THE NOUN	ORIGINAL SENTENCE	MODIFIER CLAUSE + NOUN
subject	**학생이 영어를 공부해요.**	**영어를 공부하는 학생**
object	**제가 책을 읽었어요.**	**제가 읽은 책**
place	**제가 집에서 살아요.**	**제가 사는 집**
time	**제가 그때 태어났어요.**	**제가 태어난 때**
possession	**친구가 돈이 있어요.**	**돈이 있는 친구**

More: **옆에 사는 이웃은 너무 시끄러워요** "The neighbour who lives next door is too noisy"; **이 동네에서 축구를 잘 하는 청소년들이 많아요** "There are many young people in this area who are good at football"; **제가 받을 점수는 중요해요** "The score I will receive is important".

Particles inside the clause. The clause's own subject is usually marked with 이/가 (**제가 읽은 책**); the topic marker 은/는 is normally avoided inside a modifier clause, though it can appear for contrast. This tip is from general knowledge. A relative clause can be long, and can itself sit inside a longer sentence: **친구가 선물한 책을 읽고 있어요** "I'm reading the book that my friend gave me".

4. When the head noun is a placeholder

Where English says "the thing that", "the place where", "the person who" or "the time when", Korean uses a general noun after the modifier:

- **것** "thing": **먹을 것** "something to eat", **마실 것** "something to drink", **읽을 것** "something to read"
- **곳 / 데** "place": **살 곳** "a place to live", **갈 데가 없어요** "There's nowhere to go"
- **사람** "person": **저를 도와 주는 사람** "the person who helps me"
- **때** "time": **어렸을 때** "when I was little" (Chapter 5)
- **일** "thing to do / matter": **할 일** "things to do", **오늘 할 일이 많아요** "I have a lot to do today"

5. Clauses turned into nouns: -는 것

To say "*doing* X" or "*that* X happens" as the subject or object of a sentence, put -는 것 (present), -(으)ㄴ 것 (past) or -(으)ㄹ 것 (future) after the clause, then add the particle:

- **담배를 피우는 것은 건강에 나빠요.** "Smoking is bad for your health."
- **이 문제를 극복하는 것이 힘들 거예요.** "It will be difficult to overcome this problem."
- **저는 친구가 사과를 가져오는 것을 원해요.** "I want my friend to bring apples."
- **제 취미는 요리하는 것이에요.** "My hobby is cooking." (이다 follows -는 것: **-는 것이다**)

In speech 것 + 이/을/은 usually contracts: **것이** → **게**, **것은** → **건**, **것을** → **걸**, **것이에요** → **거예요**. So **요리하는 게 재미있어요** "Cooking is fun". Notice that the (으)ㄹ 거예요 of Chapter 4 is this same *것이에요*.

6. Clauses turned into nouns: -기

Verb stem + **-기** turns a verb into a noun without any tense, and is common with a fixed set of predicates:

- **-기 시작하다** "begin to": **밥을 먹기 시작했어요**
- **-기 싫다** "not want to": **쌀을 씻기 싫어요**
- **-기 좋다 / 쉽다 / 어렵다** "easy to … / hard to …": **이 책은 읽기 쉬워요**
- **-기 전에** "before" (Chapter 6) and **-기 위해** "in order to" (Chapter 6)

The -기 forms of irregulars never change (they start with a consonant): **듣기**, **춥기**, **살기** (a noun use: **듣기** and **읽기** are also the names of the listening and reading tests). Fixed nouns made with -기: **달리기** (running), **줄넘기** (skipping rope). For most other sentences, -는 것 is the more natural choice: "I want my friend to bring apples" is -는 것 (**가져오는 것**), not 가져오기.

7. Clauses turned into nouns: -(으)ㅁ

Vowel stem + **-ㅁ**, consonant stem + **-음** makes a noun, but it mostly gives **set nouns** that you learn as vocabulary, and a clause nominalised with -(으)ㅁ is a written or formal style:

VERB / ADJECTIVE	NOUN	MEANING
싸우다	**싸움**	fight
기쁘다	**기쁨**	joy
돕다	**도움**	help
걷다	**걸음**	step, walk
죽다	**죽음**	death
느끼다	**느낌**	feeling
살다	**삶**	life

Examples: **나는 아빠의 죽음을 잊지 않았어** "I didn't forget my father's death"; **나는 형이랑 싸움에서 이겼어** "I won the fight with my brother". The irregulars show up here as nouns (돕다 → 도움, 걷다 → 걸음). The clause use (**나는 네가 먹고 있음을 알았어** "I knew you were eating") is rare in speech and found in books and notices.

	-는 것	-기	-(으)ㅁ
Tense	present / past / future	none	none (+ -았/었음)
Where	everywhere	fixed expressions	set nouns; formal writing
Example	**요리하는 것**	**요리하기 싫다**	**도움**

> **Watch out: the adjective that "looks" past**
>
> The -(으)ㄴ ending on an **adjective** is the *present* (**큰 집** = a big house, not "a house that was big"). On a **verb** the very same -(으)ㄴ is past (**먹은 밥** = rice that was eaten). Check the word class first.

Watch out: 있다 and 없다 are not adjectives here

Although 있다/없다 translate like adjectives ("have", "not have"), they take **-는** as verbs do: **있는**, **없는**, **재미있는**. The form **있은** is not used.

🗣️ In Use — 실제 예문

① Describing people

A:

저기 앉아 있는 사람이 누구예요?

Who is the person sitting over there?

B:

어제 우리 반에 온 학생이에요. 한국어를 잘하는 사람이에요.

It's the student who joined our class yesterday. They're someone who speaks Korean well.

② Things and places

A:

내일 만날 친구가 먹을 것을 살 거예요.

The friend I'm meeting tomorrow will buy something to eat.

B:

좋아요! 우리가 갈 곳은 제가 어렸을 때 살던 동네예요.

Great! The place we're going is the neighbourhood where I lived when I was little.

③ Hobbies

A:

취미가 뭐예요?

What's your hobby?

B:

제 취미는 책을 읽는 거예요. 읽기 쉬운 책이 좋아요.

My hobby is reading books. I like books that are easy to read.

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

WORD CLASS	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
Verb	가는 사람	간 사람	갈 사람
Adjective	큰 집	컸던 집	클 집
있다 / 없다	있는 돈	있었던 돈	있을 돈
이다	학생인 사람	학생이었던 사람	학생일 사람
Clause → noun	가는 것	간 것	갈 것

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Make modifiers with the noun 사람 for: **먹다 (present)**, **가다 (past)**, **만나다 (future)**.

▼ Show answer

먹는 사람 · **간 사람** · **만날 사람**

2. Make modifiers with 집 for: **살다** (present, past, future).

▼ Show answer

사는 집 · **산 집** · **살 집** (the ㄹ drops before -는 and -ㄴ but stays before -ㄹ)

3. Say "a cold day" and "the day that was cold" (**춥다** + 날).

▼ Show answer

추운 날 · **추웠던 날**

4. Combine into one noun phrase: **제가 책을 샀어요.** → "the book I bought".

▼ Show answer

제가 산 책

5. Say "a restaurant with delicious food" and "a film with no fun in it" (**맛있다**, **재미없다**).

▼ Show answer

맛있는 식당 (more naturally: 음식이 맛있는 식당) · **재미없는 영화**

6. Say "Something to drink" and "I have a lot to do today".

▼ Show answer

마실 것 · **오늘 할 일이 많아요.**

7. Say "Swimming is fun" with -는 것 and its contracted form (**수영하다**, **재미있다**).

▼ Show answer

수영하는 것이 재미있어요. → **수영하는 게 재미있어요.**

8. Give the nouns made with -(으)ㅁ from **돕다**, **살다**, **기쁘다**.

▼ Show answer

도움 (help) · **삶** (life) · **기쁨** (joy)

Coming up in Chapter 8: Quotation and Reported Speech. Direct quotation with 라고, indirect statements, questions, commands and suggestions (-다고, -(으)냐고, -(으)라고, -자고) and their contractions: -대요, -냐요, -래요, -재요.

💬 Quotation and Reported Speech — 인용

*Reporting what somebody said, asked, told you to do or suggested is one of the most useful skills in Korean, and one of the most regular ones: put the quoted sentence into its **plain form** (the 해라체 of Chapter 1), add **고**, and follow with a speech verb such as **말하다**, **하다**, **묻다** or **생각하다**. This chapter covers direct quotation, the four indirect types (statement, question, command, suggestion), the special verbs 달라고 and 주라고, and the everyday contractions **-대요**, **-내요**, **-래요** and **-재요**.*

THE RECIPE

Direct: "quoted sentence" + **라고** + 하다

Indirect statement: plain form **-다** + 고 → **-다고 해요**

Indirect question: -(으)냐 + 고 → **-(으)냐고 해요** (to ask: 물어요 / 물어봐요)

Indirect command: -(으)라 + 고 → **-(으)라고 해요**

Indirect suggestion: -자 + 고 → **-자고 해요**

1. Direct quotation: "..."라고 하다

A direct quotation keeps the exact words, in quotation marks, then **라고** and the speech verb: **그는 "너를 사랑해"라고 했어요** "He said, 'I love you'". The same pattern works with 말하다: **친구가 "내일 만나요"라고 말했어요**. With a noun alone it names a thing: **이것을 "김치"라고 불러요** "This is called 'kimchi'" (불러요 here is 부르다 "call").

2. Indirect statements: -다고

Indirect speech replaces the quoted sentence with its plain declarative form (Chapter 1) and attaches **고**. All three levels of the original (해요체, 합쇼체, 해체) become the same one:

WORD	PLAIN FORM + 고	EXAMPLE
Verb, present	vowel stem + **-ㄴ다고**; consonant stem + **-는다고**	**간다고** · **먹는다고** · **한다고** · **산다고** (ㄹ drops)
Verb, past	**-았/었다고**	**갔다고** · **먹었다고** · **했다고**
Verb, future	**-겠다고** / **-(으)ㄹ 거라고**	**가겠다고** · **갈 거라고**
Adjective	stem + **-다고**	**행복하다고** · **조그맣다고** · **행복했다고**
있다 / 없다	**-다고** (as adjectives)	**있다고** · **없다고**
이다	**(이)라고**; past **이었다고**	**의사라고** · **학생이라고** · **선생님이었다고**

Examples: **나는 그가 너를 좋아한다고 말했어.** "I said that he likes you." **그가 선생님이었다고 했어요.** "He said he was a teacher." **저는 밥을 안 먹었다고 말했어요.** "I said that I didn't eat." **그는 제가 내일 올 거라고 했어요.** "He said I would come tomorrow."

Tense belongs to the quote, not to the reporting verb: **선생님은 학생들이 늦게 도착했다고 말했어요** (arrived), **도착한다고 말했어요** (are arriving), **도착하겠다고 말했어요** (will arrive). The speech verb may be in any tense, and it can also be a thinking or hearing verb: **잘 모른다고 생각해요** "I think they don't know", **비가 온다고 들었어요** "I heard it's raining".

이다 and 아니다. After a vowel-ending noun, the 이 may be dropped: **의사라고** or **의사이라고**; after a consonant-ending noun it stays: **학생이라고**. 아니다 gives **아니라고** (own knowledge: this form is not in the sources checked).

3. Indirect questions: -(으)냐고

A question uses the plain question ending **-냐** (the 해라체 question of Chapter 1) plus 고, with **-느냐고** for verbs in the formal style and **-냐고** in speech. Adjectives take **-(으)냐고** (-으냐고 after a consonant stem, -냐고 after a vowel or ㄹ-stem). 있다/없다 always take -느냐고 (spoken -냐고): **있느냐고**, **없냐고**. 이다 gives **(이)냐고**: **의사냐고**, **선생님이냐고**.

- **그가 무엇을 좋아하느냐고 물어봤어요.** "I asked him what he likes."
- **나는 그 사람이 의사냐고 물어봤어.** "I asked if that person is a doctor."

- **그 사람이 우리 선생님이냐고 물어봤어.** "I asked if that person is our teacher."
- Past and future: **갔냐고**, **가겠냐고**, **갈 거냐고**.

For a yes/no question add nothing; Korean needs no 'whether' (the 'whether' clause with -는지 is a different construction; this chapter does not cover it).

4. Indirect commands: -(으)라고

Vowel stem + **-라고**, consonant stem + **-으라고**; the negative uses **-지 말라고**. Honorific -(으)세요 and -(으)십시오 are not used inside the quote; the plain command form -(으)라 is.

- **우리 아빠는 저에게 밥을 빨리 먹으라고 했어요.** "My dad told me to eat fast."
- **선생님이 복도에서 뛰지 말라고 했어요.** "The teacher said not to run in the hallway."
- **그렇게 하지 말라고 했어.** "I told you not to do it like that."

Specials: **하다 → 하라고** (not 해라고); ㄹ-stems keep the ㄹ: **만들다 → 만들라고**, **자르다 → 자르라고**. The commands of Chapter 3's irregular verbs follow the usual pattern (**들으라고**, **도우라고**).

달라고 and 주라고 — "give me" and "give them"

When the quoted request is "give *me / us* ..." (the speaker is the receiver), 주다 turns into **달다**: **달라고**. When someone is told to give something to a third person, it is the regular **주라고**:

- **휴지를 달라고 했어요.** "I said, 'Please give me a tissue.'"
- **조용히 해 달라고 했어요.** "I asked (them) to be quiet." (-아/어 달라고 = a request for a favour)
- **애기에게 밥을 주라고 했어.** "I said, 'Give the baby rice.'"

5. Indirect suggestions: -자고

A suggestion "let's..." is the plain **-자** plus 고, attached to the bare verb stem with no change: **가자고**, **먹자고**, **하자고**. **아빠가 밥을 먹자고 했어.** "Dad said, 'Let's eat.'" **우리 아들은 나한테 자꾸 부산에 가자고 졸랐어.** "My son kept pestering me to go to Busan." The negative is **-지 말자고** (own knowledge).

6. The everyday contractions: -대요, -냬요, -래요, -재요

In speech, "X says that ..." is almost always contracted: the 고 하- in **-다고 해요** collapses. The contractions follow the four types:

TYPE	FULL	CONTRACTED	EXAMPLE
Statement	**-다고 해요**	**-대요**	**간대요** · **먹는대요** · **크대요** · **갔대요** · **갈 거래요**
Statement (이다)	**-(이)라고 해요**	**-(이)래요**	**학생이래요** · **의사래요**
Question	**-(으)냐고 해요**	**-(으)냬요**	**가냬요** · **뭐냬요**
Command	**-(으)라고 해요**	**-(으)래요**	**먹으래요** · **가지 말래요**
Suggestion	**-자고 해요**	**-재요**	**가재요** · **먹재요**

The sources checked for this chapter did **not** cover these contractions: the table is from general knowledge. The spelling and the form of the question contraction vary in practice: you will also see **-냐고요** used on its own ("they asked whether...?"). Learners usually meet **-대요 / -래요 / -재요** most often. Use the full forms in writing and in careful speech.

Do not confuse a **reported question** with a **repeated question**: **뭐 하냐고요?** in conversation can also be an echo, "You're asking what I'm doing?".

7. Person, honorifics and politeness

- **Pronouns follow the viewpoint of the reporter.** Direct **"제가 하고 싶지 않습니다"** becomes **그는 하고 싶지 않다고 했어요**; the speaker's 제가 is dropped or changed. The sources give no general rule, only examples (그는 너를 사랑한다고 했어).
- **Honorifics.** Respect for the person being talked about goes *inside* the quote with -(으)시-: **선생님이 가신다고 하셨어요** "The teacher said that (they) are going" (own knowledge; the sources checked do not cover honorifics in quotation, but the pattern follows Chapter 2).
- **Politeness of the reporter.** Only the final 하다 carries 해요체 / 합쇼체: **가신다고 해요** / **가신다고 합니다**.

Watch out: statement vs question vs command

The three endings differ by one letter: **-다고** (statement), **-냐고** (question), **-라고** (command). And the verb 있다/없다 takes the statement form -다고 but the question form -느냐고. The 이다 statement is -(이)라고 (which looks like the command), so read the context.

Watch out: 한다고 vs 하라고 vs 하자고

The verb 하다 gives three different quote forms: **한다고** (statement, "does"), **하라고** (command, not 해라고), **하자고** (suggestion). Contracted: **한대요**, **하래요**, **하재요**.

🗣️ In Use — 실제 예문

① What did she say?

A:

민수 씨가 뭐라고 했어요?

What did Minsu say?

B:

내일 안 온다고 했어요. 그리고 오늘은 일찍 가라고 했어요.

He said he isn't coming tomorrow. And he said to leave early today.

② Passing on news (contractions)

A:

선생님이 내일 시험이 없대요.

They say there's no test tomorrow.

B:

그래요? 친구는 같이 공부하재요. 그리고 숙제를 하래요.

Really? My friend suggests studying together. And says to do the homework.

③ Asking and telling

A:

엄마가 저한테 어디 가냐고 물어보셨어요.

My mother asked me where I was going.

B:

그래서 뭐라고 말했어요? 저는 친구를 만난다고 말했어요.

So what did you say? I said I was meeting a friend.

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

TYPE	PATTERN	CONTRACTED	EXAMPLE
Direct	"..."라고 하다	–	**"안녕"이라고 했어요**
Statement (verb)	-ㄴ/는다고 · -았/었다고 · -겠다고	-ㄴ/는대요	**간다고 해요 → 간대요**
Statement (adj.)	-다고	-대요	**크다고 해요 → 크대요**
Statement (이다)	-(이)라고	-(이)래요	**학생이래요**
Question	-(으)냐고 / -느냐고	-(으)냬요	**가냐고 해요 → 가냬요**
Command	-(으)라고 · -지 말라고	-(으)래요	**먹으래요**
Suggestion	-자고	-재요	**가재요**
Request	-아/어 달라고 · 주라고	-아/어 달래요	**도와 달래요**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Report as a statement: **"저는 학생이에요."** → "He said he is a student."

▼ Show answer

그는 학생이라고 했어요.

2. Report: **"저는 내일 갈 거예요."** (past tense of 말하다).

▼ Show answer

내일 갈 거라고 말했어요. (or **가겠다고 말했어요**)

3. Report the question **"밥 먹었어요?"** ("I asked if he'd eaten.")

▼ Show answer

밥 먹었냐고 물어봤어요.

4. Report the commands **"앉으세요"** and **"가지 마세요"**.

▼ Show answer

앉으라고 했어요. · **가지 말라고 했어요.**

5. Report **"같이 가요."** as a suggestion and contract it.

▼ Show answer

같이 가자고 했어요 → **같이 가재요.**

6. Contract: **춥다고 해요**, **먹는다고 해요**, **의사라고 해요**.

▼ Show answer

춥대요 · **먹는대요** · **의사래요**

7. What is the difference between **주라고 했어요** and **달라고 했어요**?

▼ Show answer

주라고: someone was told to give something to somebody else. 달라고: the speaker asked for something to be given to *themselves*.

8. Report the question **"돈이 있어요?"** and the statement **"돈이 없어요."**

▼ Show answer

돈이 있느냐고 물어봤어요. · **돈이 없다고 했어요.**

Coming up in Chapter 9: Ability, Obligation, Permission and Guessing. -(으)ㄹ 수 있다/없다 and 못, -아/어야 하다/되다, -아/어도 되다, -(으)면 안 되다, and the guessing and worrying forms -(으)ㄹ 것 같다, -나 보다, -(으)ㄹ까 봐 and -(으)ㄹ 텐데.

🚦 Ability, Obligation, Permission and Guessing — 가능, 의무, 허락, 추측

*These are the patterns that let you say what is **possible**, what you **must** do, what you **may** and **may not** do, and what you **think is probably the case**. Most are fixed phrases built on the modifier endings of Chapter 7 (-는, -(으)ㄴ, -(으)ㄹ) plus a noun-like word (수, 것, 터) and a closing verb (있다, 같다, 이다). Because the modifier changes with tense and word class, the key to this chapter is Chapter 7's table.*

THE SET AT A GLANCE

Can / cannot: -(으)ㄹ 수 있다/없다 · 못 · -지 못하다
Must / need to: -아/어야 하다/되다 · -(으)ㄹ 필요가 있다
May / may not: -아/어도 되다 · -(으)면 안 되다
Probably / seems: -(으)ㄹ 것 같다 · -나 보다 · -(으)ㄹ 텐데 · (worry) -(으)ㄹ까 봐

1. Ability and possibility: -(으)ㄹ 수 있다 / 없다

Put the **future modifier** -(으)ㄹ on the verb, then the pseudo-noun **수**, then 있다 ("there is a way") or 없다 ("there is no way"): **할 수 있어요** "I can do it", **먹을 수 없어요** "I can't eat it". ㄹ-stems keep the ㄹ (**만들 수 있어요**), and Chapter 3's irregulars change before the vowel (**추울 수**, **들을 수**, **도울 수**). Only 있다/없다 change for tense: the 수 part stays.

- **저도 그것을 할 수 있어요.** "I can do that too."
- **어렸을 때 저는 햄버거 다섯 개를 먹을 수 있었어요.** "When I was young I could eat five hamburgers."
- **내년에 캐나다에 갈 수 없을 거예요.** "I won't be able to go to Canada next year."
- **문을 열어 줄 수 있어요?** "Can you open the door (for me)?" — a polite request.

The particle can follow 수: **수가**, **수는**, **수도**. **그것을 어떻게 할 수가 있어요?** "How can you possibly do that?" shows 수가 adding emphasis. The same -(으)ㄹ 수 있다 also means "it is possible that...", which is why **비가 올 수 있어요** is "It may rain".

2. Cannot: 못 and -지 못하다

못 goes directly before the verb and says that something prevented you, or that you could not: **저는 그 동안 공부를 못 했어요** "I couldn't study during that time", **이 셔츠가 너무 작아서 못 입어요** "This shirt is too small, so I can't wear it". The longer form is **-지 못하다**: **이 문제를 이해하지 못했어요** "I didn't understand this problem". Compare **안 / -지 않다**, a plain negative (you don't, by choice or fact): **저는 어제 시험을 안 봤어요** "I didn't take the test yesterday".

	안 / -지 않다	못 / -지 못하다	-(으)ㄹ 수 없다
Meaning	do not (plain negative)	could not (something prevented it)	cannot (general inability)
Example	**안 가요**	**못 가요**	**갈 수 없어요**

The difference between 못 and -(으)ㄹ 수 없다 is subtle: 못 is the colloquial, one-off "couldn't"; **-(으)ㄹ 수 없다** is a more general or formal "cannot". Watch the spacing: **잘 못 해요** (can't do it well) differs from **잘못 해요** (do it wrongly / by mistake), and **못하다** written as one word means "be bad at": **나는 수영을 못해** "I'm bad at swimming". 못 is not used with adjectives, so 못 + adjective is not a thing (general knowledge).

3. Must and need to

You met **-아/어야 하다 / 되다** in Chapter 6: stem + -아/어야 + 하다 (or 되다) means "have to". **가야 해요 / 가야 돼요** "I must go". Using 되다 instead of 하다 gives exactly the same meaning and is more usual in speech. Past: **그때 열심히 일해야 됐어요** "I had to work hard then"; future: **10분 후에 가야 될 거예요** "We'll have to go in ten minutes". The conversational shortening is **-아/어야지(요)**: **우리가 빨리 가야지!** "We have to hurry!", and **-아/어야겠다** expresses a decision reached on the spot: **나는 지금 가야겠다** "I'd better go now".

A second phrase is **-(으)ㄹ 필요가 있다 / 없다** "there is / is no need to": **나는 밥을 먹을 필요가 있어요** "I need to eat", **제자리에 놓을 필요가 없어요** "You don't need to put it back in its place". 필요하다 itself is an *adjective*, so the thing needed takes 이/가 and not 을/를: **나는 밥이 필요해요** "I need rice". The negative "must not" has its own form below; "must" is also expressed by a double negative, **-지 않으면 안 되다** "it won't do if you don't" (general knowledge).

4. Permission and "don't have to": -아/어도 되다

The ending **-아/어도** means "even if". Add 되다 (or 좋다, 괜찮다) and you get permission: **지금 문을 열어도 돼요** "You may open the door now", with the question **제가 일찍 가도 돼요?** "May I leave early?". Alternatives with the same sense: **열어도 괜찮아요** and **열어도 좋아요**. For 이다 use **-(이)어도 / -여도 / -(이)라도**. Past: **그때 나가도 되었어요** "It would have been fine if you'd left then"; future: **나가도 될 거예요**.

Put a negative before it and you get "don't have to": **내일까지 다 안 해도 돼요** "You don't need to do it all by tomorrow", **빨리 안 가도 돼** "You don't have to go quickly". It is the opposite of -아/어야 하다. The irregular stems change as before -아/어요: **추워도**, **몰라도**, **들어도**, **써도**.

5. Prohibition: -(으)면 안 되다

-(으)면 안 되다 "must not" is the ending -(으)면 (Chapter 5) plus 안 되다 "doesn't work": **그렇게 하면 안 돼요** "You must not do it like that", **이 차에 디젤을 넣으면 안 됩니다** "You must not put diesel in this car", **유아에게 그런 말을 하면 안 돼요** "You must not say that to a young child". A more formal "should not" is **-아/어서는 안 되다**: **밥을 많이 먹어서는 안 돼요** "You shouldn't eat a lot", **사람을 겉모습으로 평가해서는 안 돼요** "You shouldn't judge people by their looks".

As a question, the same phrase asks politely whether something is acceptable: **더 빨리 하면 안 돼요?** "Can't you do it faster?". The short answer "No" to a permission question is **안 돼요.** A related positive pattern is **-(으)면 되다** "it's enough if", used for advice: **서울역에서 내리면 됩니다** "You just get off at Seoul Station".

YOU WANT TO SAY	PATTERN	EXAMPLE
You may…	-아/어도 돼요	**앉아도 돼요**
You don't have to…	안 -아/어도 돼요	**안 와도 돼요**
You must…	-아/어야 해요/돼요	**와야 돼요**
You must not…	-(으)면 안 돼요	**앉으면 안 돼요**

6. Guessing: -(으)ㄹ 것 같다 and -(으)ㄴ/는 것 같다

-(으)ㄹ 것 같다 (future modifier + 것 + 같다 "seem") says that something is **probably going to happen or be the case**: **비가 올 것 같아요** "It looks like it will rain", **우리는 늦을 것 같아요** "We will probably be late", **문이 열려 있을 것 같아요** "The door is probably open". The subject can be anything. Other tenses use the Chapter 7 modifiers:

WHAT YOU GUESS	FORM	EXAMPLE
Future / likely	-(으)ㄹ 것 같다	**비가 올 것 같아요**
Present, verb (observing)	-는 것 같다	**엄마는 기다리고 있는 것 같아요** "Mum seems to be waiting"
Present, adjective	-(으)ㄴ 것 같다	**이 집은 큰 것 같아요**
Past, with evidence	-(으)ㄴ 것 같다	**친구가 간 것 같아요**
Past, a guess	-았/었을 것 같다	**아빠가 이미 냈을 것 같아요** "Dad probably already paid"
이다	-인 것 같다	**그 사람은 학생인 것 같아요**

The sources checked give the future-form examples and the 이다 and "mum seems to be waiting" and "dad probably paid" examples; the table's adjective and past-with-evidence rows follow the Chapter 7 modifier table. Do not say 그렇는 것 같아요: the adjective 그렇다 loses its ㅎ, giving **그런 것 같아요** (Chapter 3).

7. "It seems that...": -나 보다 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다

Another way to say "it seems, it appears" is **-나 보다** after a *verb* and **-(으)ㄴ가 보다** after an *adjective* or **-인가 보다** after 이다. The speaker has seen or heard evidence and infers the cause: **비가 오나 봐요** "It seems to be raining", **사람이 많은가 봐요** "There seem to be a lot of people", **학생인가 봐요** "(They) seem to be a student", **잤나 봐요** "(They) seem to have been asleep" (past -았/었나 보다). It is more observational than -(으)ㄹ 것 같다 and is not used to talk about your own feelings or plans. The sources checked do not cover this ending: it is from general knowledge.

8. Expectation and pity: -(으)ㄹ 텐데

-(으)ㄹ 텐데 is built from the pseudo-noun 터 + 이다 + -ㄴ데: always -ㄹ/을 + 터 + 이다 + ㄴ데. It says "it should be the case, and...", with a feeling of expectation, worry or "what a shame". It is a little more sure than -(으)ㄹ 것 같다:

- **비가 올 텐데** "It's probably going to rain (and so...)"
- **그가 집에 없을 텐데** "He probably isn't at home (but)..."
- **음식이 더 있으면 좋을 텐데** "It'd be good if there were more food (but there isn't)." (the author's gloss of the nuance)
- Connecting two clauses: **길이 막힐 텐데 지하철로 가요** "The roads will probably be jammed, so let's take the subway."

It is typically used when the speaker is *not* the one doing the action. One exception is the intention form **-(으)ㄹ 테니까** (here the speaker is the subject): **지금 갈 테니까 조금 더 기다려 주세요** "I'm leaving now, so please wait a little longer". Ending a sentence with **-(으)ㄹ 텐데요** leaves the thought hanging, soft and polite.

9. Worry: -(으)ㄹ까 봐

-(으)ㄹ까 봐 says "for fear that, in case": the first clause is what you are afraid of, and the second shows what you do or feel because of it. One source example, **집주인이 부서진 거울을 찾아낼까 봐 걱정돼요** "I'm worried that the landlord will find the broken mirror", appears only as a vocabulary example, so the rule is from general knowledge: vowel stem + -ㄹ까 봐, consonant stem + -을까 봐 (**늦을까 봐**, **잊을까 봐**). Another: **비가 올까 봐 우산을 가져왔어요** "I brought an umbrella in case it rained".

> **Watch out: 안 되다 vs 못 하다**
>
> **안 돼요** says something is *not allowed or not working* ("No"); **못 해요** says *you can't do it*. Compare: **여기서 사진을 찍으면 안 돼요** (not allowed) and **저는 사진을 못 찍어요** (I'm unable to take photos).

> **Watch out: the subject changes the guess**

-(으)ㄹ 텐데 and -나 보다 are used to talk about *other people and situations*; about yourself, say **-(으)ㄹ 거예요** or **-겠-** (Chapter 4). **제가 갈 것 같아요** is possible, but it means "I guess I'll go" (unsure).

🗣️ In Use — 실제 예문

① Can you? May I?

A:

김치를 만들 수 있어요? 제가 도와도 돼요?

Can you make kimchi? May I help?

B:

네, 도와 줘도 돼요. 하지만 매운 것은 먹을 수 없어요.

Yes, you may help. But I can't eat spicy things.

② Rules

A:

여기에서 사진을 찍으면 안 돼요. 그리고 신발을 벗어야 돼요.

You must not take photos here. And you have to take your shoes off.

B:

아, 알겠습니다. 가방은 안 가져가도 돼요?

Oh, understood. Don't I need to take my bag?

③ Guesses

A:

하늘을 보세요. 비가 올 것 같아요. 우산이 있어요?

Look at the sky. It looks like rain. Do you have an umbrella?

B:

저는 비가 올까 봐 우산을 가져왔어요. 밖에 사람이 많은가 봐요.

I brought one in case it rains. There seem to be a lot of people outside.

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

MEANING	PATTERN	EXAMPLE
can	-(으)ㄹ 수 있다	**할 수 있어요**
cannot	-(으)ㄹ 수 없다 · 못 · -지 못하다	**할 수 없어요 · 못 해요**
must	-아/어야 하다/되다	**가야 돼요**
need to / no need	-(으)ㄹ 필요가 있다/없다	**갈 필요가 없어요**
may	-아/어도 되다	**가도 돼요**
don't have to	안 -아/어도 되다	**안 가도 돼요**
must not	-(으)면 안 되다	**가면 안 돼요**
probably	-(으)ㄹ 것 같다	**갈 것 같아요**
seems	-나 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다	**가나 봐요 · 큰가 봐요**
should (expectation)	-(으)ㄹ 텐데	**올 텐데**
in case / for fear	-(으)ㄹ까 봐	**늦을까 봐**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say "I can read Korean" and "I can't eat spicy food" (**읽다**, **먹다**).

▼ Show answer

한국어를 읽을 수 있어요. · **매운 음식을 먹을 수 없어요.**

2. Say "I can't make it" with 만들다 (ㄹ-stem) and with 못.

▼ Show answer

만들 수 없어요. · **못 만들어요.**

3. Say "We have to go now" in two ways.

▼ Show answer

지금 가야 해요. · **지금 가야 돼요.**

4. Ask "May I sit here?" and answer "Yes, you may" and "No, you mustn't".

▼ Show answer

여기에 앉아도 돼요? · **네, 앉아도 돼요.** · **아니요, 앉으면 안 돼요.**

5. Say "You don't have to come tomorrow."

▼ Show answer

내일 안 와도 돼요.

6. Say "It looks like it will be cold tomorrow" (**춥다**).

▼ Show answer

내일 추울 것 같아요. (ㅂ-irregular: 춥 → 추우 before -ㄹ)

7. Say "He seems to be tired" with -(으)ㄴ가 보다 (**피곤하다**) and "There seem to be a lot of people" with -나 보다 (**사람이 많이 오다**).

▼ Show answer

피곤한가 봐요. · **사람이 많이 오나 봐요.**

8. Say "I took an umbrella in case it rains" and "It's a pity there's not more food" (**음식이 더 있으면 좋다**).

▼ Show answer

비가 올까 봐 우산을 가져왔어요. · **음식이 더 있으면 좋을 텐데요.**

Coming up in Chapter 10: Sentence Endings and Putting It Together. The sentence-final endings -네요, -군요, -죠, -거든요, -잖아요, -는데요, -(으)ㄹ게요, -(으)ㄹ래요 and -(으)ㄹ까요,

sentence-final nuance, and a recap of the whole course: the **Course Complete** chapter.

🎶 Sentence Endings and Putting It Together — 문장 끝 어미

*Native speakers hardly ever end a sentence on a bare -아/어요. They add a **sentence-final ending** that shows what the speaker feels about the sentence: surprise, a realisation, a request for agreement, an explanation, a reminder, a promise, an invitation. The grammar underneath is the same as in the previous nine chapters, but these endings carry the **tone**, and tone is what makes Korean sound natural. This final chapter teaches nine of them, with the contrasts that matter, and then recaps the whole course.*

THE NINE AT A GLANCE

Discovery: -네요 · -군요

Seeking agreement: -죠

Explaining / reminding: -거든요 · -잖아요

Trailing off, softening: -는데요

Deciding / inviting / asking: -(으)ㄹ게요 · -(으)ㄹ래요 · -(으)ㄹ까요

1. Discovering something: -네요 and -군요

-네요 attaches directly to the stem of verbs, adjectives and 이다 and tells the listener that you have just noticed something: **아들이 귀엽네요** "Oh, your son is so cute (I hadn't realised)", **이 음식점은 음식이 정말 맛있네요** "Wow, the food at this restaurant is really delicious". The past is **-았/었네요** (**밥을 빨리 먹었네요** "You ate quickly!") and a guess is **-겠네요** (**아프겠네요** "That must hurt"). It also works as a reply: **그렇네요.** "So it is." The informal -네 drops 요: **아! 잔돈이 없네!** "Oh! I've got no change!". Since the start of -네 is ㄴ, a ㄹ-stem drops its ㄹ (**사네요**, **기네요**), a general point not covered by the sources checked.

-군요 is the "I see!" realisation: adjectives take the bare stem (**비싸군요**), 이다 takes 이 (**과학 선생님이군요**), and **verbs add -는** (**아들이 수영을 잘 하는군요** "Oh, so your son is good at

swimming"). Past: **-았/었군요**; a guess: **-겠군요**. 있다/없다 take the adjective pattern (**없군요**). The plain forms are **-구나** (mostly self-talk, informal) and **-군**; **-군요** is polite.

	-네요	-군요
Verb	**가네요**	**가는군요**
Adjective	**크네요**	**크군요**
이다	**학생이네요**	**학생이군요**
Past	**갔네요**	**갔군요**
Feel	impression, often about what you see now	realisation, "I see", often self-directed

The two are close, and the source treats both as "I didn't realise". As a rough guide, -네요 reacts to something in front of you and is addressed to the listener; -군요 reacts to new information.

2. Seeking agreement: -죠 (-지요)

-죠 is the polite contraction of **-지요**; the informal form is **-지**. It attaches to the bare stem with no irregular changes (it begins with ㅈ), and takes -았/었- and -(으)ㄹ 거-: **갔죠**, **갈 거죠**. It asks the listener to confirm something the speaker already believes: **날씨가 춥죠?** "It's cold, isn't it?", **선생님! 바쁘죠?** "Teacher! You're busy, aren't you?". With a falling tone it states something as obvious: **배고프지!** "Of course I'm hungry!", **나는 지금 가야지!** "I really must go now!" (-아/어야 지 from Chapter 9). With a question word it is a real question: **내가 뭐 먹었지?** "What did I eat?" (to oneself). Without a question word, talking to yourself with -지 is unnatural.

3. Explaining why: -거든요

-거든요 attaches to the bare stem of verbs, adjectives and 이다 (no irregulars; it starts with ㄱ), and gives the listener a reason or piece of background that they do not have: **문을 닫았어요. 이제 냉방 중이거든요.** "I closed the door. The air conditioning is on now, you see." Past **-았/었거든요**; future **-(으)ㄹ 거거든요** (**갈 거거든요**). It answers an unspoken "why?": **저는 마카다미아를 좋아하거든요.** "(The reason is that) I like macadamia nuts." With **아니거든요!** it flatly contradicts: "No, it isn't!". The informal form is **-거든**.

4. Reminding: -잖아요

-잖아요 attaches to a stem (and to 이다, to the past and the future) to say "you know / you should know / as you know": **이 길은 자전거 전용 길이잖아요** "This is a road for bicycles only, you know", **나는 돈이 없잖아!** "I've got no money, remember!", **이 서비스는 이미 종료됐잖아요** "This service ended already". It treats the fact as shared, so it can sound sharp: **toward older people it can sound rude**. The source suggests -다시피 for that situation (**아시다시피** "as you know"). It is also the opener **있잖아요...** "You know what...". The contrast with -거든요 is simple: -거든요 gives information the listener *lacks*; -잖아요 recalls information the listener *has*.

5. Softening and trailing off: -는데요

-는데요 is the clause ending -(으)ㄴ/는데 of Chapter 5 with 요 and nothing after it. Verbs and 있다/없다 take -는데요, adjectives -(으)ㄴ데요, 이다 -인데요; the past is -았/었는데요. The ending leaves the next thought for the listener: **가기 싫은데요...** "I don't want to go, though...", **나는 추운데요...** "But I'm cold...". Used to answer someone's suggestion, it softly objects; used to open a request, it sets the scene (**지금 시간이 없는데요** "I don't have time right now..."). The source notes that answering with it can come across as a little rude, so pair it with a polite tone.

6. Deciding, inviting, asking: -(으)ㄹ게요, -(으)ㄹ래요, -(으)ㄹ까요

Three endings that all attach to a verb stem with -ㄹ (after a vowel) or -을 (after a consonant) look alike. They differ by **who** acts and **what the speaker is doing**:

ENDING	FUNCTION	EXAMPLE
-(으)ㄹ게요	a promise or decision by the *speaker*, unless the listener objects (a statement, never a question)	**문을 열어 줄게요.** "I'll open the door for you."
-(으)ㄹ래요	"Do you want to...?" (question), "I'd rather... / I don't want to..." (statement), a polite request with 주다, or a blunt threat	**내일 공부하러 독서실에 갈래요?** "Shall we go to the library to study tomorrow?" · **나는 안 먹을래요.** "I don't want to eat."

ENDING	FUNCTION	EXAMPLE
-(으)ㄹ까요	"Shall we…?", "Shall I…?", "Do you think it will…?"	**밥을 먹을까요?** "Shall we eat?" · **내일 비가 올까요?** "Do you think it will rain tomorrow?"

- **-(으)ㄹ게요** is always about the speaker's own act. Compare **문을 열어 줄게요** (statement: "I'll open it for you") with **문을 열어 줄까요?** (question: "Shall I open it for you?"). It is not used with the listener's act.
- **-(으)ㄹ래요** has four uses: invitation (**갈래요?**), the speaker's wish (**안 먹을래요**), a polite request with 주다 (**김치를 더 주실래요?** "Could you please give me more kimchi?") and a threat (**맞을래?** "Do you want to get hit?"). The "wish" use is for short, simple sentences. It is usually more casual than -(으)ㄹ까요.
- **-(으)ㄹ까요** asked to yourself ("Should I…?") loses its 요: **밥을 먹을까?**. As a thought it combines with 하다: **그 영화를 볼까 해요** "I'm thinking of watching that film"; the past **볼까 했어요** means that you thought of it but did not.

The sources checked did not give ㄹ-stem or irregular rules for these three; from general knowledge, ㄹ-stems keep the ㄹ and add no 으 (**살게요**, **만들까요**, **놀래요**), and Chapter 3's irregulars change before the vowel (**추울까요**, **들을게요**, **도울래요**).

7. Putting it together: tone and politeness

The endings above live almost entirely in **해요체** and informal **해체** (Chapter 1). Some drop the 요 for friends (-네, -군, -지, -거든, -잖아, -는데, -(으)ㄹ게, -(으)ㄹ래, -(으)ㄹ까), and their politeness interacts with the other chapters:

- **Honorifics** (Chapter 2) go inside: **바쁘시죠?**, **가시네요**, **드실래요?**, **하시거든요**. Do not use -잖아요 to a senior without care.
- **Irregular verbs** (Chapter 3): after -네요, -군요, -죠, -거든요 and -잖아요 the stem is unchanged (**춥네요**, **춥죠**), but before -(으)ㄹ- endings it changes (**추울까요**, **추울게요**).
- **Tenses** (Chapter 4): -았/었네요, -았/었죠, -았/었거든요, -겠네요. A finished action: **벌써 갔네요**.
- **Connectors** (Chapters 5 and 6) become sentence endings when the main clause is dropped: -는데요 is the example in this chapter.

- **Quotation** (Chapter 8): reports already end in a sentence-final form (**-대요**, **-래요**, **-재요**).
- **Ability, obligation and guessing** (Chapter 9): **-(으)ㄹ 수 있죠?** "You can, can't you?", **-아/어야 하잖아요** "You know we have to...".

Watch out: -거든요 and -잖아요 are not "because"

Neither one is a connector. **비가 와서 안 갔어요** uses -아/어서 (Chapter 5) to tie a reason to its result in one sentence. -거든요 appears *after* the result has already been said and adds the reason: **안 갔어요. 비가 오거든요.** And -잖아요 appeals to knowledge that the listener already has.

Watch out: three -ㄹ endings, one question

Ask yourself **who is acting**: only you → -(으)ㄹ게요 (promise); you and the listener together, or you asking about the listener's wish → -(으)ㄹ래요 / -(으)ㄹ까요; a guess about the world → -(으)ㄹ까요 ("Do you think it will...?"). And remember that -(으)ㄹ게요 is never a question.

In Use — 실제 예문

① A meal with a new friend

A:

이 식당 정말 맛있네요! 뭐 더 시킬까요?

This restaurant is really good! Shall we order something more?

B:

저는 배가 불러서 안 시킬래요. 그런데 김치는 더 먹을래요. 제가 시킬게요.

I'm full so I won't order anything. But I'll have more kimchi. I'll order it.

② Explaining and reminding

A:

왜 아직 안 갔어요? 오늘 약속이 있잖아요.

Why haven't you gone yet? You've got an appointment today, you know.

B:

알아요. 그런데 비가 많이 오거든요. 날씨가 좋으면 가겠는데요...

I know. But it's raining a lot, you see. If the weather were good I'd go, but...

③ Confirming and realising

A:

한국에 오래 사셨죠?

You've lived in Korea a long time, haven't you?

B:

네, 십 년 됐어요. 아, 그래서 한국어를 이렇게 잘하시는군요!

Yes, ten years. Oh, so that's why you speak Korean this well!

📋 Quick Reference — 요약표

ENDING	FEEL	EXAMPLE
-네요	"Oh, I notice that..."	**귀엽네요**
-군요	"I see that..."	**잘 하는군요**
-죠	"..., right?" / "of course"	**춥죠?**
-거든요	"..., you see" (reason)	**바쁘거든요**
-잖아요	"..., you know / remember"	**있잖아요**
-는데요	"..., but" (softener)	**싫은데요...**
-(으)ㄹ게요	"I'll..." (promise)	**할게요**
-(으)ㄹ래요	"Do you want to...? / I'd rather..."	**갈래요?**
-(으)ㄹ까요	"Shall we/I...? / Will it...?"	**먹을까요?**

🖍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

Work out the answer first, then click to check.

1. React with surprise: "This house is big!" (-네요) and "Oh, so you're a teacher!" (-군요).

▼ Show answer

이 집이 크네요! · **아, 선생님이군요!**

2. Confirm: "It's raining, isn't it?" and "You went there, didn't you?" (-죠).

▼ Show answer

비가 오죠? · **거기 갔죠?**

3. Add the reason with -거든요: "I couldn't come. I was busy, you see."

▼ Show answer

못 왔어요. 바빴거든요.

4. Remind with -잖아요: "You know, it's your birthday today."

▼ Show answer

오늘 생일이잖아요.

5. Make a soft objection with -는데요: "I don't have time now..." (**시간이 없다**).

▼ Show answer

지금 시간이 없는데요...

6. Choose -(으)ㄹ게요 or -(으)ㄹ까요: "I'll call you later." / "Shall I call you later?"

▼ Show answer

나중에 전화할게요. · **나중에 전화할까요?**

7. Invite with -(으)ㄹ래요: "Would you like to drink some coffee?" and refuse: "I don't want to eat."

▼ Show answer

커피 마실래요? · **안 먹을래요.**

8. Which sounds like a promise and which a question: **도와 줄게요** / **도와 줄까요**?

▼ Show answer

도와 줄게요 = "I'll help you" (promise). **도와 줄까요?** = "Shall I help you?" (question).

🎓 Course Complete — 수료를 축하합니다!

*You have finished **Korean Grammar 2**. Here is what the ten chapters gave you.*

CHAPTER	TOPIC	KEY TOOLS
1	Speech Levels in Depth	the seven levels; 합쇼체, 해요체, 해체, 해라체; choosing a level
2	Honorifics and Humble Forms	**-(으)시-**, 께서/께, 드리다, 뵙다, 저/저희
3	Irregular Verbs and Adjectives	ㅂ, ㄷ, ㅅ, ㅎ, ㅡ, 르, ㄹ and 러
4	Tenses and Aspect	**-았/었었-**, **-겠-**, **-고 있다**, **-던**, **-(으)ㄴ 지**
5	Connecting Clauses 1	**-고**, **-지만**, **-는데**, **-아/어서**, **-(으)니까**, **-(으)면**, **-거나**, **-(으)ㄹ 때**
6	Connecting Clauses 2	**-(으)려고**, **-(으)러**, **-(으)면서**, **-자마자**, **-다가**, **-기 전에**
7	Modifiers and Relative Clauses	**-는 / -(으)ㄴ / -(으)ㄹ / -던**, **-는 것**, **-기**, **-(으)ㅁ**
8	Quotation and Reported Speech	**-다고**, **-(으)냐고**, **-(으)라고**, **-자고**, **-대요**
9	Ability, Obligation, Permission and Guessing	**-(으)ㄹ 수 있다**, **-아/어도 되다**, **-(으)면 안 되다**, **-(으)ㄹ 것 같다**
10	Sentence Endings	**-네요**, **-군요**, **-죠**, **-거든요**, **-잖아요**, **-(으)ㄹ게요**

You can now read and use the grammar that fills the gap between beginner Korean and fluent, natural speech: when to switch speech level, how to honour and lower people correctly, how to conjugate the irregular verbs, how to say *when* and *how* things happen, how to join and nest clauses, how to report speech, and how to add the small endings that give a sentence its tone. The best way to keep it all alive is to read and listen to real Korean and notice these patterns turning up.

A note on sources

Throughout this course the main references were Wikipedia pages on Korean speech levels, honorifics and pronouns, the Elon grammar reference, and the howtostudykorean.com lessons. Where a point is general knowledge and was not confirmed in those sources, the chapter says so.