KR

KOREAN LESSON

Korean Grammar 2 · Chapter 8 · Reported Speech

💬 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.