

Learn Korean Ep. 101: More Than & Less Than

This lesson will cover a few useful *adverbs* that you can use to mean “more than” or “less than.” Let’s jump right in!

더 – “more”

Here’s a useful *adverb* – 더 (“more”). This adverb can be attached directly before a verb. Let’s take a look at two examples.

야채를 더 먹고 싶어요.

I want to eat *more* vegetables.

더 주세요.

Please give me *more*.

You can also use adverbs before other descriptive verbs (or adjectives). Here’s an example:

피자가 더 맛있어요.

Pizza is *more* delicious.

덜 – “less”

The opposite of 더 is 덜, which means “less.” And you can use 덜 in the same way as 더, right before an action verb or descriptive verb. Here are a few examples of 덜.

저는 수지를 덜 좋아해요.

I like Suzy *less*.

수지가 덜 예뻐요.

Suzy is less pretty.

제시카가 더 예뵤요.

"Jessica is prettier."

Literally this sentence above means Jessica is *more* pretty, but you can translate it more *naturally* as "Jessica is prettier."

Therefore 더 can also be used to add the meaning of "~er" to any descriptive verb. Here are a few examples:

큰 케이크 means a **big** cake, and 더 큰 케이크 means a **bigger** cake.

- 큰 comes from 크다 ("to be big").

빠른 차 means a **fast** car, and 더 빠른 차 means a **faster** car.

- 빠른 comes from 빠르다 ("to be fast").

And 좋은 집 means a **good** house, and 더 좋은 집 means a **better** house.

- 좋은 comes from 좋다 ("to be good").

Making Comparisons

But that's not all, we can also use 더 and 덜 to make *comparisons* between **two** people or things. For example, we can not only say that Jessica is *prettier*, but we can also use 더 to say that Jessica is prettier *than* Suzy. Here's an example:

제시카가 수지보다 더 예뵤요.

Jessica is prettier *than* Suzy.

Noun + 보다 (더)

This is the form we'll need to make comparisons between two people or things.

Take a noun that you want to compare someone or something else to, and attach 보다. Then *optionally* you can attach 더 if you want. If you choose not to attach 더, by *default* this grammar form will still mean "**more** than." But if you wanted to say that something is *less than* something else, then you have to include 덜. Here are a few examples:

이 숙제가 그 숙제보다 더 어려워요.

This homework is more difficult than that homework.

Remember that when you're saying something is *more* than something else, the 더 is *optional*, but I've added it here to make the sentence more clear.

물이 사이다보다 더 맛있어요.

Water is more delicious than soda.

You can also translate this sentence more naturally as just "Water tastes better than soda," since 맛(이) 있다 ("to be delicious") can also translate naturally as just "to taste good" or "to have a good flavor."

돼지고기가 소고기보다 덜 비싸요.

Pork is less expensive than beef.

철수가 영희보다 키가 더 커요.

Chul-soo is taller than Yeong-hee.

Since 키(가) 크다 means "to be tall," I added 더 here directly *in front of* the descriptive verb 크다 ("to be big"). The word 키 literally means "stature" or "height." Remember to use 더 or 덜 **directly** before the action verb or descriptive verb.

Advanced Notes:

조금 더: You can also use 조금 ("a little") in combination with 더 ("more") or 덜 ("less") to mean "a little more" or "a little less." Here's an example:

김치를 조금 더 주세요.

"Please give me **a little more** kimchi."

Conclusion

If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message through my web site or on YouTube. Good luck in your studies!

