

Learn Korean Ep. 102: Since doing (은/ㄴ 지 되다)

This lesson will cover how to say "since doing." For example, we'll learn how to say "It's been three years *since* I *began* studying Korean."

Action Verb Stem + 은/ㄴ 지

To use this form, take an *action verb stem* and attach 은 지 if it ends in a *consonant*, or attach ㄴ 지 if it ends in a *vowel* (note the spacing). Verb stems ending in ㄹ will remove that letter first. Here are a few examples.

하다 → 한 지

먹다 → 먹은 지

살다 → 산 지

Action Verb Stem + 은/ㄴ 지 [Time] + (이/가) 되다

After completing the previous step, here's the full form we'll need to know. To say *how much time* has passed since you did the action, first say the time (such as a week, or a year, etc.). Next, you can *optionally* add the Subject Marker (이/가), and finally conjugate 되다 to the past tense (e.g. 됐어요). Let's look at a few examples.

우리가 만난 지 9 년이 됐어요.

"It's been nine years since we met."

More naturally → "We met nine years ago."

한국어를 공부하기 시작한 지 3 년이 됐어요.

"It's been three years since I began studying Korean."

More naturally → "I've been studying Korean for three years."

한국에 온 지 10 개월이 된 것 같아요.

"I think it's been ten months since I came to Korea."

More naturally → "I think I've been in Korea for ten months."

여기에서 산 지 오래 됐어요?

"Has it been a long time since you lived here?"

More naturally → "Have you been living here for a long time?"

The *adverb* 오래 means "a long time," and you can use it with 되다 to say that a lot of time (or a long time) has passed.

미술관에 간 지 2 주일이 됐어요.

"It's been two weeks since I went to the art museum."

For more detail, the word 지 in this grammar form actually means "**the time** from when you did something (or something happened) *until right now*." The above sentence could also therefore mean, "The time from when I went to the art museum until now *has been* (literally, 됐어요 means 'became') two weeks."

이 영화를 본 지 1 년이 됐어요.

"It's been 1 year since I watched this movie."

More naturally → "I haven't seen this movie in 1 year."

More literally → "The time since I saw the movie until now is 1 year."

그 친구랑 연락을 안 한 지 10 년이 됐어요.

"It's been 10 years since I haven't contacted with that friend."

More naturally → "I haven't contacted that friend in 10 years."

More literally → "The time since I didn't contact (*no longer contacted*) with that friend has been 10 years."

결혼한 지 얼마나 됐어요?

"How long has it been since you got married?"

More naturally → "How long have you been married?"

More literally → "How long is the time period since you got married until now?"

The *adverb* 얼마나 means "how long," and can be used with this form when asking questions.

여기에서 일한 지 3 년이 됐어요.

"It's been three years since I worked here."

More naturally → "I've been working here for three years."

More literally → "The time that's passed since I worked here until now is three years."

수영을 한 지 두 달 넘게 됐어요.

"It's been over two months since I've swam."

More literally → "The time that's passed since I swam until now is two months."

The *adverb* 넘게 can be used with an amount of time to mean "more than" or "over."

Instead, if you want to say that it hasn't even been one year, or that it's been "less than" an amount of time, use the particle 도, and 안 되다 instead. For example:

여기에서 산 지 1 년도 안 됐어요.

"I haven't been living here for even 1 year."

More literally → "The time that's passed since I lived here until now is not even one year."

This form can be made negative with 안 되다 – "it has not been *an amount of time*."

Together with the particle 도 ("even," "also," "too"), it can mean "It has not even been *an amount of time* since *doing*."

이 자동차를 산 지 얼마 안 됐어요.

"It hasn't been that long since I bought this car."

More literally → "The time that's passed since I bought this car has not been very long."

The adverb 얼마 ("how much") can be used with 안 되다 together to mean "to not have been *very long*" or "to not have been much time."

Advanced Notes

This form can at times be vague. *Most of the time* this form is used to say that you did something (or something happened), and that action is **still** happening (or still under effect). For example, "여기에서 일한 지 3년이 됐어요" *could* be understood to mean that you worked here three years ago but no longer work here. But *most of the time* it will be used to mean that you've **been** working here for three years, and still work here this day. This will be cleared up by the context in which this form is being used. For another example, "한국어를 공부하기 시작한 지 3년이 됐어요" *could* be understood to mean that you started studying Korean three years ago, but no longer do. However, *most of the time* this will be understood to mean that you started studying Korean three years ago, and **still** study this day. Again, the context will make this clear, but most of the time it is used to show that something has happened and still is happening.

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!

