

Learn Korean Ep. 103: Before and After

To say "before" and "after" in Korean, you'll need to know two very important words – 전 ("before") and 후 ("after"). These words can be used with both **nouns** and **verbs**. First, we'll learn how to use these with verbs.

For example, we can use this form to make the sentences "I met my friend **before** seeing a movie," or "I met my friend **after** I met my teacher."

BEFORE

Action Verb Stem + 기 전에

Take an action verb stem and attach 기, followed by 전에.

Note that when using this form, whatever happens will come in the sentence *before* what you're talking about. So in order to say "I met my friend before seeing a movie," you'd first say "before seeing a movie" followed by "I met my friend."

영화를 보기 **전에** 친구를 만났어요.

I met my friend **before** seeing a movie.

밥을 먹기 **전에** 손을 씻으세요.

Please wash your hands **before** eating.

자기 **전에** 한국어를 더 공부하고 싶어요.

I want to study Korean more **before** I sleep.

집을 나가기 **전에** 설거지를 했어요.

I did the dishes **before** I left the house.

AFTER

Action Verb Stem + 은/ㄴ 후에

Take an action verb stem and attach 은 if it ends in a consonant or ㄴ if it ends in a vowel, followed by 후에.

Note that verb stems ending with ㄹ (such as 살다) will remove the ㄹ before using this form.

살다 → 산 후에

Just like with 전에, whatever happens will come in the sentence *before* what you're talking about.

선생님을 만난 후에 친구를 만났어요.

I met my friend **after** I met my teacher.

영화를 본 후에 숙제를 했어요.

I did the homework **after** seeing a movie.

도착한 후에 전화하세요.

Please call **after** you arrive.

밥을 먹은 후에 설거지를 했어요.

I did the dishes after I ate.

BEFORE: Noun + 전에

AFTER: Noun + 후에

Both 전에 and 후에 can also be used with **nouns**, simply by placing them after the noun. The rest of the sentence will follow just like before.

These are especially useful when talking about a date or a time.

우리는 다음 주 전에 만날 수 있어요.

We can meet before next week.

3 시 후에 사장님을 만났어요.

I met my boss after 3 o'clock.

Advanced Notes:

When saying "after," you might also find the words 뒤에 or 다음에 used in place of 후에. These words can be used in the same way as 후에 when used with **verbs** (not nouns) – their meaning when used in this way is the same. Therefore the following three sentences have the same meaning.

숙제를 한 후에 친구를 만났어요.

숙제를 한 뒤에 친구를 만났어요.

숙제를 한 다음에 친구를 만났어요.

I met my friend after I did the homework.

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!

