

Learn Korean Ep. 104: “To End up Doing”

Although I’ve previously already done an episode about how to say “to end up doing,” the form we’ll learn in this episode is more commonly used, more versatile, and more useful in general situations. For a review of the other form, 고 말다, check out “Learn Korean Ep. 75” – that form is used in the *past tense*, when trying to *explain* something, and for *unintentional* situations.

The form we’ll learn in this episode can be used to say that you *ended up* doing something or that something *ended up happening* – meaning that you *eventually* did something or that something *eventually* happened. For example, using this form you could say that you “ended up” liking a book – perhaps you didn’t at first, but *eventually* you came to like it.

Verb Stem + 게 되다

This form is most typically used with action verb stems. Take an action verb stem and attach 게, and then conjugate the verb 되다 however you’d like.

그 책을 좋아하게 됐어요.

I *ended up* liking the book.

I *eventually* liked the book.

어제 밤 3 시까지 공부를 하게 됐어요.

I *ended up* studying until 3 o’clock last night.

여자 친구를 어떻게 만나게 됐어요?

How did you *end up* meeting your girlfriend?

아마 새로운 컴퓨터를 사게 될 거예요.

Maybe I’ll *end up* buying a new computer.

I’ll *eventually* buy a new computer.

나중에 알게 될 거예요.

You'll find out later.

Eventually you'll find out later.

You'll *end up* knowing later.

알게 되다 (literally, "to end up knowing") is a common expression that means "to find out."

계속 먹게 돼요.

I keep ending up eating it.

You might say that you "end up eating" something when talking about food that you might or might not want to eat. Perhaps you wouldn't normally eat expired potato chips, but when sitting in front of the TV at 3 o'clock in the morning you just end up eating the entire bag – intentionally or unintentionally.

다시 만나게 되면 안부를 전해 주세요.

Please send my regards if you meet him again.

If you meet him again, say hi for me.

안부(를) 전하다 ("to send one's regards") is a common expression that means "to tell someone hello or hi (for someone else)."

한국에 어떻게 오게 됐어요?

How did you end up coming to Korea?

What brought you to Korea?

한국에 오게 되다 literally means "to end up coming to Korea," but "What brought you to Korea" is a more natural-sounding English translation in this sentence.

배가 아파서 수술을 하게 됐어요.

My stomach hurt so I ended up getting surgery.

저는 유튜브에서 한국어를 가르치게 됐어요.
I ended up teaching Korean on YouTube.

Advanced Notes

You might be asking yourself, "What's the difference between saying 저는 유튜브에서 한국어를 가르치게 됐어요 and saying 저는 유튜브에서 한국어를 가르쳤어요?"

Using 가르치게 됐어요 can mean that what happened may have been either intentional or unintentional (out of your control). If you were to use 가르쳤어요, it would mean that it was completely your choice – "I taught."

In addition, using the 게 되다 form has a few advantages. You can use this form to sound a bit more **polite** or **humble** when explaining something that you've done. For example, saying that you did something using 하게 됐어요 ("I ended up doing...") can sound less like bragging about it than simply saying 했어요 ("I did...") – if it's something that could be seen as bragging to begin with. This is because using 게 되다 can also mean that what happened was out of your control – so saying 하게 됐어요 sounds more like "whether I did it on purpose or not, it just ended up happening that way."

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!

