

Learn Korean Ep. 105: “To Start” and “To Stop”

Let’s talk about how to say “to start” and “to stop” doing something – specifically we’ll learn how to use this form together with verbs.

To Start

Action Verb Stem + 기(를) 시작(을) 하다

Take an action verb stem and attach 기, optionally followed by the Object Marker 를. Then conjugate the verb 시작(을) 하다 [“to start”] to finish the sentence.

For example, “to start eating” would be 먹기 시작(을) 하다, from the verb 먹다 [“to eat”]. Here are some more examples:

이미 저녁을 먹기 시작했어요.
I already started eating dinner.

내일부터 한국어를 배우기 시작할 거예요.
From tomorrow I’ll start learning Korean.

어제부터 다이어트를 하기 시작했어요.
I started dieting from yesterday.

지금 자동차를 만들기 시작하고 싶어요.
Now I want to start making a car.

To Stop

그만 + Action Verb

Attach the adverb 그만 directly before an action verb, and then conjugate it.

For example, “to stop eating” would be 그만 먹다. Here are some more examples:

너무 배불러서 그만 먹고 싶어요.
I want to stop eating because I'm too full.

그만하세요.
Stop it.
Stop doing it.

In addition, 그만하다 can also be used by itself to mean "to stop doing."

프랑스어 공부를 그만했어요.
I stopped studying French.

Alternatively, 그만두다 can be used in the same way as 그만하다. 그만두다 also means "to stop," but it can even be used to mean "to quit" depending on the context.

프랑스어 공부를 그만됐어요.
I stopped studying French.

우리 이제 그만 만나요.
Let's stop meeting now.
We'll stop meeting from now.

다른 남자들을 그만 보세요.
Stop looking at other guys.

Advanced Notes

Some beginners mistakenly use the verb 멈추다 ("to stop") when trying to say "to stop" doing something using a verb. 멈추다 also means "to stop," but it's only used when talking about motion or operation (such as a machine).

To say "to stop" **moving**, use 멈추다.

기차가 멈췄어요.
The train stopped.

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!

