

## Learn Korean Ep. 120: 아/어/etc. 가다 & 오다

가다 ("to go") and 오다 ("to come") can have two different meanings when attached to conjugated action verbs. It can be used to show the direction of a motion, and it can also be used to show a continuing action.

### Action Verb Stem + 아/어/etc. 가다

### Action Verb Stem + 아/어/etc. 오다

To use the first form (beginner level), conjugate an action verb as usual and then instead of attaching 요, attach 가다 or 오다.

Conjugating an action verb followed by another action verb means "to do the first verb, then do the next verb." In this case with 가다 and 오다, it means "to do the first verb, then go somewhere else (가다) or come to where the speaker is (오다)."

For example, 걷다 ("to walk") is only used for walking *in general* – you can use this verb to say that you like walking in general.

저는 걷는 것을 좋아해요.

I like walking (in general).

빨리 걸었어요.

I walked fast.

The above example would mean just that you walked fast, and doesn't specify where you were going.

걸어가다 comes from 걷다 and 가다 and means "to walk somewhere else" Literally it means "to walk, and go somewhere (가다)."

학교까지 걸어갔어요.

I walked to school.

걸어오다 comes from 걷다 and 오다 and means "to walk here (to where the speaker is)." Literally it means "to walk, and come."

학교에서부터 걸어왔어요.

I walked here from school.

You'll see this form used all over the place, and there are too many verbs to cover in this single lesson. But here are just a few: 들어가다 and 들어오다 are used for entering places, 올라가다 and 올라오다 are used for getting on vehicles and going up the stairs, 돌아가다 and 돌아오다 are used when returning to somewhere else or to here, 가져가다 and 가져오다 are used for taking something, or bringing something somewhere, and 사 가다 and 사 오다 are used for buying something and going somewhere. 내려가다 and 내려오다 (from 내리다) are used when going up or down somewhere such as stairs, 찾아가다 and 찾아오다 (from 찾다) are used when you're going somewhere or coming to look for something, 데려가다 and 데려오다 (from 데리다) are used when taking or bringing someone somewhere, 씻어가다 and 씻어오다 (from 씻다) are used when washing something and going or coming, 집어가다 and 집어오다 (from 집다) are used when picking something up and going somewhere with it, 끌어가다 and 끌어오다 (from 끌다) are used when you're dragging or bringing someone somewhere, and... well, you get the idea.

One more example of this is 다니다 ("to attend," "to commute," "to go somewhere regularly"). 다녀오세요 (from 다니다 and 오다) is a common phrase that means "commute and come back" and is how you can say bye to someone who's going to work or school, and who'll come back later in the day. In this way, it's kind of like saying "Take care!"

### Action Verb Stem + 아/어/etc. 가다

This form can have one additional (intermediate level) usage.

Using a conjugated action verb in this way with 가다 can show that an action continues on into the future. Note that there is a space added before attaching 가다 or 오다 in this form.

잘 하다 = "to do something well"

잘 해 가다 = "to do something well, and continue to do it well into the future"

동생이 유학 생활을 생각보다 잘 해 가고 있어요.

My younger sibling is living her exchange student lifestyle better than I thought.

Literally, the above sentence means that my younger sibling is *doing* their exchange student life better than I thought.

잘 되다 = "to go well"

잘 돼 가다 = "to go well, and continue to go well into the future"

일이 잘 돼 가나요?

Is your work going well?

Literally this is asking "Is your work going well, and will it continue to go well?" It implies that you're also asking whether it'll be okay in the future too.

거의 다 먹어 가고 있어요.

I'm almost finished eating.

남자 친구와 점점 닮아 가고 있어요.

I'm gradually getting more like my boyfriend.

집에만 있었더니 잠이 늘어 가고 있어요.

I'm only staying at home, and as a result I'm sleeping more.

Literally this example would mean that your sleep is increasing, and continues to increase.

### Action Verb Stem + 아/어/etc. 오다

Using this form with 오다 shows instead that the action, which started in the past, continues on from the past and still continues now.

살다 = "to live"

살아 오다 = "to live (in the past), and continue to live until now"

한국에서 5 살 때부터 살아 왔어요.

I've lived in Korea since I was five years old.

Literally this means that you lived in Korea in the past, and have continued to live in Korea since you were five, and still do live in Korea now.

대학교에 가면 남자 친구가 생길 거라고 믿어 왔어요.

I've believed (continually) that once I go to college I'll get a boyfriend.

3 년 전부터 봉사 활동부 부장으로 활동해 오고 있어요.

I've been (continually) working as the leader of the volunteering club from 3 years ago.

그 사람들은 특별한 물을 마시면 눈이 좋아진다고 속여 왔어요.

Those people have been fooling people, saying that if you drink the special water your vision will improve.

Three of the most common verbs used in this way are 하다, 살다, and 되다 – master these three first.

## 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!

