

## Learn Korean Ep. 123: ~아/어/etc. 하다 & 싶어 하다

This grammar form is an intermediate level concept. Before starting this lesson, make sure you first have a comfortable understanding of the ~고 싶다 grammar form.

### Action Verb Stem + 고 싶어 하다

Before we learn the entire form, let's look at one of its most common uses.

Take the stem of an action verb and attach 고, followed by 싶어 하다.

This form looks a lot like the ~고 싶다 form, but there are some differences.

The regular ~고 싶다 form can be used to say that "I" or "you" want to do something.

가고 싶어요.

"I want to go."

However, there is an important exception to keep in mind when using the ~고 싶다 form.

The ~고 싶다 form cannot be used when speaking in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Here is a quick review of this.

**1<sup>st</sup> person:** "I," "me"

**2<sup>nd</sup> person:** "you"

**3<sup>rd</sup> person:** "he," "she," "they," "Chul-soo," "another person," etc.

This means that the ~고 싶다 form cannot be used to say that "he" or "she" or "they" or anyone else wants to do something – instead the ~고 싶어 하다 form should be used.

This means that the following sentence is *incorrect*.

철수는 가고 싶어요.

"Chul-soo wants to go."

Although this makes sense, it is not the correct way to speak. Instead, use the ~고 싶어 하다 form.

철수는 가고 싶어 해요.

"Chul-soo wants to go."

**Why?** In Korean it's thought that you can never know 100% what a 3<sup>rd</sup> person wants or feels.

Using ~고 싶다 means that you are 100% sure (or simply directly asking someone) that someone wants to do something. When used with a 3<sup>rd</sup> person, it would mean that you were 100% sure of that person's wants.

However, unless you had a way to know 100% what another person wants, then you should use ~고 싶어 하다 to express what that person wants to do.

Of course, if you do know 100% what a 3<sup>rd</sup> person wants or feels, you're free to use ~고 싶다. For example, this would be fine if you're an author of a book, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> person is a character in your story.

This applies to any grammar form that shows what someone else wants or feels, including (으)려고 하다 and (을/르)래요. Those forms can also only be used in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person.

Next let's look at how else this form can be used.

### Descriptive Verb Stem + 아/어/etc. + 하다

Conjugate a descriptive verb as normal, and attach 하다.

The form ~고 싶어 하다 originally comes from this construction (싶다 → 싶어 하다).

Note that although there is no space before 하다 in this form, ~고 싶어 하다 is an exception and uses a space.

You can use this form to talk about a 3<sup>rd</sup> person's wants or feelings – even if you are not 100% sure of them.

For example, you can say that you're sad (1<sup>st</sup> person or 2<sup>nd</sup> person) with the verb 슬프다.

However, if you wanted to say that someone else is sad (3<sup>rd</sup> person), use the verb 슬퍼하다.

철수는 슬퍼해요.

"Chulsoo is sad."

By using this form (which uses 하다 meaning "to do"), it changes the descriptive verb into an **action verb**.

Literally, this form means "to do (descriptive verb)," but you can think of it like meaning "to feel (descriptive verb)," "to seem sad," or "to behave outwardly as if (descriptive verb)."

Therefore, you can think of 슬퍼하다 as meaning "to be sad," "to feel sad," or "to act sad."

That is how this form can be used to make assumptions about a 3<sup>rd</sup> person's wants or feelings.

Let's look at a few example sentences.

마크 씨도 김치를 먹어 보고 싶어 해요.

"Mark also wants to try (eating) kimchi."

잭슨 씨가 많이 기뻐해요.

"Jackson is very happy."

아이는 무서워했어요.

"The child was afraid."

In addition, because this form changes a descriptive verb into an action verb, the resulting verb can also be used in a few new ways.

For example, this new action verb can be used in the Progressive Tense (~고 있다).

지민 씨는 힘들어 하고 있어요.

"Ji-min is having a hard time."

힘들다 means "to be difficult" or "to have trouble."

Or, this new action verb can even be used to make a negative command (~지 말다).

슬퍼하지 마세요.

"Don't be sad."

It would be incorrect to use 슬프다 to make a negative command, since it is a descriptive verb. However, 슬퍼하다 is technically an action verb.

In addition, although this form can be used in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person, it's also okay to use it in the 1<sup>st</sup> person or 2<sup>nd</sup> person. This usage is much less common, but makes sense.

### Advanced Notes

**Note about ~고 싶다:** The regular ~고 싶다 form should only be used when you are 100% sure of what someone else wants to do. However, there is another case where you could use this form. For example, if you directly asked 철수 if he wants to eat pizza, he might reply 네, 피자를 먹고 싶어요. Then, you can be 100% sure he wants to do that, so you could tell another friend that 철수 씨는 피자를 먹고 싶어요. In this case, you can be 100% sure.

**Note about 좋다 and 싫다:** The common action verbs 좋아하다 ("to like") and 싫어하다 ("to dislike") originally come from this same form.

### 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!

