

## Learn Korean Ep. 128: 통해(서) "Through"

The grammar form we'll learn about in this lesson is 통해(서), which is an intermediate level grammar form and means "through" – both literally and figuratively.

통해(서) comes from the Action Verb 통하다, meaning "to go through" or "to pass through."

통해(서) therefore literally means "going through" or "passing through" whatever noun it's used after.

### Noun + [을/를] 통해(서)

To use it, attach the Object Marker after a noun – whatever it is that you're going or passing through – and then add 통해(서).

Note that the 서 in 통해(서) is optional – it can be used as 통해서 or 통해.

In English, "through" can have several different uses.

- You can learn something "through" something else...
- You can go "through" a tunnel...
- You can meet someone "through" a person...

통해(서) can be used for any of these meanings, whether that's a *literal* or *figurative* meaning.

Let's look at some examples.

저는 책을 통해서 한국어를 배웠어요.

"I learned Korean through a book."

새가 창문을 통해서 날아 들어왔어요.

"The bird flew in through the window."

캠핑을 통해서 새로운 걸 많이 배웠어요.

"I learned many new things through camping."

학교 친구를 통해서 그것에 대해 들었어요.

"I heard about that through a school friend."

Note that while 통해(서) means "through," it's often not the most commonly used expression.

This is because 통해(서) has a bit of a formal sound, and is less commonly used in everyday conversations. While it's useful to know, and is used, it might be better to use different forms instead for regular conversations (such as with friends and acquaintances).

For example, instead of saying "I learned it through a book," you could say "I learned it using a book."

This can be done using the particle (으)로, which means "using."

책을 통해서 → 책으로

Or, instead of saying "I heard it through a friend," you could say "I heard it from a friend."

This can be done using the particle 에게(서) or 한테(서), which mean "from."

친구를 통해서 → 친구한테

For more information, check out my channel for additional lessons which go more in-depth about these forms and more.

#### Advanced Notes

Action Verb Stem + (음/ㅁ) + 으로서

Instead of a noun, you can also express "through" by using a verb.

For example, you can say "through" *doing* or "by way of" *doing* something.

To use this form, attach **음** after an Action Verb stem that ends with a consonant, or attach **ㅁ** if the stem ends with a vowel. Then attach **으로써**, and finish the sentence.

Note that this form **으로써** cannot be used to mean *physically* going "through" something – it can only be used to mean "through" *doing* something.

Like **통해(서)**, **으로써** sounds a bit formal, more like a *written* style. As a result, **으로써** is less commonly used.

책을 읽음으로써 한국 역사를 배웠어요.

"I learned Korean history through reading books."

*Also for one note, since this form uses the (음/ㅁ) ending, that means that this form is technically using **으로써** directly after a noun. However, Noun + **으로써** is not commonly used – instead, simply use **통해(서)** when using a noun.*

## 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!

