

Learn Korean Ep. 131: 마찬가지로 “The Same”

마찬가지 is a noun that means “the same” or “similar,” and it can be used in various ways – with other nouns, and with verbs – to mean that something is “the same” as something else.

마찬가지 + 이다

마찬가지 can be used together with 이다 (“to be”), meaning “to be the same.” 이다 can be conjugated any way you’d like (e.g. 예요, 야, 였어요, etc.).

Here are two examples.

그것도 마찬가지예요.

“That is also the same.”

그거랑 마찬가지예요.

“It is the same as that.”

Verb Stem + (으)나 마찬가지 + 이다

마찬가지 can also be used with verbs, after the verb ending (으)나 meaning “whether.”

Literally, this form means “to be the same, *whether* or not....”

Attach 으나 after a verb stem ending in a consonant, or attach 나 after a verb stem ending in a vowel.

For example, 하다 (“to do”) becomes 하나, and 먹다 (“to eat”) becomes 먹으나. Note that certain verbs can have exceptions, such as verb stems ending with the letter ㄹ (“리을”); for example, 살다 (“to live”) becomes 사나.

Then add 이다, and conjugate it just like before.

Here’s an example.

이걸 사나 저걸 사나 마찬가지예요.

"It's the same whether I buy this, or whether I buy that."

이걸 is short for 이것을, and 저걸 is short for 저것을.

Noun + (이)나 마찬가지 + 이다

마찬가지 can also be used with nouns, using the verb 이다 – as either 이나 or 나.

This is the same form as with a verb, but here the verb is 이다 ("to be"). In this way, it can be used after nouns in the same way as saying (이)랑 마찬가지 + 이다, or as saying 와/과 마찬가지 + 이다.

However, this form is more versatile when we learn it like this.

선생님은 제 부모님이나 마찬가지예요.

"The teacher is the same as my parent."

While "the same" is a literal translation, a more natural way to translate 마찬가지 can be "practically," or "you could say...." A more natural way to translate this example sentence is "The teacher is practically my parent." Or, "You could say the teacher is my parent."

제 집이나 마찬가지예요.

"It's the same as my house."

This sentence could also be translated more naturally as "It is practically my house." Or, "You could say that it is my house."

Verb → Adjective + 거나 (것이나) 마찬가지로 + 이다

Another common type of noun that can be used with this form is 거 (or 것), meaning “thing.”

거 (or 것) is commonly used after an adjective to change a verb into a noun; for example, 먹다 (“to eat”) can become 먹는 것 (“eating”).

You could make the sentence 먹는 것을 좋아해요, meaning “I like eating.”

This adjective can also be in the past tense, made with a past tense adjective; for example, 먹다 (“to eat”) can become 먹은 것 (“having eaten”).

For another example, 가다 (“to go”) can become 가는 것 (“going”) in the present tense, or 간 것 (“having gone”) in the past tense.

Simply conjugate any verb into an adjective (the exact rules will change depending on the verb, as I’ve taught in other lessons), and attach 것 followed by (이)나 just like before. Or more commonly, attach 거 (shortened from 것) followed by just 나. Then add 마찬가지로 and 이다.

This is the exact same form as before, but now using a noun that comes from a verb – this form gives us more options.

For example, 먹다 can become 먹는 거나 마찬가지로, meaning “the same as eating,” or 먹은 거나 마찬가지로, meaning “the same as having eaten.” Then attach 이다 like before, and conjugate it.

Here are a few examples.

여기가 너무 추워서 밖에 서 있는 거나 마찬가지예요.

“It’s so cold here that it’s the same as standing outside.”

Or more naturally this can translate as “It’s so cold here that it’s practically like I’m standing outside.”

혼자서 다 한 거나 마찬가지예요.

"It's practically the same as if I did it all myself."

Note that this sentence uses the past tense adjective form of the verb 하다 ("to do"), here as 한.

If we had used the present tense adjective form 하는 instead, then it would mean "the same as if I do it all myself," and this would sound awkward in this sentence.

무료로 받은 거나 마찬가지예요.

"It's practically as if I got it for free."

This sentence also uses the past tense of the verb 받다 ("to get/receive") as 받은.

Advanced Notes

With verb stems that end in a consonant, it's also common to simply attach 나; for example, 먹다 would normally become 먹으나, but often simply becomes 먹나.

This (으)나 form is similar to ~든(지), which also shows that the result of something doesn't matter, and translates as "whether" or "regardless."

You can replace this form 마찬가지로 + 이다 with the form 다름(이) 없다, which literally means "to not have a difference." They both work in the same way and have a similar meaning. This form can also be swapped with the form ~셈이다, without a large difference in meaning.

세계 여행이나 다름없네요.

"It's practically a trip around the world."

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!

