

## Learn Korean Ep. 18: The strong "if"

Before going through this lesson, make sure you have a good understanding of the "(으)면" form first (see Episode 14). We learned before that the "(으)면" form is used to express a **hypothetical situation** – today's form is used to express a **stronger hypothetical situation**.

내가 한국에 **가면** 한국말을 많이 배울 거야.

"If (or when) I go to Korea I will learn a lot of Korean."

This sentence uses the regular "(으)면" form.

내가 한국에 **간다면** 한국말을 많이 배울 거야.

"**If** I go to Korea I will learn a lot of Korean."

This sentence uses the new form that we will be learning today.

### Plain Form + 면

And that's all you need to do (see Episode 17 to learn how to make the plain form). You can use the plain form in any tense that you'd like.

한국말을 열심히 **공부한다면** 신문도 읽을 수 있을 거예요.

"**If** you study Korean hard, you'll even be able to read the newspaper."

"신문" means "newspaper."

타임 머신이 **있다면** 얼마나 좋을까?

"How nice would it be **if** you had a time machine?"

오늘도 너무 **춥다면** 집에서 놀자.

"**If** today is also too cold, let's play inside."

어제 정말로 브래드 피트를 **만났다면** 증거를 보여주세요.

"**If** you really met Brad Pitt yesterday, show me proof."

"증거" means "proof" or "evidence."

어차피 한국어를 **배울 거라면** 한국으로 가는 게 어때?

**If** you're going to learn Korean anyway, how about going to Korea?"

"어차피" means "in any case" or "anyway."

When used in this form, "**이다**" **changes to become "(이)라"** ("(이)라면"). After a consonant it becomes "이라" and after a vowel it simply becomes "라."

**"아니다"** also **changes to become "아니라"** ("아니라면").

만약에 내일 지구가 **멸망한다면** 뭐할 거야?

"What would you do **if** the world ended tomorrow?"

"멸망하다" means "to be destroyed" or "to collapse."

"만약에" means "in case" or "by chance," and is often used with this strong hypothetical "if" form. **Adding "만약에" makes the "if" feeling a bit stronger**; because of that, you'll often see them used together, so feel free to use it yourself as well.

수학 시험이 **어려웠다면** 튜터를 만나보세요.

**If** the math test was difficult, try meeting a tutor."

"수학" means "math," and "튜터" means "tutor."

## Conclusion

Make sure you're adjusted to using the regular "(으)면" form first before diving into this form, but once you do, use it whenever you'd like to make your hypothetical sentences a bit stronger. And remember to practice what you learn, and you'll remember it much better.

