Learn Korean Ep. 19: Quotations and more

In English we sometimes use the word "that" to mark a quotation. "He *said* **that** he loved her." Or, "I *heard* **that** you told him." Korean has a similar way of doing this

1. Statements: Plain Form + 고 + (verb)

This form is for making any **statement**; a statement is, well, a statement. A question is not a statement, and a suggestion is not a statement. We'll go over how to quote those next.

Just take the Plain Form (see Episode 17) and add "고," and finally add another verb – the other verb will often be something like "to say" ("말하다") or "to hear" ("듣다"). An English example would be "I *said* that he went to school." Or, "I *heard* that he went to school."

그가 날 **사랑한다고 말했다**.
"He <u>said that</u> he *loves* me."

동생이 내일 싸이 콘서트에 **간다고 했다**.
"My younger sibling <u>said that</u> they're *going* to a PSY concert tomorrow."
"동생" means "a younger brother/sister."
When making a quotation, "말하다" and just "하다" have the same meaning; here, notice how we just used "하다" at the end – it still means "말하다."

너 방금 내가 **바보라고 했어**?
"Did you just <u>say that</u> I'm *stupid*?"
When making a quotation, "이다" becomes "(이)라고" ("이라고" after a consonant, and "라고" after a vowel). **"아니다" becomes "아니라고."**
"방금" means "just now" or "just a moment ago."

생강이 감기에 **좋다고 들었어**.
"I <u>heard that</u> ginger is *good* for colds."
"생강" means "ginger," and "감기" means "a cold."

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2. Questions: verb stem + 냐고 + (verb)

This form is used for questions, such as when restating something that someone asked. Take the verb stem and add 냐고, then attach another verb – the other verb will most often be the verb "to ask" ("물어보다"). An English example would be, "I **asked**, 'Did he go to school?'"

나는 철수한테 영희가 **누구냐고 물어봤다**.
"I *asked* Cheolsoo who is Yeonghee."

제가 한국 사람**이냐고요**?
"Did you *ask* if I'm a Korean?"
You'll often notice the last verb is missing – this is why I put "verb" in parentheses in the rules. It's not required, because here it will be understood to be "물어보다" anyway.

There is an exception; when using this form with verb stems ending in "ㄹ," just remove the "ㄹ" and conjugate normally; "놀다" would become "노냐고."

3. "Let's": verb stem + 자고 + (verb)

An example of a "let's" sentence would be, "I said **let's** go to school." Take the verb stem and add "자고," then attach another verb – the most common verb used with this is "to say" ("말하다"), or just "하다."

엄마한테 해외 여행을 **가자고 했어요**.
"I *told* my mom let's go on an overseas trip."
"해외 여행" means "an overseas trip."

오늘은 여기서 **그만하자고요**?
"Did you *say* let's stop here for today?"
"그만하다" means "to stop" or "to quit."
Notice the last verb is missing here too. The verb will be understood to be "to say."

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You can leave out the verb in parentheses in all three of these forms, if you'd like, as it will be understood anyway.

Conclusion

Making quotations is simple, as long as you know the plain form well. Practice these by making your own quotations – try a few from each of the three types. You'll find them to be very useful. Also, anytime you didn't hear or understand what someone said, or just want them to repeat themselves, try saying **"뭐라고요?"** ("What did you say?")

그럼, 다음에 또 봐!

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