

## Learn Korean Ep. 22: "Because"

There are a few ways to say "because," and they're each a bit different. Let's go over the most important ones you should know.

**(noun / v.s. + 기) + 때문 + (에 / 이다)**

This is the **polite and standard way** of saying "because." **If you only want to learn one way to say "because" from this lesson, then this is the one you're looking for.**

To simplify this form, just take a noun (or a verb turned into a noun using "기") and add "때문." Then, depending how you're using it, add either "에" or a conjugation of "이다." When used to connect sentences together (in the middle of a sentence), attach "에." When you're ending the sentence with it, attach a conjugation of the verb "이다."

저는 미국 사람이기 **때문에** 피자를 좋아해요.

"Because I am American, I like pizza."

내일 학교에 **가기 때문에** 오늘 일찍 자야 돼요.

"Because I go to school tomorrow, I need to sleep early today."

"일찍" is an adverb that means "early."

너 **때문이야!**

"It's because of you!"

Using "때문" after a person has a negative meaning. Instead of using "때문," use "thanks to~" – "thanks to~" is "덕분."

아빠 **덕분이에요.**

"It's thanks to you, dad."

**v.s. + (으)니까**

Take the verb stem and add "으니까" after a consonant, or "니까" after a vowel. This is an **informal way** of saying "because." It's not rude, but it shouldn't be used in polite situations.

키캣이 곰이니까 털이 많아요.

"Because *Keykat* is a bear, he has a lot of fur."

"곰" means "a bear," and "털" means "hair (not on the head)."

내가 공부했으니까 시험을 잘 볼 거다.

"Because I studied, I will do well on the test."

"시험(을) 잘 보다" means "to do well on a test" ("시험(을) 보다" means "to take a test").

## v.s. + (어/아/etc) + 서

Take the verb stem and add "아" or "어" (etc), as normally added when conjugating the "요" form (see Episode 2 for how to conjugate the "요" form). This form is for **connecting a cause and effect**.

밥을 많이 먹어서 배가 불러요.

"I'm full because I ate a lot of food."

"배(가) 부르다" means "to be full (not hungry)."

잠을 조금밖에 안 자서 피곤해요.

"I'm tired because I sleep only a little."

"피곤하다" means "to be tired."

"조금밖에" means "only a little" (used in negative sentences).

저는 남자라서 군대에 가야 됩니다.

"I have to go to the military because I am a man."

"군대" means "the military."

When using "이다" with this form, it becomes "이라서" after a consonant, and "라서" after a vowel.

This form is also used in another way, but I won't cover that in this lesson. For now, just know that this form can be used to mean "because" when connecting a cause and an effect.

## Intermediate Notes

I'd like to go over a few more ways to say "because" in Korean. These are all intermediate, so please skip them if this is your first time learning the above material, as they will probably not be useful to you yet.

### v.s. + 기에

This form is less common. **In addition to "because," this form also has the feeling of "so."**

엄마가 나가셨길래 친구를 초대했다.

"I invited a friend because my mother left."

*"My mom left, so I invited a friend."*

"길래" is a more casual, spoken form of "기에," but has the same meaning.

### v.s. + 느라고

This form is used to mean "because" whenever the reason is negative. In English, we might say "I'm tired because I exercised too hard." This form can therefore be **used to express regret**.

화장을 하느라고 약속에 늦었다.

"I was late for an appointment because I was doing my makeup."

"화장(을) 하다" means "to do makeup."

"약속에 늦다" means "to be late for an appointment."

## Conclusion

I recommend practicing these three ways of making "because" as much as possible. And if you only pick one, focus on the "때문" form.

