

## Learn Korean Ep. 39: "Don't"

You have several options if you want to say "don't" in Korean.

### verb stem + 지 말다

Take the verb stem, then add "지," and the verb "말다." This is the basic grammar format for telling someone "don't," but you can't leave it alone as it is. Remember that you'll have to conjugate the verb "말다" in order to use it as a command.

By conjugating "말다," we get a few different varieties.

#### Polite:

verb stem + 지 마세요

#### "Please:"

verb stem + 지 말아주세요

#### Casual:

verb stem + 지 마(요)

The polite way of saying "don't" is also the **most common**. The second way means "please don't." The third one, "~지 마요" or just "~지 마," can only be used in casual situations.

지금 시작하지 마세요.

"Don't start now."

그렇게 빨리 걸어가지 말아주세요.

"Please don't walk so fast."

"걸어가다" means "to walk (somewhere)."

하지 마!

"Don't!"

**쳐다보지마요.**

"Don't stare (at me)."

"쳐다보다" means "to stare."

제가 말하고 있는 동안에 **방해하지 마세요.**

"Don't interrupt me while I'm talking."

"방해하다" means "to interrupt." Check out Episode 26 to learn about how to use "while."

However, I should note that in general, when you're speaking in any formal situation where you want to be extra polite, you probably wouldn't say "don't" at all; just like in English, "don't" can come across as rude in some cases.

### Advanced Notes

So what if you want to say "don't" in a more polite situation without coming across as rude? Here's just one way:

verb stem + (으)시면 안 됩니다.

Take the verb stem and attach "시면" if it ends in a vowel, or "으시면" if it ends in a consonant – the "시" is an honorific particle – then add "안 됩니다," which means "it's not okay." This together means "it's not okay if you~," and can sometimes be used in more polite situations.

죄송하지만, 사진을 **찍으시면 안 됩니다.**

"I'm sorry but, you can't take photographs."

## Conclusion

Remember to be careful when saying "don't," if you're in any kind of formal situation, or if you're required to be extra polite.

If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message through my web site or on YouTube. Good luck in your studies!

