

## Learn Korean Ep. 40: "Why" and "How"

왜 = "why"

어떻게 = "how"

Both "왜" and "어떻게" are adverbs, so they're used **before** a verb. Let's first take a look at how to use "왜."

**왜**요?

"Why?"

Remember that if you were to leave the "요" off at the end, this would become a casual sentence.

**왜** 안 했어요?

"Why didn't you do it?"

**왜** 도망가요?

"Why are you running away?"

"도망가다" means "to run away."

**왜** 그렇게 생각하세요?

"Why do you think that?"

"그렇게" literally means "in that way," so it can translate simply as just "that."

Now let's look at how to use "어떻게."

**어떻게**요?

"How?"

**어떻게** 했어요?

"How did you do it?"

집에서 학교까지 **어떻게** 갈 수 있어요?

"How can I go from my house to the school?"

**어떻게** 생각하세요?

"What do you think?"

This sentence literally means "**how** do you think?" But "어떻게" is used whenever you're asking someone's opinion on something. This is simply the standard way of doing it. Here, you wouldn't use "무엇" for "what," or the sentence would sound awkward to a Korean. You can just remember this as a special case.

한국말을 **어떻게** 그렇게 잘 하세요?

"How do you speak Korean so well?"

Remember that "그렇게" means "in that way." However, it can also translate as "so," such as in "so good" or "so well" (as in the above example sentence).

#### Advanced Notes

Although "왜" means "why," if you watch the video for this episode again you might notice that even though Billy says "왜" the translated text is "what?"

First of all, "왜" only has one meaning – "why."

However, depending on the context, simply saying "왜(요)" on its own can translate to English as "what" in order to create a more natural sounding translation.

"왜" will only be translated to "what" when **asking the reason why someone is doing something**. In the video, Keykat is poking Billy, so he asks "why (are you poking me)?" In natural English, this would translate simply as "what (do you want)?"

Another similar situation is **when someone is staring at you** without speaking. In English we might ask "what (are you looking at)?" But in Korean, they will ask "why (are you looking at me)?" and simply use "왜(요)?"

## Conclusion

There shouldn't be anything too tricky in this lesson. "왜" means "why" and "어떻게" means "how."

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

