

Learn Korean Ep. 41: "Almost"

There are two ways of saying "almost" in Korean, and which one you'll use will depend on what it is that you want to say.

(On purpose) 거의 (By mistake) verb stem + ㄹ/을 뻔하다

To say "almost" when something was **not by mistake**, use "거의" as an adverb. An example would be when saying "to almost be finished" or "to almost be ready" or "to almost **be anything**."

저는 **거의** 한국 사람입니다.

"I am almost a Korean."

If you loved Korea more than anywhere, ate only Korean food, and spoke only in Korean, but weren't a Korean by blood, I suppose you could say this sentence.

거의 같아요.

"It is almost the same."

숙제를 **거의** 다 했어요.

"I almost finished all of my homework."

"다" is an adverb which means "all." Therefore, "거의 다" means "almost all" or "almost completely."

If you want to say that something almost happened, or you almost did something **by mistake or accidentally**, there's a different form you'll use.

Take the verb stem and add "ㄹ" if it ends in a vowel, or "을" if it ends in a consonant. Then attach the verb "뻔하다," which means "to almost." Finally, conjugate it.

죽을 뻔했어요.

"I almost died."

학교에 못 갈 뻔했어요.

"I almost couldn't go to school."

버스를 놓칠 뻔했어요.

"I almost missed the bus."

"놓치다" means "to miss (an opportunity, etc)."

오늘 차에 치일 뻔했어요.

"I almost got hit by a car today."

"차에 치이다" means "to be hit by a car."

Conclusion

For things that are "almost" *on purpose*, use "거의," and for things that are "almost" *by accident*, use "verb stem + 르/을 뻔하다."

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

