

Learn Korean Ep. 44: "How to"

Let's learn how to say "how to," such as in the sentences "I know how to use chopsticks" or "I know how to sing." There are several ways to say "how to;" let's talk about the most common two ways.

v.s. + ㄹ/을 줄 알다/모르다

Let's look at the first way of saying "how to." Take the verb stem and add "ㄹ" if it ends in a vowel, or "을" if it ends in a consonant. Then attach "줄." Finally, conjugate the verb "알다" if you know, or "모르다" if you don't know.

수영할 줄 알아요.

"I know how to swim."

자전거를 탈 줄 몰라요.

"I don't know how to ride a bicycle."

"자전거(를) 타다" means "to ride a bicycle."

젓가락을 쓸 줄 아세요?

"Do you know how to use chopsticks?"

"젓가락" means "chopsticks."

어떻게 v.s. + 는지 알다/모르다

Let's look at the second way of saying "how to." Take the adverb "어떻게" ("how"). Then take the verb stem and attach "는지." Finally, conjugate the verb "알다" if you know, or "모르다" if you don't know.

어떻게 가는지 알아요.

"I know how to go there."

어떻게 해야 하는지 몰라요.

"I don't know what I need to do."

이걸 어떻게 쓰는지 아세요?

"Do you know how to use this?"

"이걸" is an abbreviation of "이것을."

Advanced Notes

The following information is recommended for intermediate level learners or higher.

v.s. + ㄹ/을 즐 알다 [Part 2]

This form has one additional use. Literally, it means the same thing as we learned, but you might see it used in the following way:

김치를 드실 줄 아세요?

Literally: "Do you know how to eat kimchi?"

Meaning: "Do you like kimchi?"

"드시다" is the honorific form of the verb "먹다" ("to eat").

v.s. + 는 방법(을) 알다/모르다

"방법" means "way" or "method," so this literally means "do you know the way to~" or "do you know the method of~." Its meaning is similar to the two we learned above, but its usage is a bit more formal.

이 컴퓨터를 고치는 방법을 아세요?

Literal: "Do you know the way to fix this computer?"

Meaning: "Do you know how to fix this computer?"

A shortening of "방법" is just "법," though its usage is less common.

젓가락을 쓰는 법

"the way to use chopsticks"

Conclusion

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

