

Learn Korean Ep. 49: Intention Words

Let's cover a few important adverbs that you can use in your Korean sentences.

In vain 괜히

Although "in vain" is not a common adverb in casual English, it is perfectly normal in Korean.

Doing something 괜히 means that you've wasted your time doing it, or you're expressing it was pointless to do it to begin with.

괜히 샀네요!

"You bought it in vain!"

This could also translate as "you wasted your money on that" or "you didn't need to buy that."

어제 괜히 숙제를 했어요.

"I did my homework in vain yesterday."

Perhaps you could say this if you arrived at school after doing homework all night, only to find out the assignment was cancelled.

On purpose 일부러

Another way to translate this adverb is "intentionally."

일부러 그랬지?

"You did that on purpose, right?"

동생이 일부러 설거지를 안 했어요.

"My younger sibling didn't do the dishes on purpose."

설거지(를) 하다 means "to do the dishes."

On accident 실수로

You could also translate this adverb as "accidentally" or "by accident."

제가 실수로 버렸어요.

"I threw it away on accident."

실수로 그렇게 말했어요.

"I said that by accident."

Advanced Notes

I'd recommend only reading these advanced notes if you are at an intermediate level or higher.

의도적으로

This word comes from 의도 ("intention") and 의도적 ("intentional").

의도적으로 translates as "intentionally" and can be used in all of the same situations as 일부러, but has a more formal feel to it. It would be most appropriate for writing, or for formal speaking such as a speech.

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!

