

## Learn Korean Ep. 52: "Have you ever?"

Let's go over how to say "have ever," such as "Have you ever gone to Korea before?"

~아/어/etc 본 적(이) 있다

~아/어/etc 본 적(이) 없다

Take the verb and conjugate it as though you were conjugating the 요 form. If you don't know how to conjugate the 요 form, check out [Learn Korean Ep. 2](#) to learn how.

Instead of adding the 요 at the end, add 본. Then add 적, which means "a time" or "an experience." Adding the Subject Marker (이) afterward is optional. Then add the verb 있다 if you **have**, and 없다 if you **have not** done it before.

It seems a bit long, but with a little bit of practice will feel like second nature.

한국에 가본 적이 있어요?

"Have you ever been to Korea before?"

제 친구를 만나본 적이 없어요?

"Have you never met my friend before?"

이 영화를 본적이 있어요?

"Have you ever seen this movie before?"

Note that in the above sentence, although you normally will conjugate the verb and add 본, if the verb itself is 보다 ("to see") it doesn't need to be conjugated – it can be left alone in the past tense as 본.

본 적이 없어요.

"I've never seen it before."

Advanced Notes

The verb 보다 (here used as 본) is *optional*. The verb, used next to a conjugated verb, adds the meaning of “to try (doing).” Knowing this, let’s take a look at a sentence we learned previously.

한국에 가본 적이 있어요?

“Have you ever tried going to Korea before?”

In this way, adding 보다 means “to do something and see how it goes” – or as we might say, “to try doing something.”

If you want to express that you’ve simply done something, and not that you’ve necessarily tried it, it’s also easy to do. Speaking in this way is very straightforward, so be sure it’s what you want to do before using it. First conjugate the verb in the past tense; this will usually be using ㄴ/은. Then add 적(이) 있다 or 적(이) 없다 as before.

김치를 먹은 적이 없어요.

“I never ate kimchi before.”

Compare this to what we learned in this lesson.

김치를 먹어본 적이 없어요.

“I’ve never tried kimchi before.”

For conversation, the second (using ~아/어/etc 본) is much preferred. The first might be preferred to emphasize that you’ve really never even touched kimchi before, and you want to stress that to the listener.

If you want a quick answer for which is better, definitely stick to using ~아/어/etc 본 when expressing something you’ve done or not done before.

## 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!

