

Learn Korean Ep. 55: "Though"

In Korean, there are several different grammar forms you can use to connect sentences together, and each one has different meanings. Here are a couple of examples.

먹고 가요.

"I'll eat **and** go."

저는 미국 사람**이지만** 한국어도 할 수 있어요.

"I'm an American, **but** I can also speak Korean."

But these grammar forms can sometimes be a bit *strong*. What if there was a softer way to connect sentences together? For example, take these two sentences.

"I want to go, **but** I have no money." versus "**Though** I have no money, I want to go."

The first one using "but" is a bit stronger, since "but" is a *conjunction* - it *separates* the two parts of the sentences. The second one *breaks the sentence* apart a bit more softly.

"Though" isn't necessarily a "but," and it simply connects two sentences together that are related to each other, kind of like using a **semicolon** in English.

"I'm an American, **but** I can speak Korean."

"**Though** I'm American, I can speak Korean."

"I'm an American; I can speak Korean."

What we're going to learn is how to translate "though" into Korean, or more specifically, how to connect two related sentences together a bit more softly.

Action Verb Stem + 는데 (Conjugated) Descriptive Verb Stem + ㄴ/은데

For action verbs, which are verbs that *do* something, such as to eat, or to go, among others, take the verb stem and attach 는데.

UPDATE: My video does not properly explain the conjugation for all descriptive verb types, and I apologize. Here is an updated and much simpler version for how to conjugate descriptive verbs with this form. I've included many extra examples.

A simpler way to make this form is to take the descriptive verb and conjugate it as if you are conjugating as an *adjective*. You can check out my video "Learn Korean Ep. 70: Adjectives" for information about how to do this (<https://youtu.be/suipPZlHrVo>).

Once you've done that, simply attach 데 to the end. Here are a few examples of several different descriptive verb types.

크다 → 큰
큰 + 데 → 큰데

길다 → 긴
긴 + 데 → 긴데

하고 싶다 → 하고 싶은
하고 싶은 + 데 → 하고 싶은데

작다 → 작은
작은 + 데 → 작은데

착하다 → 착한
착한 + 데 → 착한데

춥다 → 추운
추운 + 데 → 추운데

예쁘다 → 예쁜
예쁜 + 데 → 예쁜데

재미있다 → 재미있는
재미있는 + 데 → 재미있는데

For the **past tense**, you can conjugate the descriptive verb as if you were conjugating the past tense 요 form (but without adding the 아/어 and 요), and instead attach **는데**. For example:

친절했어요 → 친절했
친절했 + 는데 → 친절했는데

어려웠어요 → 어려웠
어려웠 + 는데 → 어려웠는데

작았어요 → 작았
작았 + 는데 → 작았는데

For the **future tense**, you can attach **겠는데** to the descriptive verb stem. Or, you can attach **ㄴ데** to the **것이다** future tense form. For example:

먹겠다 → 먹겠는데
Or, 먹을 건데 (먹을 것인데)

출겠다 → 출겠는데
Or, 추울 건데 (추울 것인데)

있겠다 → 있겠는데
Or, 있을 건데 (있을 것인데)

First let's take a look at using this form in the *middle of a sentence*, to combine two phrases into one longer sentence. In this way, you're using it to work like a **semicolon** in English - a semicolon is used to connect two separate phrases that are related to each other, such as "I like school; I hate homework."

If you want to translate this grammar form to English more naturally, feel free to use either "but," "and" or "though," depending on what fits best. Just know that its actual usage is simply to connect two related sentences together.

우산을 안 가져 왔는데 비가 온다.

"It's raining, **though** I didn't bring my umbrella."

우산 means "umbrella," and 가져 오다 means "to bring [something]."

먹고 싶은데 돈이 없어서 못 먹어요.

"I want to eat, **but** I have no money so I can't."

학교에 갔는데 아무도 없었어요.

"I went to school, **and** nobody was there."

Now let's take a look at using this form at the *end of a sentence*. When using it at the end of a sentence, it works just the same way - remember to add a 요 if you're speaking politely. In English, you can think of this as ending your sentence with the word "though."

아닌데요.

"It's not, though."

집에 있는데요.

"Well he's at home though."

벌써 갔는데요.

"He already left though."

벌써 means "already," and is used when you're showing surprise at something.

Note that sentences will have a *rising intonation* when this form is used the **end**.

Also note that two of the above three sentences use different *tenses*. This grammar form can be used in any tense you'd like, in which case, first conjugate the **Plain Form** of the verb, and then use the verb stem of that to create this form. You can also watch my video to learn how to conjugate this form on YouTube (**Learn Korean Ep. 17: Plain Form**).

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!

