

Learn Korean Ep. 56: Object Marker

Let's learn about the *Object Marker* in Korean.

Object Marker - 을/를

The *Object Marker* has one major use in Korean - it marks the object of a verb. In English, the object is whatever is receiving an action. For example, take this sentence:

저는 공을 찼어요.

"I kicked the ball."

Here, "kicked" is the **verb**, and "ball" is the **object**.

Here's another sentence:

제가 과자를 먹었어요.

"I ate the candy."

In this sentence, "to eat" is the verb, and it's being used in the past tense - "ate." And what is it that I ate? Snacks. Snacks is what is *receiving* the action of the verb, so snacks is the *object* of the sentence. Because it's an object, we need to mark it with an *Object Marker*.

The Object Marker is 을 if it comes after a *consonant*, and 를 if it comes after a *vowel*.

난 널 좋아해.

"I like you."

난 is an abbreviation of 난, and 널 is an abbreviation of 너를.

왜 공부를 안 했어요?

"Why didn't you study?"

Here, the object marker is showing the object of the verb, 안 했어요, as being the noun "study."

시간을 봐요! 빨리 가야 돼요!

"Look at the time! I have to go right now!" or *literally*, "I have to go quickly!"

Here, 시간 is the object of the verb 보다.

누가 내 오렌지를 먹어도 된다고 했어?

"Who said it was okay to eat my orange?"

Here the object marker is describing the object of the verb, 먹다.

However, there are many cases in English where you use an object, that in Korean you don't.

For example, in verbs like "say," "tell" or "give," English often attaches the receiver of the action directly to the verb.

나는 그에게 나가라고 말했다.

"I told **him** to leave."

나는 그에게 공을 주었다.

Or "I gave **him** the ball"

Notice that even though in English these use "him" (or "her," "it," etc.) as the object, in Korean they're marked with the "to" (에게) particle. You can learn about this "to" particle more in my other video on that (**Learn Korean Ep. 8: "To" and "from" a person**). Verbs that are related to *communication*, such as "tell" or "say" or "call," and "give" will not use the *Object Marker*, but will use the particle **에게** such as in the previous examples.

Advanced Notes

The Object Marker is actually *optional* when used in *casual speech*, and will most often not be said. However, knowing how to use it is essential - whether you use it when speaking to friends is your choice. I would recommend leaving it off when talking to close friends, and using it when speaking to people who are older than you, or not close to you.

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!

