

Learn Korean Ep. 58: Should and Should Not

Let's learn how to say "should" and "should not" in Korean.

Should:

Verb Stem + 면 좋다

Take the verb stem, and attach 면, then the verb 좋다. This literally means, "It's good if you do something."

빨리 숙제하면 좋아요.

"You should hurry up and do your homework."

병원에 가면 좋아요.

"You should go to the hospital."

한국어를 더 열심히 공부하면 좋아요.

"You should study Korean harder."

Should Not:

Verb Stem + 면 안 되다

Take the verb stem, and attach 면, then the verb 안 되다. This literally means, "It won't be good if you do something."

빨간 불에 길을 건너면 안 돼요.

"You shouldn't cross the street when it's a red light." (건너다 = "to cross")

그거 먹으면 안 돼요.

"You shouldn't eat that."

수업 시간에 자면 안 돼요.

"You shouldn't sleep in class time."

Advanced Notes:

There are additional ways to say "should."

Verb Stem + 면 되다

This literally means "It's good if you do something." 되다 in this usage means "to be okay" or "to be acceptable."

그냥 하면 돼요.

"You should just do it."

하면 된다.

"You should do it."

This is one of the Korean military's mottos.

Verb Stem + 는 것이 낫다

This literally means "It's better to do." 낫다 means "to be preferred" or "to be better."

가는 게 나아요.

"You should go."

게 is an abbreviation of 것이.

Notice how 낫다 conjugates to 나(아)요 in the 요 form. You can also use this with adverbs such as 더 (더 낫다 = "even/much better").

There are also additional ways to say "should not."

Negative Verb Stem + 는 것이 낫다

This literally means "It's better to not do." Its usage is the same as the above form, only opposite.

안 하는 게 낫다.

"It's better if you don't."

Verb Stem + 면 안 좋다

This literally means "It's not good if you do."

거기 가면 안 좋아요.

"It's not good if you go there." Or, "You shouldn't go there."

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!

