Learn Korean Ep. 59: "Used to"

Let's learn how to say "used to" in Korean.

Verb Stem + 곤 하다

Take the verb stem and attach 곤, then the verb 하다, which means "to do."

주말에 할머니 집에 가**곤 했어요**.

"I used to go to my grandmother's house on the weekends."

어릴 때 술을 많이 마시곤 했어요.

"I used to drink a lot of alcohol when I was young."

혼자서 밥을 먹곤 했어요.

"I used to eat alone."

지난 학기에 도서관에서 숙제를 하곤 했어요.

"I used to do my homework at the library last semester."

일본어를 공부하곤 했지만 지금은 한국어를 공부해요.

I used to study Japanese, but now I study Korean.

Advanced Notes:

Note that this 곤 하다 form is not very commonly used. It's much more common to simply use the double past tense to mean "used to." You can combine this with words such as 옛날에 ("a long time ago") or other words that indicate the past ("last year," etc.), if you'd like.

(옛날에) 자주 갔었어요.

"I used to go there often."

Adding words that indicate the past is optional, as I've marked with parentheses.

작년에 했었어요.

"I used to do it last year."

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!

