

## Learn Korean Ep. 6: "Already"

Korean has two ways to say "already" – "이미" and "벌써." They're a little different, but the difference is pretty simple.

### Already 이미 / 벌써

"이미" is the **regular way** to express "already."

"벌써" means "already," but it also **expresses surprise or shock**.

So whenever you want to express surprise or shock, use "벌써," and for all other times use "이미." It's simple, right?

나는 **이미** 숙제를 했어.

"I already did the homework."

**이미** 시작했어요.

"It already started."

**벌써** 시작했어요.

"It already started." ("... and I'm **surprised** that it did!")

첫 사랑을 찾았지만 **이미** 결혼한 뒤였다.

"I found my first love, but it was after already getting married."

"첫" is an adjective that attaches before nouns to mean "(the) first."

그분은 **벌써** 나가셨어요.

"He already left." ("... and I'm **surprised** that he did!")

"그분" means "that person," and is a polite way to refer to someone who you are not directly speaking with.

"나가셨어요" is the past tense of the verb "나가시다," an extra polite way of saying "나가다."

**벌써** 끝났어?

"Is it finished already?"

Since this sentence is lacking a "요" at the end, it is informal and for casual use only.

**벌써** 졸업할 때가 되었다.

"It's already time to graduate."

"졸업하다" means "to graduate."

This sentence literally means "Already it became the time to graduate."

That's all for this lesson. As always, I recommend that you practice making your own sentences using "이미" and "벌써" in order to get a good feeling for how to use them in regular speech. Good luck in your Korean studies!

