

Learn Korean Ep. 65: "But"

There are a few different ways to say "but" depending on the sentence you're using it in. Let's take a look at the most common, and useful ways.

Verb Stem + 지만

This is the simplest way to say "but." Take a verb stem, which is just a verb with the 다 removed, and attach 지만. That's it.

저는 미국 사람이지만 한국어도 할 수 있어요.
"I'm an American, but I can speak Korean too."

저는 매운 음식을 못 먹지만 김치는 잘 먹어요.
"I can't eat spicy food, but I can eat kimchi."

어제 밤에 늦게 잤지만 오늘 일찍 일어났어요.
"I slept late last night, but I woke up early today."

But what if you want to add "but" or "however" to your sentence, but you want to add it after you've finished a sentence already? That's easy too, just use this same grammar form, but with the verb 하다, to get 하지만. You can start a sentence with 하지만, and it'll be just like starting a sentence with "but" in English.

하지만

하지만 우산이 있어서 비를 안 맞았어요.
"But I had an umbrella so I didn't get wet."

그렇지만

Another word you can use similarly is 그렇지만, which has more of a "however" kind of feel to it.

그렇지만 누가 했는지 알아요.
"However, I know who did it."

그러나

And if you want a stronger meaning, there's one more option that you also have – 그러나.
그러나 has a strong "however" meaning. You can use it in the same way as 하지만 or
그렇지만.

그러나 커피는 가지고 들어가지 못해요.
"However, you can't bring coffee inside."

Advanced Notes:

Another common way to say "but" or "however" is by using 그런데. In casual speech, this shortens to
근데. This word originally comes from the 데 form. You can also think of this as ending your sentence
with "though" in English.

그런데 제가 안 했어요.
"But I didn't do it." Or, "I didn't do it *though*." You can translate it whichever way you'd like.

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!

