

Learn Korean Ep. 72: 더니

Before we start, I want to let you know that this lesson is a bit on the **Intermediate** side, so I wouldn't recommend watching this if you're still new to the Korean language. If you've already learned the basics and are ready for some more, then let's learn about another useful grammar form.

Show Contrast with 더니

더니 doesn't have a single way that it can be translated into English, and it depends on the sentence. Let's talk about the main usage of 더니 – for showing two sentences that are **contrasting**. For example, let's first take a look at this sentence in English.

"I went to my friend's house but nobody was there."

You can see how the first and second part of the sentence are **contrasting** with each other – they're opposites.

Before we talk more about it, let's learn how to use it.

Verb Stem + 더니

To use it, just take a *verb stem*, and this can be in any tense you'd like, and attach 더니 to the end. Then finish the rest of the sentence.

Let's take a look at our previous English example now in Korean using 더니.

친구 집에 갔더니 아무도 없었어요.

"I went to my friend's house but nobody was there."

Using 더니 in this way emphasizes that the two parts of the sentence are contrasting. There could be many reasons why you'd want to emphasize that, but perhaps it's because you're **surprised** at it. Here are a few more examples.

열심히 공부했더니 시험이 미뤄졌어요.

"I studied hard, but the test was postponed (and that surprised me)."

가게에 갔더니 물건이 이미 다 팔려 있었어요.

"I went to the store but everything was already sold out (and that surprised me)."

밤 늦게까지 잠을 자지 않더니 결국 늦게 일어났구나!

"You didn't sleep until it was late, and in the end you woke up late (and I'm surprised)!"

오랜만에 친구에게 전화를 했더니 전화 번호가 바뀌었어요.

"I hadn't called my friend for a long time and his phone number had changed (and that surprised me)."

Or, "I called my friend after not talking to him for a long time, and his phone number had changed."

You can see how 더니 can be used to show two **contrasting** events, and how using this form **emphasizes** that.

Conclusion

For a quick summary, 더니 can be used to emphasize that two things are contrasting, and therefore also shows your surprise at that.

If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message through my web site or on YouTube. Good luck in your studies!

