

## Learn Korean Ep. 74: "Do it"

Today I wanted to talk about two ways that you can make **commands** in Korean. A command is basically telling someone, or commanding someone, to do something. For example, telling someone "do it" or "go" or "eat your vegetables."

But this doesn't mean that you have to act like a king ordering someone to do something. Commands can be polite too. In English, we can simply add "please" before a command to make it polite. Instead of our previous three examples, we can have "please do it" or "please go" or "please eat your vegetables." We can also have polite commands in Korean. Making a polite command in Korean is simple. Here's how to make it.

### Polite Command: Verb Stem + (으)세요

Take a verb stem, which is just a verb with the **다** removed, and attach **으세요** if it ends in a **consonant**, or attach **세요** if it ends in a **vowel**.

For a quick example, **하다** would become **하세요**, and **읽다** [pronounced "익따"] would become **읽으세요**.

However, if a verb stem ends in **ㄹ**, then you remove the **ㄹ** before using this form.

So **놀다**, "to play," would become **노세요**.

Here are a few examples of polite commands.

**지금 하세요.**

"Do it now (please)."

**여기 보세요.**

"Look here (please)."

사진을 찍으세요.

"Take a photo (please)."

"사진(을) 찍다" means "to take a photo."

밖에서 노세요. "Play outside (please)."

However, certain verbs will change completely when combined with this form. This is because this form is actually part of *honorific Korean speech*, which I'll talk about later. You don't need to learn it right now, but just know that the verb 먹다, "to eat," will become 드세요, and not 먹으세요. I'll talk about *honorific speech* more in a future video.

Using 세요 to make a command is useful in almost all situations, but it's not the best way to give a command to a *close friend*. Instead, when you're speaking *casually* to a friend who's the same age as you or younger, there's another way that you can make a command.

Making a casual command in Korean is simple if you know how to conjugate the 요 form. Here's how to make a casual command.

## Casual Command:

### 요 Form – 요

Just take the 요 form, remove the 요 at the end, and you're done. Here are a few examples.

나가.

"Leave."

나가다 means "to leave," "to go out."

빨리 해!

"Do it quickly!"

김치를 더 먹어.

"Eat more kimchi."

### Advanced Notes

#### 요 Form – 요 + 주세요

While polite commands are appropriate for most situations, there will be times when you really want to say “please” in a sentence. To add the actual meaning of “please” (such as in “please do this for me”) when asking favors, add the verb 주다 (“to give”) conjugated with (으)세요. Here’s an example.

하다 → 해요 – 요 → 해 + 주세요 → 해 주세요.

저의 숙제를 해 주세요.

“Please do my homework (for me).”

저녁을 만들어 주세요.

“Please make dinner (for me).”

### 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!

