

## Learn Korean Ep. 75: "To End up Doing"

Today I wanted to talk about another grammar form that you can use in your Korean sentences. However before I start, know that this lesson is geared more toward **Intermediate** speakers of Korean and probably won't be very useful to you if you're still just beginning with the language.

The form we'll talk about today is 고 말다, and you can think of it as meaning "To end up doing." First let's take a look at an example sentence in English to show what I mean.

"Yesterday I was studying for the test, but I **ended up** falling asleep."

Let's talk about how to make this form.

### Verb Stem + 고 말다

First take a verb stem and attach 고. Then attach the verb 말다, and conjugate it. And just as in English, this form in Korean will most often be used in the **past tense**.

So let's go back to our sentence and translate it.

"어제 밤에 시험 준비를 위해 공부하고 있었는데 **잠들고 말았어요**."

"Yesterday night I was studying to get ready for the test, but I **ended up falling asleep**."

"잠(이) 들다" means "to fall asleep."

In addition, this form is generally used after you've *explained* something, just as it is in English. Just as you wouldn't randomly walk up to a friend and say "I ended up falling asleep," without first explaining what happened. Here are a few more examples.

조금만 먹으려고 했는데 결국 다 **먹고 말았어요**.

"I was only trying to eat a little, but eventually I **ended up eating** all of it."

깜짝 생일 파티를 준비하려고 했는데 다 들키고 말았어요.

"I was trying to prepare a surprise birthday party but it **ended up being found out.**"

들키다 means "to be found out."

쿠폰을 프린트해가려고 했는데 프린터기가 고장나고 말았어요.

"I was trying to print out a coupon but the printer **ended up breaking.**"

김밥을 만들려고 했는데 밥에 소금을 너무 많이 넣고 말았어요.

"I was trying to make kimbap, but I **ended up adding** too much salt."

### Advanced Notes

In addition, you might have noticed this from reading the example sentences in this lesson, but this form is most often used to show something happening which was **unintentional** (and not something that was done on purpose). For example, you wouldn't commonly use this form to say "I was trying to find my keys, and eventually I ended up finding them," since that would show it was intentional, although using this form to say it wouldn't be necessarily wrong: 열쇠를 찾으려고 했는데 결국에 찾고 말았어요.

### 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!

