

## Learn Korean Ep. 76: “Contrary to what you might think...”

Today I wanted to talk about a new grammar form that you can use to express that something is **contrary** to what someone else may have been thinking.

But before we start, I should caution you that this lesson is geared more toward **Intermediate** speakers, and might not be as useful for people who are still beginning to learn the basics. Let’s go right in and learn the form first.

### Verb Stem + ㄹ/을 걸(요)

To make this form, first take a verb stem and attach ㄹ if it ends in a vowel, or attach 을 if it ends in a consonant. Then attach 걸. Finally, add a 요 if you want to be more polite.

Although there isn’t a single literal translation for this form, a good way that you can think of it is as meaning “contrary to what you might think” or “contrary to what you might expect.” In this way, it can be used to **disagree** with what the listener might have been *thinking* or *expecting*.

And although it’s written as 걸, it’s pronounced as **겘**, since it comes after ㄹ.

Also when using this form, only the very last syllable (걸 or 요, depending on whether you’re speaking casually or not) will have a **rising intonation**. This is better conveyed in the video than in this PDF.

Let’s take a look at a few examples.

아닐 겘요.

“(Contrary to what you might think,) it’s not.”

이미 도착했을 겘요.

“He would’ve already arrived (and you’re mistaken about saying that he’s not there yet).”

지금 가면 늦을 걸요.

"If you go now you'll be late (even if you think you'll make it in time)."

그렇게 하면 별로 맛없을 걸요.

"It won't taste so good if you do that (despite what you might think)."

## Conclusion

However, know that this form is *not* appropriate in formal situations, even if you add the 요 to the end, since you're essentially telling someone that you're **disagreeing** with them. But for most general situations, as well as talking with friends, feel free to use it.

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

