

## Learn Korean Ep. 77: "To Become"

Let's learn how to say "to become" in Korean. We'll need to learn a bit about a very common Korean word in order to do this.

### 되다 → "to become"

Literally, 되다 means "to become," but most of the time we won't be translating it as "to become" because there will be more natural ways to translate it. I'll explain.

되다 means "to become," as in "something/someone will become a certain thing/person in the future."

For example, in English you can have this sentence:

**"After 5 years, I want to be a teacher."**

In English, we use "to be" (a different verb from "to become") as a shorter form of "to become." So you could also write the same sentence like this:

**"After 5 years, I want to become a teacher."**

So let's make this sentence in Korean.

**저는 5 년 뒤에, 선생님이 되고 싶어요.**

So we can use the verb 되다 to mean that something will "become" something else. Here's the grammar form we'll need to know.

### Noun + (이/가) 되다

To use this form, take a *noun* (what the person, or thing, is going to become), and attach the Subject Marker (이/가). Then conjugate the verb 되다.

저는 의사가 **되고 싶어요**.

"I want to be(come) a doctor."

정말 큰 문제가 **됐어요**.

"It became a really big problem."

우리는 좋은 친구가 **될 거예요**.

"We will be(come) good friends."

제가 원하면 한국 시민이 **될 수 있어요**.

"If I want, I can be(come) a Korean citizen."

시민 means "citizen."

So you can use 되다 in this way to say that someone or something will become something else, but this only lets you use it with **nouns**, just like in the examples.

However, there are other cases when you will want to say "to become," such as with descriptive verbs (or **adjectives**, if you'd like to call them that). For example, what if you want to say this sentence:

"Tomorrow the weather will **become** colder."

Or in more natural English, "Tomorrow the weather will **get** colder."

In this sentence, you can't use the verb 되다 because the weather isn't becoming a *noun*. Instead, the weather is becoming a *descriptive verb* – "colder." So we'll need a different grammar form to use with descriptive verbs.

While you could always just use the future tense to say 내일은 날씨가 더 추울 거예요, "tomorrow will be colder," this doesn't have the extra meaning of "becoming" (changing to **be**) colder that our English sentence does.

In order to say that tomorrow will "become colder," or in more casual English, will "get colder," we'll need to use another form. First let's take a look at a translated version of this sentence.

내일은 날씨가 더 추워질 거예요.

Everything about the sentence looks the same, except for just the way that the descriptive verb is conjugated.

So to say "to become" with a descriptive verb, here's the grammar form you'll need.

### Descriptive Verb + 아/어/etc. + 지다

Take a descriptive verb, and conjugate it as if you were going to conjugate the 요 form. Then attach 지다, and conjugate it.

Here are some examples:

멀다 → 멀어지다

예쁘다 → 예뻐지다

강하다 → 강해지다

날씨가 더 좋아질 거예요.

"The weather will get better."

저는 내일부터 정말 바빠질 거예요.

"I will be(come) really busy from tomorrow."

영희가 많이 예뻐졌어요.

"Yung-hee got very pretty."

최근에 제 노트북이 조금 느려졌어요.

"Recently my laptop became a little slow."

### Advanced Notes

Note that 지다 used after an *action verb* (instead of a descriptive verb) has a different meaning. This is why it's important to know whether a verb is a descriptive verb or an action verb when conjugating it. If you see what looks like an action verb with a 지다 ending, it's likely that this is *passive speech* – this is unrelated to the form of 지다 that we've just covered. We'll talk about passive speech in a later lesson.

### 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!

