

Learn Korean Ep. 79: "Should Have"

There are a few different ways to express "should have" in Korean, and this lesson will cover *two* of the main ways.

But before starting this lesson, I should give a disclaimer that this lesson is intended for **intermediate** Korean learners, and might be confusing and/or less useful for beginning learners.

Let's get started with two examples in English.

"I also should have gone to the party."

"**You** also should have gone to the party."

In English, both of these sentences use the same grammar for "should have," but in Korean they will be slightly different. We'll need to learn two forms – one for speaking about *yourself* ("I" or "me") and one for speaking about *someone else* ("you").

[1st person] Action Verb Stem + (을/ㄹ) 겠 (그랬다)

[2nd person] Action Verb Stem + 지 그랬다

These two forms look similar, but one uses 겠 and the other uses 지. Also, both forms use 그랬다, which is the *past tense* conjugation of 그러다 (그렇게 [말]하다).

The form with 겠 might remind you of the form with 겠 that we learned in another lesson (Learn Korean Ep. 78: "Contrary to what you might think..."), but it has a different meaning here so I'd recommend keeping it separate in your notes.

Let's go over them one at a time.

[1st person] Action Verb Stem + (을/ㄹ) 겠 (그랬다)

This form is only used when you're speaking in the **1st person** – the 1st person means "I," or "me," so don't use this form when referring to someone else.

To make this form, take an action verb stem and attach 을 if it ends in a *consonant*, or attach ㄹ if it ends in a *vowel*. Then attach 겠, and then *optionally* add the verb 그랬다 and conjugate it.

We can use this form to translate our first example sentence.

"I also should have gone to the party."
나도 파티에 갈 겠 그랬어.

Here are a few more example sentences.

어제 할 겠 그랬어.

"I should've done it yesterday."

더 일찍 잠을 잘 겠.

"I should've slept earlier."

그냥 기다릴 겠.

"I should've just waited."

이걸 먹지 말 겠 그랬나?

"Should I not have eaten this?"

When using a *negative sentence* with this form, use the form ~지 말다. This is the same form used when saying "don't." Using 안 먹을 겠 or 먹지 않을 겠 would be *incorrect*, although a Korean native would probably understand what you were trying to say. The same applies to our next form as well.

Now let's learn our 2nd form.

[2nd person] Action Verb Stem + 지 그랬다

This form is only used in the 2nd person – the 2nd person means “you,” so don’t use this form when referring to yourself.

To make it, take an action verb stem and attach 지. Then attach the verb 그랬다 and conjugate it like before.

Since this is only for speaking in the 2nd person, we can use this to translate the 2nd of our two example sentences.

“**You** also should have gone to the party.”

너도 파티에 가지 그랬어.

Here are a few more example sentences.

어제 숙제를 **하지** 그랬어.

“You should’ve done the homework yesterday.”

그냥 저녁을 **만들지** 그랬어.

“You should’ve just made dinner.”

내 말대로 우산을 **가져가지** 그랬어.

“You should’ve brought an umbrella like I told you.”

내 말대로 means “like/as I told you.”

그 여자한테 좋아한다고 **말하지** 그랬어.

“You should’ve told that girl that you like her.”

Advanced Notes

Let's take one more look at the first of these two forms. If this lesson is your first time being exposed to these two forms, I'd highly recommend ignoring these advanced notes until after you feel familiar with using them on your own.

[1st person] Action Verb Stem + (을/를) 걸 (그랬다)

This form can actually be used in both 1st person, and 2nd person examples. It is most commonly used in 1st person examples. However, there is a reason why I did not mention this in the bulk of the lesson – because there are many cases when using this form in the 2nd person can sound unnatural, even if it is grammatically correct.

But we can use this form to make our 2nd example sentence as well.

“You also should have gone to the party.”

너도 파티에 갈 걸 그랬어.

In addition, for this form, 그랬다 is only optional when used in the 1st person – it cannot be removed when using this form in the 2nd person.

Of course, Koreans will use both of these forms, so you'll need to know this information in order to understand people.

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!

