

## Learn Korean Ep. 83: "Decide to Do"

In this lesson we'll cover how you can **decide** to do something in Korean. For example, let's first take a look at these two sentences.

"I went to the store."

"I decided to go to the store."

Since "went" is just the *past tense* of the verb "to go" in English, we can know that we'll use the verb 가다, "to go," to translate these sentences into Korean.

First, let's translate the sentence, "I went to the store."

저는 가게에 갔어요.

"I went to the store."

That was pretty simple. If we want to change the sentence to say, "I *decided* to go to the store," we'll need to switch the grammar a little bit.

Here's the grammar form that we're going to need.

### Action Verb Stem + 기로 하다

Take an *action verb* (any verb that's an action, such as "to do," "to eat," or "to go") and get its *stem* by removing the 다 at the end. Then attach 기로. And finally, add the verb 하다 and conjugate it to the *past tense*.

Let's take a look at a few examples.

하다 ("to do") → 하기로 하다 ("to decide to do")

먹다 ("to eat") → 먹기로 하다 ("to decide to eat")

가다 ("to go") → 가기로 하다 ("to decide to go")

This form is straightforward to make. And already we can translate our example sentence.

저는 가게에 **가기로 했어요.**

"I decided to go to the store."

Notice how we made the verb at the end, 하다, into the *past tense*, 했어요, and *not* the verb 가다 ("to go"). When you're using this form, make sure you're simply taking the action verb's stem *as it is*, and not doing any conjugation to it first. Only conjugate the 하다 at the end. Commonly this will be 했어요 or 했습니다, among others.

Let's take a look at a few more examples.

오늘은 제가 설거지를 **하기로 했어요.**

"Today I decided to do the dishes."

설거지 means "dishwashing," and 설거지(를) 하다 means "to do the dishes."

새로운 티비를 **사기로 했어요.**

"I decided to buy a new TV."

공부하지 **않기로 했어요.**

"I decided not to study."

Remember that a *negative action verb* will still end with its usual negative form 지 않다 [pronounced "안타"], like in this example.

Alternatively, you could also use the 안 form when making a negative verb. So the above sentence could also look like this:

공부를 **안 하기로 했어요.**

"I decided not to study."

## Action Verb Stem + 기로 결정하다

While the form 기로 하다 by itself already means "to decide to," if you'd like, *optionally* you can also change the 하다 at the end to the verb 결정하다, which means "to decide" or "to make a decision."

It'll have the *same meaning* whether you do this or not, but it's a more *direct* way of expressing that you're making a decision to do something. But just remember that it's optional.

소방관이 되기로 결정했어요.

"I decided to become a firefighter."

소방관 means "firefighter."

### Advanced Notes

A common usage of this form 기로 (결정)하다 is with the *adverb* 원래.

원래 오늘 제가 학교에 가기로 했는데, 감기에 걸려서 못 갔어요.

"Originally I was going to go to school today, but I caught a cold and couldn't go."

Not only can you change the 하다 in 기로 하다 to the verb 결정하다, but you could also change it to other verbs as well.

Here are a few examples of other forms that this grammar can have:

기로 하다 – "to decide to do"

기로 결정하다 – "to decide to do," "to make a decision to do"

기로 약속하다 – "to promise to do," "to make a promise to do"

기로 결심하다 – "to be determined to do," "to resolve to do"

오늘 술을 끊기로 약속했어요.

"Today I decided to quit alcohol."

These other forms work in the same way, and you'll hear more as you learn. Know that they all come from this same form, 기로 하다, and when you hear a new one, you should be able to recognize it. As long as you know the verb that is attached after 기로, you should also be able to understand what the grammar form means.

## 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!

