

Learn Korean Ep. 86: "Instead Of"

In this lesson we'll learn about a useful grammar form that you can use. This form is simple to use, and there are two different forms depending on how you're using it.

Let's first take a look at an example sentence in English.

"I watched a drama **instead of** a movie."

Here's the form we'll need to know to translate this sentence:

Noun + 대신에

To use it, take a *noun*, and attach 대신, followed by 에. Then finish the rest of the sentence.

Already we can translate our example sentence.

저는 영화 **대신에** 드라마를 봤어요.

"I watched a drama instead of a movie."

Notice how in English, "drama" comes *before* "movie" in the sentence, but in Korean it's the other way around – 영화 대신에, "instead of a movie." Remember that 대신에 is used *after* what it is that's "instead of," and not before.

Here are a few more examples.

그거 **대신에** 이거 하세요.

"Do this instead of that."

사과 **대신에** 오렌지를 먹었어요.

"I ate an orange instead of an apple."

저 **대신에** 해 주세요.

"Please do it instead of me."

치마 **대신에** 바지를 샀어요.

"I bought pants instead of a skirt."

But nouns aren't the only way that you can use this form. There are also cases where you'll want to use this form with *verbs* too. Let's take a look at an example of what I mean.

"I watched a drama **instead of going** to see a movie."

This example uses a verb, "instead of going," so we're going to need to use a different form for this. Fortunately, the form that we'll use isn't that different from our first one.

Let's take a look at how we can do this.

Action Verb Stem + 는 대신에

Take an *action verb stem* (an action verb, with the 다 at the end removed), and attach 는. Then add 대신에, and finish the rest of the sentence just like before.

So let's translate our example sentence.

저는 영화를 보러 **가는 대신에** 드라마를 봤어요.

"I watched a drama instead of going to see a movie."

Here are a few more examples.

뭘 **먹는 대신에** 물을 마셔요.

"Drink water instead of eating something."

For a review of how to use 뭐 to mean "something," check out my video "[Learn Korean Ep. 48: Something, Somewhere, and Someone.](#)"

도서관으로 **가는 대신에** 친구들이랑 놀러 갔어요.

"I went to play with friends instead of going to the library."

잠을 자는 대신에 저를 도와주세요.

"Help me instead of sleeping."

컴퓨터 게임을 하는 대신에 한국어를 공부하세요.

"Study Korean instead of playing games."

Advanced Notes

Another common translation of this form is "in exchange for," or "in return for."

If you're translating a sentence and notice that it sounds odd in English, or if the meaning does not match the situation that you are in, try using one of these translations instead. Here's an example.

제가 숙제를 도와주는 대신에 밥을 사 주세요.

"**In exchange for** me helping you (with your) homework, buy me some food."

"**In return for** me helping you (with your) homework, buy me some food."

Another note: the **에** at the end of this form is *optional*. However, it's commonly added, so I'd recommend using it, especially if this is your first time learning about this form.

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!

