

Learn Korean Ep. 90: Compared to...

This lesson will cover how to make comparisons. For example, we'll learn how to make the sentence "Taking a bus is cheap **compared to** taking a train." This lesson is intended for intermediate learners, and might be a bit difficult for beginners.

Noun + 에 비해(서)

To say "compared to," first take a noun and attach the particle 에. Then add 비해(서). The 서 here is *optional*. Here's a quick example.

학교에 비해서...
Compared to school...

Note that the noun you are comparing something to will come *before* this form, and not after like in English. Here is an example sentence.

버스를 타는 것은 기차를 타는 것에 비해서 싸요.
"Taking a bus is cheap compared to taking a train."

Let's take the sentence apart and look at each piece. First we have 버스를 타는 것 ("taking a bus"), followed by the Topic Marker, and then 기차를 타는 것 ("taking a train"). After that we have 비해(서), which here means "compared to (taking a train)." Then we have the final part, 싸요, from the verb 싸다 ("to be cheap"). If we put the pieces together, we get the literal meaning of "As for taking a bus, it is cheap, compared to taking a train." Here are a few more example sentences.

이 가방이 그 가방에 비해서 무거워요.
"This bag is heavy compared to that bag."

고기가 지난번에 비해서 더 맛있어요.
"The meat is more delicious compared to last time."

형에 비해서 저는 돈을 더 잘 써요.

"I use money better than (compared to) my older brother."

Advanced Notes

The form **비해(서)** originally comes from the verb **비하다** ("to compare.") **비하다** is not used on its own to mean "to compare," and is only used in certain grammatical forms such as this one. Instead, if you want to say "to compare" normally, use the verb **비교(를) 하다** ("to compare," "to make a comparison").

Noun + 에 비하면

Another use of this form is **비하면** ("if one compares"), which is used in the same way as **비해(서)**. This form is much less common. Here's an example.

옛날에 비하면 많이 나아진 거예요.

"It got a lot better, if you compare it to the past."

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!

