Learn Korean Ep. 92: Changing Action Verbs to Adjectives (Part 2 of 2)

This lesson will continue from the previous episode (#92). Review that episode first before beginning this one.

We learned how we can conjugate action verbs in the past, present, and future tenses to use as adjectives. Using these same three forms, and the noun χ ("thing"), we can get a few additional uses.

Let's look at each form one at a time.

Something one does... Action Verb Stem + 는 것

피자는 먹는 거예요. "Pizza is something that you eat."

책은 읽는* 거예요. "A book is something that you read."

* This will be pronounced as "잉는" due to sound change rules.

그 사람이 하는 게 뭐예요? "What is it that he does?"

숙제는 그냥 하는 거죠. "Homework is just something you do."

Something one did... Action Verb Stem + ㄴ/은 것

With the past tense of a verb, we can attach 것 to mean "something one did." For example:

제가 한 것이 아니에요. "I didn't do it."

Or more literally, this sentence could translate as "It's not something that I did."

제가 한 거예요. "I did it."

Or literally, we can translate this as "It's something that I did."

누가 만든 거예요? "Who made it?"

Or more literally, "It's something that who made?"

제가 먹은 것은 뭐였어요? "What was it that I ate?"

Something to... Action Verb Stem + ㄹ/을 것

With the future tense of a verb, we can attach 것 to mean "something to (verb)." For example:

할 게 없어요. "There is nothing to do."

먹을 것을 찾고 있어요. "I am looking for something to eat." 볼 게 없어요. "There is nothing to see."

읽을 것이 없어요. "There is nothing to read."

Or more literally, "There is not a thing to read."

Advanced Notes

The future tense form can also be used with other nouns besides 것. When used with other nouns, its meaning becomes "(noun) to (verb)." This is a very common, standard grammatical construction. Here are just a few common examples:

준비할 시간이 없어요. "There's no time to prepare."

잘 시간이에요. "It's time to sleep"

도와줄 사람이 있어요? "Is there someone who will help?"

읽을 책이 많아요. "There are many books to read."

The forms with 것 are the same construction.

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!

