

## Copular verbs

**Class objective: I will be able to read and understand copular verbs.**

### Concept A: Introduction:

- **Definition** - A copular verb is a special kind of verb used to join an adjective or noun complement to a subject.
- Copulative verbs allow a non-verb to take verbal endings. In Korean this category was created for the affirmative and negative copula.
  - The affirmative copula is 이다 "to be,"  
Eg. 이건 과일이다. This is a fruit.
  - The negative copula 아니다 "not to be."  
Eg. 이건 과일이다. This is not a fruit.

### Concept B: Rules to use Copular verbs

- The **predicate marker** 이다 ("to be") serves as the **Copula**, which links the subject with its complement, that is, the role 'to be' plays in English. For example,  
대나무는 풀이다  
("A bamboo is a grass")
- When the complement, which is suffixed by 이다, ends in a vowel, 이다 contracts into 다 quite often as in following example,  
우리는 친구다  
("We are friends.")
- The past tense of 이다 is 이었다 ("was"). However, if it is attached after a vowel, it is *always* contracted into 였다 ("was"). If not, it *cannot* be contracted. For example,  
이것은 돌이었다.  
(" This was a stone.")  
  
이것은 돌이 아니었다.  
(" This was not a stone.")

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