

~(으)면 (Condition And Supposition)

Class Objective:

I'll be able to express a conditional in Korean.

Introduction:

To create the meaning of “when” or “if,” you can add ~(으)면 to the stem of a verb or adjective.

The purpose of the expression -(으)면 is similar to that in English.

You can use :

- to state a general truth about something OR
- you can express what might happen if a condition is met.

★ In other words, you use the expression -(으)면 to either talk about daily or repetitive occurrences or expressing a supposition on what can happen.

Sentence pattern for using this grammar will be:

- When the verb stem ends in a vowel or ㅁ, -면 is used
- when it ends in a consonant, -으면 is used

Concept A: To generally indicate that when one action occurs, another action occurs

In this usage, the first clause indicates the requirement/basis that is needed to make the event in the second clause occur. This cause-and-effect between the first and second clause is typically common knowledge that usually anybody would know.

Notice in this usage that the events being described are not assumptions but are general facts.

As these sentences are describing a general cause-and-effect – and not some event that happened in the past or will happen in the future, the final clause is typically conjugated in the present tense.

Examples:

1. 비가 오면 날씨가 추워져요 = When/if it rains, the weather gets colder.
2. 잠을 못 자면 다음 날에 몸이 피곤해져요 = When/if you don't sleep well, the next day you will be tired.

Concept B: To indicate that an action occurs whenever another action is repeated

In this usage, every time the first clause occurs, the second clause occurs. For this usage to work, the actions need to be things that are repeated frequently.

Again, as with the previous usage of ~(으)면, these sentences are not describing some event that happened in the past or will happen in the future. Rather, the actions are events that are repeated frequently. Therefore, the final clause of these sentences is typically conjugated in the present tense.

The typical translation for this usage is “whenever...” or “everytime”.

Examples:

1. 피자를 먹으면 저는 콜라를 마셔요 = When/If I eat pizza, I drink cola.

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