

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

In this lesson, we are introducing a verb ending that has a very versatile meaning.

Let's look at the basic structures first. They are all very similar and all end with **-데**, but the words that come right before **"데"** change a bit.

1. **-는데** is used after action verbs, after 있다 and 없다, and after -았 or -겠.
2. **-은데** is used after descriptive verbs that have a last consonant in the verb stem, except for the consonant ㄹ.
3. **-ㄴ데** is used after descriptive verbs that end in a vowel or the consonant ㄹ (in this case, ㄹ is dropped), and after 이다 and 아니다.

Examples

1. 하다 [ha-da] --> 하는데 [ha-neun-de]
2. 있다 [it-da] --> 있는데 [it-neun-de]
3. 먹다 [meok-da] --> 먹는데 [meok-neun-de]
4. 예쁘다 [ye-ppeu-da] --> 예쁜데 [ye-ppeun-de]
5. 작다 [jak-da] --> 작은데 [ja-geun-de]

Usages

The usages of this ending is very diverse.

1. Explaining the background or the situation before making a suggestion, a request, or a question

Ex)

내일 일요일인데, 뭐 할 거예요?

[nae-il i-ryo-il-in-de, mwo hal geo-ye-yo?]

= It's Sunday tomorrow + (-ㄴ 데) + what are you going to do?

2. Explaining the situation before explaining what happened

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

Ex)

어제 자고 있었는데, 한국에서 전화가 왔어요.

[eo-je ja-go i-sseot-neun-de, han-gu-ge-seo jeon-hwa-ga wa-sseo-yo.]

= I was sleeping yesterday + (-는데) + I got a phone call from Korea.

3. Showing a result or situation that is contrasted from the previous action or situation

Ex)

아직 9시인데 벌써 졸려요.

[a-jik a-hop-si-in-de beol-sseo jol-lyeo-yo.]

= It's still 9 o'clock but I am already sleepy.

The second part (after -는데) can be omitted when the meaning can be easily implied.

Ex)

준비 많이 했는데(요)...

[jun-bi ma-ni haet-neun-de...]

= I prepared a lot, but...

4. Showing surprise or exclamation

Ex)

멋있는데(요)!

[meo-sit-neun-de!]

= Oh, that's cool!

5. Asking a question (expecting some explanation about a situation or behavior)

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

Ex)

지금 어디에 있는데(요)?

[ji-geum eo-di-e it-neun-de(yo)?]

= So where are you now?

6. Expecting an answer or a response

Ex)

지금(요)? 지금 바쁜데(요).

[ji-geum(yo)? ji-geum ba-ppeun-de(yo).]

= Now? I'm busy now, so...

Sample sentences

1. 내일 친구 생일인데, 선물을 아직 못 샀어요.

[nae-il chin-gu saeng-il-in-de, seon-mu-reul a-jik mot sa-sseo-yo.]

= It's my friend's birthday tomorrow, but I haven't been able to buy a present.

2. 이거 일본에서 샀는데, 선물이에요.

[i-geo il-bo-ne-seo sat-neun-de, seon-mu-ri-e-yo.]

= I bought this in Japan, and it's a present for you.

3. 오늘 뉴스에서 봤는데, 그거 진짜예요?

[o-neul nyu-seu-e-seo bwat-neun-de, geu-geo jin-jja-ye-yo?]

= I saw it in the news today. Is that for real?

4. 이거 좋은데요!

[i-geo jo-eun-de-yo!]

= I like this! / This is good!

LEVEL 3 LESSON 21

5. 어? 여기 있었는데요.

[eo? yeo-gi i-sseot-neun-de]

= Huh? It was here...

6. 영화 재미있는데, 무서웠어요.

[yeong-hwa jae-mi-it-neun-de, mu-seo-wo-sseo-yo.]

= The movie is interesting, but it was scary.

7. 영화 봤는데, 무서웠어요.

[yeong-hwa bwat-neun-de, mu-seo-weo-sseo-yo.]

= I saw a movie, and it was scary.

8. 저 지금 학생인데, 일도 하고 있어요.

[jeo ji-geum hak-saeng-in-de, il-do ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I am a student now, but I'm working too.