

LEVEL 2 LESSON 10

Here is another lesson about TENSES! In this lesson, we are introducing how to make sentences in the present progressive form (현재 진행형) in Korean.

Examples of present progressive sentences in English.

1. I'm reading a book.
2. What are you watching?
3. He's helping me a lot.

Basic construction:

- to be -ing = Verb stem + -고 있다 [-go it-da]

보다 [bo-da] = to see

보고 있다 [bo-go it-da] = to be seeing

Present progressive:

- am/are/is -ing = Verb stem + -고 있어요 [-go i-sseo-yo]

밖에 비가 오고 있어요. [ba-kke bi-ga o-go i-sseo-yo] = It is raining outside.

밖에 눈이 오고 있어요. [ba-kke nu-ni o-go i-sseo-yo] = It is snowing outside.

밖에 바람이 불고 있어요. [ba-kke ba-ra-mi bul-go i-sseo-yo] = The wind is blowing outside.

Past progressive:

- was/were -ing = Verb stem + -고 있었어요 [-go i-sseo-sseo-yo]

눈이 오고 있었어요. [nu-ni o-go i-sseo-sseo-yo] = It was snowing.

비가 오고 있었어요. [bi-ga o-go i-sseo-sseo-yo] = It was raining.

바람이 불고 있었어요. [ba-ra-mi bul-go i-sseo-sseo-yo] = The wind was blowing.

경은 씨가 자고 있었어요. [kyeong-eun ssi-ga ja-go i-sseo-sseo-yo] = Kyeong-eun was sleeping.

LEVEL 2 LESSON 10

Future progressive:

- will be -ing = Verb stem + -고 있을 거예요 [-go i-sseul geo-ye-yo]

Past and future progressive sentences are commonly used in everyday Korean as well, if you have a thorough understanding of how to use the present progressive form, past and future progressive forms are very easy to use too.

When using present progressive tense, there are two important points to remember:

- 1) Literal translation between Korean present progressive sentences and English present progressive sentences does not always work, especially if you use the present progressive form in English to indicate the future.

For example, if you say “I’m not going to work tomorrow” in English, you are not talking about the present but the future, so in Korean you can not use the -고 있어요 form.

- 2) In everyday conversations, sentences that need to be in the present progressive form do not always take the -고 있어요 form. Korean people often just use the plain present tense form even for sentences that take the present progress tense in English.

LEVEL 2 LESSON 10

Example

Instead of saying:

A: 지금 뭐 하고 있어요? [ji-geum mwo ha-go i-sseo-yo?] = What are you doing now?

B: 공부하고 있어요. [gong-bu-ha-go i-sseo-yo] = I am studying.

many people say:

A: 지금 뭐 해요? [ji-geum mwo hae-yo?] = What are you doing now?

B: 공부해요. [gong-bu-hae-yo] = I am studying.

Sample sentences

일하다 [il-ha-da] = to work

일하고 있어요. [il-ha-go i-sseo-yo] = I am working.

일하고 있었어요. [il-ha-go i-sseo-sseo-yo] = I was working.

일하고 있을 거예요. [il-ha-go i-sseul geo-ye-yo] = I'll be working.

듣다 [deut-da] = to listen

듣고 있어요. [deut-go i-sseo-yo] = I am listening.

듣고 있었어요. [deut-go i-sseo-sseo-yo] = I was listening.

듣고 있을 거예요. [deut-go i-sseul geo-ye-yo] = I will be listening.

LEVEL 2 LESSON 10

Sample sentences by our friends

규환: 너 여기서 뭐 하고 있어요?

[neo yeo-gi-seo mwo ha-go i-sseo-yo?]

= What are you doing here?

여기서 [yeo-gi-seo] = 여기에서 [yeo-gi-e-seo] = here; in this place; at this place

규환: 노숙하고 있어요.

[no-su-ka-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I'm sleeping on the street.

노숙하다 [no-su-ka-da] = to sleep on the street

미경: 지금 당신을 생각하고 있어요.

[ji-geum dang-si-neul saeng-ga-ka-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I'm thinking about you now.

당신 [dang-sin] = you (formal, written language)

효성: 강의가 지루해서 꾸벅꾸벅 졸고 있어요.

[gang-ui-ga ji-ru-hae-seo kku-beok-kku-beok jol-go i-sseo-yo.]

= The lecture is boring so I'm dozing off.

강의 [gang-ui] = lecture, class

지루하다 [ji-ru-ha-da] = to be boring

꾸벅꾸벅 [kku-beok-kku-beok] = an adjective describing the action of dozing off

졸다 [jol-da] = to doze

LEVEL 2 LESSON 10

효성: 잠도 안 자고 영어 공부 하고 있어요.

[jam-do an ja-go yeong-eo gong-bu ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= I have even given up sleep and I'm studying English instead.

석진: 저 사람 봐요. 자면서 이야기하고 있어요.

[jeo sa-ram bwa-yo. ja-myeon-seo i-ya-gi-ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

= Look at that person. He is talking while sleeping.

Q: Yesterday, at this hour, what were you doing?

(= 어제 이 시간에 뭐 하고 있었어요? or 어제 이 시간에 뭐 했어요?)

Sample Dialogue

경은: 지금 뭐 하고 있어요? [ji-geum mwo ha-go i-sseo-yo?]

석진: 공부 하고 있어요. [gong-bu ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

경은: 무슨 공부 하고 있어요? [mu-seun gong-bu ha-go i-sseo-yo?]

석진: 한국어 공부 하고 있어요. [han-gu-geo gong-bu ha-go i-sseo-yo.]

Kyeong-eun: What are you doing now?

Seokjin: I'm studying.

Kyeong-eun: What are you studying?

Seokjin: I'm studying Korean.