

LEVEL 4 LESSON 1

In this lesson, let's look at how to say "the more [A] the more [B]" in Korean.

It is expressed through the verb ending **-을수록** [-eul-su-rok], and the latter "the more [B]" part is expressed through another verb.

Conjugation

- Verb stem + -을수록 [-eul-su-rok]

* Verb stems ending in a vowel are followed by -르수록.

** Verb stems ending with ㄹ are followed by -수록.

Conjugation examples

가다 [ga-da] --> 갈수록 [gal-su-rok] = the more you go, the more ...

예쁘다 [ye-ppeu-da] --> 예쁠수록 [ye-ppeu-su-rok] = the prettier it is, the more ...

비싸다 [bi-ssa-da] --> 비쌀수록 [bi-ssal-su-rok] = the more expensive it is, the more ...

이상하다 [i-sang-ha-da] --> 이상할수록 [i-sang-hal-su-rok] = the stranger it is, the more ...

바쁘다 [bi-ssa-da] --> 바쁠수록 [bi-ssal-su-rok] = the busier you are, the more ...

Usage examples

1.

맛있다 [ma-sit-da] = 맛있 + -을수록 = 맛있을수록 [ma-si-sseul-su-rok]

Ex) 맛있을수록 잘 팔려요. [ma-si-sseul-su-rok jal pal-lyeo-yo.]

= The more delicious it is, the better it sells.

2.

바쁘다 [ba-ppeu-da] = 바쁘 + -르수록 = 바쁠수록 [ba-ppeul-su-rok]

Ex) 바쁠수록 건강이 중요해요. [ba-ppeul-su-rok geon-gang-i jung-yo-hae-yo.]

= The busier you are, the more important your health is.

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3.

사람이 많다 [sa-ra-mi man-ta] = 사람이 많 + -을수록 = 사람이 많을수록 [sa-ra-mi ma-neul-su-rok]

Ex) 사람이 많을수록 좋아요. [sa-ra-mi ma-neul-su-rok jo-a-yo.]

= The more people there are, the better.

Note

Basically, -을수록 means "the more [A], the more [B]", but depending on the context, it can also express the meaning of "Even more so especially when ...", "Especially if ... even more ...", or "Particularly when ...".

Ex)

바쁠수록 잠을 많이 자야 돼요.

[ba-pppeul-su-rok ja-meul ma-ni ja-ya dwae-yo.]

= (lit.) The busier you are, the more you need to sleep.

= You need to sleep even better especially when you are busy.

학생일수록 책을 많이 읽어야 돼요.

[hak-saeng-il-su-rok chae-geul ma-ni il-geo-ya dwae-yo.]

= If you are a student, especially because you are a student, you need to read a lot of books.

Using -을수록 with -(으)면

Using -을수록 on its own is already enough, but sometimes people use -(으)면 and repeat the same verb in front of the "-을수록" part.

바쁠수록 = 바쁘면 바쁠수록

좋을수록 = 좋으면 좋을수록

Ex)

The more, the better.

= 많으면 많을수록 좋아요.

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The cheaper it is, the more you can buy it.

= 싸면 쌀수록 많이 살 수 있어요.

Set expression

The expression “**갈수록**” comes from 가다 + -을수록 and literally means “the more you go”, but it is used as a set phrase that means, “more and more so in time” or “as time goes by”.

갈수록 추워요.

[gal-su-rok chu-wo-yo.]

= It keeps getting colder.

사브린 씨는 갈수록 한국어를 잘 해요.

[sa-beu-rin ssi-neun gal-su-rok han-gu-geo-reul jal hae-yo.]

= Sabrin keeps getting better at her Korean.

Sample sentences

1. 친구는 많을수록 좋아요.

[chin-gu-neun ma-neul-su-rok jo-a-yo.]

= (When it comes to friends,) The more friends you have, the better.

= 친구는 많으면 많을수록 좋아요.

2. 비쌀수록 잘 팔려요.

[bi-ssal-su-rok jal pal-lyeo-yo.]

= The more expensive it is, the better it sells.

= 비싸면 비쌀수록 잘 팔려요.

3. 재미있는 사람일수록 좋아요.

[jae-mi-it-neun sa-ra-mil-su-rok jo-a-yo.]

= The more interesting a person s/he is, the better.

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4. 재미있는 사람일수록 인기가 많아요.

[jae-mi-it-neun sa-ra-mil-su-rok in-gi-ga ma-na-yo.]

= The more interesting a person s/he is, the more popular s/he is.

= If you are an interesting person, it's more likely that you are popular.