

## LEVEL 3 LESSON 18

In this lesson, we are looking at how to say “**nothing but**” or “**only**” in Korean. We already introduced one expression that means “only” in Level 2 Lesson 15, which is -만 [-man].

The expression we are introducing in this lesson consists of two parts:

### “**밖에 + negative verb conjugation**”

The way this works is similar to saying “nothing else but” or “do not do anything other than” in English.

**밖** = outside, outdoors

**밖에** = outside something, other than something, out of the range of something

밖에 + negative verb conjugation = ONLY + verb

### Construction:

Noun + 밖에 + negative conjugation

### Examples:

콜라(를) 마시다 [kol-la(-reul) ma-si-da] = to drink cola

콜라 밖에 안 마시다 [kol-la ba-kke an ma-si-da] = to only drink cola

돈(이) 있다 [do-ni it-da] = to have money

돈(이) 없다 [do-ni eop-da] = to not have money

돈 밖에 없다 [don ba-kke eop-da] = to have nothing but money, to only have money

### Are -만 and 밖에 interchangeable?

The answer is yes and no. Sometimes, they are interchangeable (and of course you have to

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change the verb in the negative form when you use 밖에) but 밖에 is generally more widely used over -만.

You can't use 밖에 with imperative sentences, including -아/어/여 주세요 ("do something for me"). So you have to use -만 with imperative sentences. (i.e. 이것만 주세요 = Give me this one only.)

And when the verb itself has a negative meaning, -만 is more commonly used than 밖에. (i.e. 저는 닭고기만 싫어해요 = I only hate chicken.)

### Sample sentences

1.

한국인 친구가 한 명 밖에 없어요.

[han-gu-gin chin-gu-ga han myeon ba-kke eop-seo-yo.]

= I only have one Korean friend.

한국인 친구는 한 명 밖에 없어요.

[han-gu-gin chin-gu-neun han myeon ba-kke eop-seo-yo.]

= As for Korean friends, I only have one.

2.

한국어 조금 밖에 못 해요.

[han-gu-geo jo-geum ba-kke mot hae-yo.]

= I can only speak a little bit of Korean.

3.

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이것 밖에 없어요?

[i-geot ba-kke eop-seo-yo?]

= This is it?

= You only have this?

4.

우리 고양이는 참치 밖에 안 먹어요.

[u-ri go-yang-i-neun cham-chi ba-kke an meo-geo-yo.]

= My cat only eats tuna.

5.

왜 공부 밖에 안 해요?

[wae gong-bu ba-kke an hae-yo?]

= Why do you only study?