

LEVEL 4 LESSON 17

In the previous lesson, we looked at the spacing rules in Korean. In addition to the "exceptions" of spacing in Korean, which were cases in which two different words (or more) were written together without space, there are also times when certain words are put together to make a new, shorter form. We are going to take a look at word contractions in Korean through a number of lessons, and this is the first part.

Topic marker contractions

1.

저는 [jeo-neun] ---> 전 [jeon]

Ex)

저는 괜찮아요. [jeo-neun gwaen-cha-na-yo.] = I'm alright.

= 전 괜찮아요. [jeon gwaen-cha-na-yo.]

2.

나는 [na-neun] ---> 난 [nan]

Ex)

나는 여기 있을게. [na-neun yeo-gi i-sseul-ge.] = I'll stay here.

= 난 여기 있을게. [nan yeo-gi i-sseul-ge.]

3.

이것은 [i-geo-seun] ---> 이거는 [i-geo-neun] ---> 이건

Ex)

이것은 뭐예요? [i-geo-seun mwo-ye-yo?] = What is this?

이건 뭐예요? [i-geon mwo-ye-yo?]

4.

서울에는 [seo-u-re-neun] ---> 서울엔 [seo-u-ren]

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Ex)

서울에는 왜 왔어요? [seo-u-re-neun wae wa-sseo-yo?] = What brings you to Seoul?

서울엔 왜 왔어요? [seo-u-ren wae wa-sseo-yo?]

5.

어제는 [eo-je-neun] --> 어젠 [eo-jen]

Ex)

어제는 왜 안 왔어요? [eo-je-neun wae an wa-sseo-yo?] = Why didn't you come yesterday?

어젠 왜 안 왔어요? [eo-jen wae an wa-sseo-yo?]