

LEVEL 2 LESSON 7

In this lesson, let us learn how to say 'to' someone, and 'from' someone. Before you learn these expressions, please remember that when it comes to particles that link words together, there aren't always direct (and correct) translations between English and Korean. So it is important to understand the characteristics and roles of these particles and words, rather than just memorizing the similar counterparts in English.

To say "to someone" or "from someone", you can use the words 한테 [han-te] and 한테서 [han-te-seo]. There are words that have the same characteristics, which are 에게 [e-ge] and 에게서 [e-ge-seo], but since 에게 and 에게서 are mainly used in written language, let us focus on 한테 and 한테서 in this lesson.

한테 [han-te] = "to" someone, "from" someone

한테서 [han-te-seo] = "from" someone

Notice the difference?

Yes, just like you are thinking now, 한테 and 한테서 have mixed meanings and functions. And especially 한테 can mean 'to' and 'from'. So the meaning can only be completely understood through looking at the context.

Although 한테 and 한테서 have the meaning of "to" or "from", you can only use them about people. You can not use these words about objects or places.

- "to a friend" = friend + 한테 (O)

- "to Seoul" = Seoul + 한테 (X)

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Examples

저한테 [jeo-han-te] = to me, from me

친 구한테 [chin-gu-han-te] = to a friend, from a friend

누구한테 [nu-gu-han-te] = to whom, from whom

저 한테서 [jeo-han-te-seo] = from me

친구한테서 [chin-gu-han-te-seo] = from a friend

누구한테서 [nu-gu-han-te-seo] = from whom

** When used with a verb that already expresses a passive voice, 한테 can mean "by" as well.

For example, 맞다 [mat-da] means "to be correct" but in another meaning, it can be "to be beaten" or "to be hit". So A에게 맞다 can be translated as "to be beaten by A".

Sample sentences by our friends

경미: 남자친구한테 차였어요.

[nam-ja-chin-gu-han-te cha-yeo-sseo-yo.]

= I was dumped by my boyfriend.

남자친구 [nam-ja-chin-gu] = boyfriend

차이다 [cha-i-da] = to be dumped

규환: 너한테서 풍기는 암내가 진국이에요.

[neo-han-te-seo pung-gi-neun am-nae-ga jin-gu-gi-e-yo.]

= Your armpit smell is terrible.

풍기다 [pung-gi-da] = give off a smell

암내 [am-nae] = armpit smell

진국이다 [jin-guk-i-da] = to be very strong, to be very hardcore, to be superb

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규환: 저한테 암내 나요?

[jeo-han-te-seo am-nae-na-yo?]

= Do I have a strong armpit smell?

나다 [na-da] = to give off a smell

란: 그건 전 남자친구한테서 받은 거예요.

[geu-geon jeon nam-ja-chin-gu-han-te-seo ba-deun geo-ye-yo.]

= That one? I received it from my ex-boyfriend.

전 남자친구 [jeon nam-ja-chin-gu] = ex-boyfriend

받다 [bat-da] = to receive

란: 그 남자한테 얻을 건 별로 없을 거예요.

[geu nam-ja-han-te eo-deul geon byeol-lo eop-seul geo-ye-yo.]

= You won't be getting much out of him.

얻다 [eot-da] = to obtain, to acquire, to get

별로 [byeol-lo] = not so much, not much

석진: 너한테 할 말이 있어.

[neo-han-te hal ma-ri i-sseo.]

= I have something to say to you.