

## LEVEL 3 LESSON 22

In this lesson, let's have a look at the expression **-(으)ㄹ 수도 있다** [-(-eu)l su-do it-da]. In fact, this is a combination of two grammar points that we covered in our previous lessons.

**-(으)ㄹ 수도 있다** can be broken down into two parts:

1. **-(으)ㄹ 수 있다** was introduced in Level 2 Lesson 17 and it means **"can, to be able to"**.
2. **-도** was introduced in Level 2 Lesson 13 and it means **"also, too"**.

When these two expressions are combined into **-(으)ㄹ 수도 있다**, it means "it could..." "it's possible that..." or "it might...". In order to understand why **-(으)ㄹ 수도 있다** takes such meanings, we need to have a closer look at the expression **-(으)ㄹ 수 있다** first.

Basically, the word **수** [su] is a noun that is most commonly used in this structure and means "way" "method" or "idea". So **-(으)ㄹ 수 있다** means "there is a way to do...", "there is an idea for doing..." or "there is a possibility for doing...".

Therefore when the meaning of **-도** [-do], which is "also" or "too", is added to this, the sentence takes the meaning of "there is also the possibility of ...".

So even though sometimes **-(으)ㄹ 수도 있다** COULD mean "to be also able to do something", it usually means "it might" "it could" or "perhaps...".

### Examples

1. **알다** [al-da] = to know (something, someone)

--> **알 수도 있다** [al su-do it-da] = might know (something, someone)

Ex) 제 친구가 알 수도 있어요. [je chin-gu-ga al su-do i-sseo-yo]

= My friend might know (the person / the thing).

2. **만나다** [man-na-da] = to meet

--> **만날 수도 있다** [man-nal su-do it-da] = might meet

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Ex) 내일 다시 만날 수도 있어요. [nae-il da-si man-nal su-do i-sseo-yo]  
= We might meet again tomorrow.

3. 작다 [jak-da] = to be small

--> **작을 수도 있어요** [ja-geul su-do i-sseo-yo] = might be small

Ex) 모자가 작을 수도 있어요. [mo-ja-ga ja-geul su-do i-sseo-yo]  
= The hat could be small.

### Sample sentences

1. 저 내일 올 수도 있어요.

[jeo nae-il ol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= I might come here tomorrow.

2. 저 내일 안 올 수도 있어요.

[jeo nae-il an ol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= I might not come here tomorrow.

3. 저 내일 못 올 수도 있어요.

[jeo nae-il mot ol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= I might not be able to come here tomorrow.

4. 이거 가짜일 수도 있어요.

[i-geo ga-jja-il su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= This might be fake.

5. 정말 그럴 수도 있어요.

[jeong-mal geu-reol su-do i-sseo-yo.]

= It might really be so.