

LEVEL 4 LESSON 16

Among the many rules that you need to know in order to speak fluent Korean, one thing that we have not covered yet is spacing. After learning so much about other grammar points, we feel that now is the right time to look at spacing.

Spacing rules in Korean

Spacing in Korean is basically not so difficult to understand, but it is still very different from English. Independent words can be written separately (with a space between two words), but there are cases in which you should NOT have a space between two words.

There should be a space between:

1. an adjective and a noun

Ex) 예쁜 강아지 [ye-ppeun gang-a-ji] = a pretty puppy

2. an adverb and a verb

Ex) 조용히 걷다 [jo-yong-hi geot-da] = to walk quietly

3. a noun (+ marker) and a verb

Ex) 이거(를) 샀어요. [i-geo(-reul) sa-sseo-yo.] = I bought this.

4. a noun and another noun

Ex) 한국 여행 [han-guk yeo-haeng] = trip to Korea

5. before a noun

There is no space between:

1. a noun/pronoun and a marker

Ex) 저 + 는 = 저는 [jeo-neun] = I + subject marker

2. nouns in a proper name (if they choose their name to be in that format)

Ex) 한국관광공사 [han-guk-gwan-gwang-gong-sa] = Korea Tourism Organization

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Exceptions:

1. Words that have formed fixed expressions can be written together without space.

- 이 + 것 = 이 것 --> 이것

- 여자 친구 = 여자친구

(This is very commonly found in sino-Korean words.)

2. "Noun + 하다"

- 공부(를) 하다 = 공부 하다 ---> 공부하다

- 운동(을) 하다 = 운동 하다 ---> 운동하다