

LEVEL 4 LESSON 19

We have looked at how to say "more" and "most" in Korean in our previous lessons. Now in this lesson, let us take a look at how to say "less".

덜 [deol] = **less**

While in English, the word "less" can be used as a noun as well as an adverb/adjective, the Korean word 덜 can only be used as an adverb (modifying verbs only).

Examples:

1. 덜 먹다 [deol meok-da] = to eat (something) less
2. 덜 쓰다 [deol sseu-da] = to use (something) less
3. 덜 춥다 [deol chup-da] = to be less cold
4. 덜 비싸다 [deol bi-ssa-da] = to be less expensive

Sample phrases:

1. 어제보다 덜 추워요. [eo-je-bo-da deol chu-wo-yo.]
= It's less cold than yesterday.
2. 덜 비싼 것 없어요? [deol bi-ssan geot eop-seo-yo?]
= Don't you have a less expensive one?
3. 물은 더 마시고, 술은 덜 마셔야 돼요. [mu-reun deo ma-si-go, su-reun deol ma-syeo-ya dwae-yo.]
= You should drink more water and less alcohol.

덜 can also mean **"not completely yet"**.

덜 basically means "less" but it can also mean "not fully" or "not completely yet". And naturally, the opposite word is 다 [da], which means "all" or "completely".

1.

A: 그 맥주 다 마셨어요?

[geu maek-ju da ma-syeo-sseo-yo?]

LEVEL 4 LESSON 19

Did you drink all of that beer?

B: 아니요. 다 안 마셨어요. 덜 마셨어요.

[a-ni-yo. da an ma-syeo-sseo-yo. deol ma-syeo-sseo-yo.]

No, I didn't drink all of it. I haven't finished it yet.

2.

A: 다 왔어요?

[da wa-sseo-yo?]

Are we there yet?

B: 덜 왔어요.

[deol wa-sse-yo.]

We are not there yet.

3.

A: 제 책 돌려주세요.

[je chaek dol-lyeo-ju-se-yo.]

Give me my book back.

B: 아직 덜 봤어요.

[a-jik deol bwa-sseo-yo.]

I haven't finished it yet.