

LEVEL 4 LESSON 9

In the previous lesson, we looked at how to say "it is okay to..." in Korean. Now in this lesson, let us look at how to say **"you shouldn't..."** or **"you're not supposed to..."** in Korean.

The main structure is:

Verb stem + **-(으)면 안 되다** [- (eu)myeon an doe-da]

-(으)면 안 되다 can be broken into two parts: **-(으)면** and **안 되다**

-(으)면 means "if" (Go to Level 2 Lesson 23 to review). 되다 means "to work", "to function", "to be possible" or "can do", therefore 안 되다 means "it can't be done", "it's not possible" or "it is not okay".

Therefore, **-(으)면 안 되다** literally means **"it is not okay if..."** or **"it is not acceptable if..."**, and it can be more naturally translated to English as **"you shouldn't..."** or **"you're not supposed to..."**

Examples:

1. 열다 [yeol-da] = to open

열면 안 돼요. [yeol-myeon an dwae-yo.] = You shouldn't open it. You are not supposed to open it.

(Opposite: 열어도 돼요. [yeo-reo-do dwae-yo.] = It's okay to open it. You can go ahead and open it.)

2. 만지다 [man-ji-da] = to touch

만지면 안 돼요. [man-ji-myeon an dwae-yo.] = You shouldn't touch it. You can't touch it.

(Opposite: 만져도 돼요. [man-jyeo-do dwae-yo.] = It's okay to touch it. You can go ahead and touch it.)

More Verb Conjugation Practice:

1. 던지다 [deon-ji-da] = to throw

You should not throw it. = 던지면 안 돼요. [deon-ji-myeon an dwae-yo.]

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It's okay to throw it. = 던져도 돼요. [deon-jyeo-do dwae-yo.]

2. 팔다 [pal-da] = to sell

You should not sell it. = 팔면 안 돼요. [pal-myeon an dwae-yo.]

It's okay to sell it. = 팔아도 돼요. [pa-ra-do dwae-yo.]

3. 말하다 [mal-ha-da] = to tell, to talk

You should not tell/talk. = 말하면 안 돼요. [ma-ra-myeon an dwae-yo.]

It's okay to tell/talk. = 말해도 돼요. [ma-rae-do dwae-yo.]