

LEVEL 1 LESSON 17

In the previous lesson, we looked at the basic way of conjugating the verbs in the dictionary form into the **present tense** form. Do you remember how?

Verb stems ending with vowels **ㅏ** [o] or **ㅑ** [a] are followed by **아요** [a-yo].

Verb stems ending with vowels OTHER THAN **ㅏ** or **ㅑ** are followed by **어요** [eo-yo].

Verb stem **하** is followed by **여요** [yeo-yo].

Now it's time to learn how to change verbs into the **past tense**.

If you understand how to change verbs into the present tense, understanding how to change them into the past tense is just as easy. A similar rule is applied to making past tense sentences, and the endings are:

았어요 [a-sseo-yo]

었어요 [eo-sseo-yo]

였어요 [yeo-sseo-yo]

You can add those to the verb stems, or you can think of it as just replacing the "요" at the end of present tense sentences with **-었어요** [ss-eo-yo].

Verb stems ending with vowels **ㅏ** [o] or **ㅑ** [a] are followed by **았어요** [a-sseo-yo].

Verb stems ending with vowels other than **ㅏ** or **ㅑ** are followed by **었어요** [eo-sseo-yo].

Verb stem **하** is followed by **였어요** [yeo-sse-yo].

Let's take a look at some examples.

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사다 [sa-da] = to buy

Verb stem = 사 [sa]

** You drop the final 다 [da] from any verb and you get the verb stem.

Past tense

= 사 + 았어요 [sa + a-sseo-yo]

= **샀어요** [sa-sseo-yo]

= I bought / you bought / she bought / he bought / they bought / etc.

오다 [o-da] = to come

Verb stem = 오 [o]

Past tense

= 오 + 았어요 [o + a-sseo-yo]

= **왔어요** [wa-sseo-yo]

= I came / you came / he came / they came / she came / we came / etc.

적다 [jeok-da] = to write down

Verb stem = 적 [jeok]

Past tense

= 적 + 었어요 [jeok + eo-sseo-yo]

= **적었어요** [jeo-geo-sseo-yo]

= I wrote / you wrote / he wrote / she wrote / they wrote / we wrote / etc.

하다 [ha-da] = to do

Verb stem = 하 [ha]

Past tense

= 하 + 였어요 [ha + yeo-sseo+yo]

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= **했어요** [hae-sseo-yo]

= I did / you did / he did / they did / etc.

More sample verbs in the present tense and the past tense

1.

먹다 [meok-da] (Verb stem = 먹 [meok]) = to eat

Present Tense: **먹어요** [meo-geo-yo]

Past Tense: **먹었어요** [meo-geo-sseo-yo]

2.

잡다 [jap-da] (Verb stem = 잡 [jap]) = to catch

Present Tense: **잡아요** [ja-ba-yo]

Past Tense: **잡았어요** [ja-ba-sseo-yo]

3.

팔다 [pal-da] (Verb stem = 팔 [pal]) = to sell

Present Tense: **팔아요** [pa-ra-yo]

Past Tense: **팔았어요** [pa-ra-sseo-yo]

4.

놀다 [nol-da] (Verb stem = 놀 [nol]) = to play, to hang out

Present Tense: **놀아요** [no-ra-yo]

Past Tense: **놀았어요** [no-ra-sseo-yo]

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5.

쓰다 [sseu-da] (Verb stem = 쓰 [sseu]) = to write, to use

Present Tense: **써요** [sseo-yo] (NOT 쓰어요)

Past Tense: **썼어요** [sseo-sseo-yo]

6.

기다리다 [gi-da-ri-da] (Verb stem = 기다리 [gi-da-ri]) = to wait

Present Tense: **기다려요** [gi-da-ryeo-yo] (NOT 기다리어요)

Past Tense: **기다렸어요** [gi-da-ryeo-sseo-yo]

7.

이상하다 [i-sang-ha-da] (Verb stem = 이상하 [i-sang-ha]) = to be strange

Present Tense: **이상해요** [i-sang-hae-yo] (NOT 이상하여요)

Past Tense: **이상했어요** [i-sang-hae-sseo-yo]

8.

멋있다 [meo-sit-da] (Verb stem = 멋있 [meo-sit]) = to be cool, to be awesome

Present Tense: **멋있어요** [meo-si-sseo-yo]

Past Tense: **멋있었어요** [meo-si-sseo-sseo-yo]