

LEVEL 3 LESSON 14

In the previous lesson, we looked at how to conjugate descriptive verbs and make adjectives in Korean. You are now familiar with the fact that Korean and English have different systems when it comes to using adjectives. But that's not it. In this lesson, let us look at how to make adjectives out of verbs.

Again, "adjectives" are a part of speech that modifies nouns (usually) in front of them (i.e. "good" in "good idea" and "awesome" in "awesome music"). And in Korean, not only descriptive verbs but also "action verbs" can be used as adjectives, or more precisely, used in the form of adjectives.

Example of descriptive verbs used as adjectives

Nice person (nice + person)

= descriptive verb 좋다 + 사람 = 좋은 사람

Fun game (fun + game)

= descriptive verb 어렵다 + 게임 = 어려운 게임

Examples of action verbs used as adjectives

노래하는 사람 [no-rae-ha-neun sa-ram]

= 노래하다 (to sing) + 사람 (person)

= (the/a) person who sings

좋아하는 책 [jo-a-ha-neun chaek]

= 좋아하다 (to like) + 책 (book)

= (the/a) book that I like

---> book who likes (x)

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As you can see above, when verbs are changed into the form of adjectives, the meaning can depend on the context, so what you have to do is just know that the adjective is somehow modifying the noun, and from the overall context, figure out what the adjective part means.

Conjugation

: Verb stem + -는

(Verb stems ending with ㄹ drop the ㄹ and are followed by -는)

The adjective part in certain sentences can be longer than just one word.

For example:

좋아하다 [jo-a-ha-da] = to like, to love

Adjective form: 좋아하는 [jo-a-ha-neun]

좋아하는 책 = a book that I/you/they/someone like(s)

내가(제가) 좋아하는 책 = a book that I like

(Here, "내가 좋아하는" is the adjective part.)

내가(제가) 안 좋아하는 책 = a book that I don't like

(Here, "내가(제가) 안 좋아하는 책" is the adjective part.)

Depending on the context and the use of particles, the entire meaning can change.

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Now you know that 좋아하는 is the adjective form of 좋아하다 and that it means "that I/ someone like(s). But the meaning can change depending on which particle is used.

Example:

좋아하는 사람 [jo-a-ha-neun sa-ram]

= someone that someone likes

= someone I like

민지가 좋아하는 사람 [min-ji-ga jo-a-ha-neun sa-ram]

= someone that Minji likes

민지를 좋아하는 사람 [min-ji-reul jo-a-ha-neun sa-ram]

= someone that likes Minji

Sample sentences

1. 이 노래는 제가 좋아하는 노래예요.

[i no-rae-neun je-ga jo-a-ha-neun no-rae-ye-yo.]

= This song is a song that I like.

2. 자주 먹는 한국 음식 있어요?

[ja-ju meok-neun han-guk eum-sik i-sseo-yo?]

= Is there any Korean food that you eat often?

3. 자주 가는 카페 있어요?

[ja-ju ga-neun ka-pe i-sseo-yo?]

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= Is there a cafe that you go to often?

4. 요즘 좋아하는 가수는 누구예요?

[yo-jeum jo-a-ha-neun ga-su-neun nu-gu-ye-yo?]

= Which singer do you like these days?

5. 요즘 공부하고 있는 외국어는 일본어예요.

[yo-jeum gong-bu-ha-go it-neun oe-gu-geo-neun il-bo-neo-ye-yo.]

= The foreign language I am studying these day is Japanese.

6. 눈이 오는 날에는 영화 보고 싶어요.

[nu-ni o-neun na-re-neun yeong-hwa bo-go si-peo-yo.]

= On a day when it snows, I want to see a movie.

7. 저기 있는 사람, 아는 사람이에요?

[jeo-gi it-neun sa-ram, a-neun sa-ra-mi-e-yo?]

= That person who is over there, is it someone that you know?

8. 배 고피 사람 (있어요)?

[bae go-peun sa-ram (i-sseo-yo)?]

= Anybody (who is) hungry?