

Learn Korean Ep. 57: Sentence Structure

Let's learn about basic Korean sentence structure.

Basic Korean Sentence Structure

What's sentence structure? Well, take a look at this example sentence in English:

"I yesterday the dog walked at night the store to."

Sentence structure is how words or phrases are put together in a language - like syntax. In Korean, it's important to use proper sentence structure, or your sentences can be confusing. Let's take a look at some basic sentence structure forms to use.

First of all, English is a **Subject Verb Object** language, meaning the subject goes first, followed by a verb, and then the object. In the sentence "I kicked the ball," "I" is the *subject*, "kicked" is the *verb*, and "the ball" is the *object*. Korean, however, works using a **Subject Object Verb** structure. In Korean, the same sentence would therefore be organized as "I the ball kicked." This is perhaps the most basic thing to learn about the Korean language. Once you have a good understanding of how Korean puts objects before verbs, then learning everything else can come a bit more quickly.

저는 과자를 먹어요.

"I eat snacks."

Not only objects, but locations also will go before a verb.

저는 학교에 가요.

"I go to school."

This is the same order for going to a location as it is when there's something at or in a location.

저는 학교에서 공부해요.

"I study at school."

But sentences aren't this simple in any language. You also want to say *when* something happens too.

In English, we most often add the time that something happens at the beginning of a sentence, or at the very end of a sentence; in Korean, it is most commonly added to the *beginning* of a sentence or phrase. Take whatever normal sentence you were making without a time, and add the time right at the beginning.

오늘 저는 학교에서 공부할 거예요.

"Today I will study at school."

It's also acceptable to add the time after the subject.

저는 오늘 학교에서 공부할 거예요.

"Today I will study at school."

Doing this will have the same meaning, but it'll make the time a bit more emphasized.

When you want to be a bit more specific, state time going from the largest units to the smallest ones. For example:

오늘 오후 2 시 30 분에 학교에 가요.

"Today I'm going to school at 2:30 P.M."

"Today" is the largest unit of time, followed by the time of day - here 오후, P.M., followed by the hour, and then the minute.

But sentences like this can be a bit bland. There are no adverbs or adjectives, which help to add depth to sentences by adding more information to them.

In English, we can put adverbs after verbs, or before. The sentences "I dance slowly" or "I slowly dance" can both be fine in English, but in Korean things don't work that way. Adverbs in Korean should be added *directly before* the verb they're describing.

내일 집에서 열심히 공부할 거예요.
"Tomorrow I'll study hard at home."

Fortunately, adjectives work the same way as they do in English. Put an adjective *directly before* the noun it's describing in a sentence.

저는 더러운 방에서 공부할 수 없어요.
"I can't study in a dirty room."

If you have multiple adjectives, connect them together, and conjugate just the last one before the noun.

저는 크고 맛있는 케이크를 먹고 싶어요.
"I want to eat a big and delicious cake."

Conclusion

If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message through my web site or on YouTube. Good luck in your studies!

