

한국어 학교

Verb & Adjective conjugation

Week 12

In Hangul both adjectives and verbs conjugate. How a word conjugates depends upon a few rules, such as if the word ends in vowel or consonant, what the ending sound is and a few more rules that we'll look closer at in a moment.

Let's start with something that is familiar. As a native English speaker you conjugate all of the time, you just are not aware of it. Saying things like learn, learning and learned is conjugation!

In English, conjugation of "to be" looks like this:

Infinitive: **(to)be**
 Present Participle: **being**
 Past participle: **been**

<i>Person,Number</i>		<i>Present</i>	<i>Past</i>
1st,singular	I	am	was
2nd,singular	you	are	were
3rd,singular	he/she/it	is	was
1st,plural	we	are	were
2nd,plural	you	are	were
3rd,plural	they	are	were

Notes:

In English, conjugation means to make a systematic list of all forms of the verb for each person, number, and tense.

"To be" is the most irregular verb in the English language.

In Hangul, adjectives also conjugate!

In English we conjugate verbs to show differences in tense or person (i.e. he,she,you,they). In Hangul, conjugation does this as well but it also adds meaning, changes level of politeness and more. In Hangul nouns, adjectives and verbs all can conjugate!

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Now on to Hangul conjugation!

The **first** step in Hangul conjugation is to remove the infinitive and look at the root word, which is also called the stem!

Examples of stems and their infinitives:

가다	(to go)	Note Infinitives are in red. Stems are in blue.
배우다	(to learn)	
던지다	(to throw)	
빠르다	(to be fast)	

Both Hangul and English uses infinitives. In English, infinitives begin with “to” as in “to go” or “to eat.” In Hangul infinitives are similar, only infinitives are placed at the end of the word and use ~다 such as 가다 (to go) or 살다 (to live).

Adjectives can also conjugate, which is different from English! An example would be 얇다 (thin) which conjugates to 얇은 (to thin) or 싼 (cheap) which conjugates to 싸다 (to cheap). This is hard for English speakers, you wouldn’t say “to thin” or “it cheap” you would say “to be thin” or “to be cheap” so you can think of conjugated adjectives as though they are saying “to be”

On the upside, Korean verbs are easier to conjugate because all of them conjugate in the same manner, no matter if they are first, second or third person or the number of people being referred to!

Example: In English “to be” varies in conjugation while 이다 (to be) *always* conjugates to 이에요 in the informal polite style. This makes is easy!

In English	In Hangul
I am American.	나는 미국 사람 이에요.
He is American.	그는 미국 사람 이에요.
They are Americans.	그들은 미국 사람들 이에요.

The **next** step in conjugation is to examine the stems for the following situations:

1. Look to see if the word ends in a consonant or vowel.
2. Regardless of the actual ending letter, look to see what the final vowel sound is.
3. Next, see if the stem ends in ㄹ.
4. Last, look to see if the word ends in 하다 (These are called 하다 verbs or adjectives.)

These different types of stems may be referred to using the following abbreviations:

- S_v is a stem ending in a vowel
- S_c is a stem ending in a consonant
- S_ㄹ is a stem ending with ㄹ
- S_하 is a stem ending with 하
- S_{ㅏ,ㅑ} are stems that end with either ㅏ or ㅑ

Now let's look at the different conjugation patterns in Hangul.

1. S+ ending

This conjugation pattern includes endings that can go directly on the end of a verb or adjective. These are sometimes called free, meaning no special rule is needed. Simply take off the infinitive and add the conjugate.

Examples of S+ endings:

~고 and Examples: 사고 (buy and...)
빠르고 (fast and...)

~거나 or Example: 사거나 (buy or...)
빠르거나 (fast or...)

~지만 but Example: 사지만 (buy butt...)
빠르지만 (fast but...)

~자 let's Example: 사자 (let's buy 'it')

2. Sv + ending and Sc + ending

This conjugation is free if it doesn't end in ㄹ. If it does end in ㄹ drop it before conjugating. The most common ending in this pattern is ~는 which turns verbs into noun modifiers. ~는 cannot be added to adjectives! There are other endings, but we're doing this one for now.

Examples:

가다 (to go) → 가+는 (something that goes)

가는 남자 (man that goes)

살다 (to live) → 살다 Remove infinitive and ㄹ then add 는 to get =사는

사는 남자 (man that lives)

More examples:

학교를 가는 아이.
School (obj. particle) to go child.

학교를 가는 아이들.
School (obj. particle) to go children.

3. Sv + ending, S ㄹ + ending, Sc + 으 + ending

We will use 가다 (to go) and 예쁘다 (pretty) for this conjugate pattern. They end in a vowel so you do not need the ~으 . Additional example will be 살다 (to live).

We will also use ~면 which adds the meaning “if” to the stem. The following are examples of this pattern of conjugation.

가 + 면 = 가면 (if it goes) → Remember this starts as 가다, you the remove the infinitive (~다) and add the ending (~면)

살 + 면 = 살면 (if it lives) → This starts as 살다, you remove the infinitive (~다) and add the ending (~면)

먹 + 으 + 면 = 먹으면 (if it eats) → This starts as 먹다 but you the remove the infinitive (~다) and add the ending (~면)

예쁘 + 면 = 예쁘면 (if it's pretty) → This starts as 예쁘다 but you the remove the infinitive (~다) and add the ending (~면)

Funny saying= “ 예쁘면 용사해줘.” Means “if she’s pretty , forgive her anything.” Note that the word “she” is not in this, that is implied.

4. Sv + ending, S ㄹ + ending, Sc + 으, ㄴ, 스 + ending

In this pattern you need to look if final character on stem is vowel or consonant. If it is a vowel, just put the ending onto it. If it ends in a consonant you put either 으, ㄴ, 스 on it, depending on the ending. If it ends in ㄹ you remove it, similar to pattern two.

We will use ~ㄴ and ~은 as the conjugative endings for this section. This is a past-tense modifying conjugative ending. So basically when added to verbs & adjectives it makes them past-tense noun modifiers.

가 + ㄴ = 간 (Something that went)

살 + ㄹ + ㄴ = 산 (Something that lived) (note there are two other words like 살, which are 살다 (to live) and 사다 (to buy). Which is meant depends on context.

높 + 으 + ㄴ = 높은 (something that is tall or “higher”)

5. S ㅏ, ㅑ + ending 1 (~아) / S anything else + ending 2 (~어) / S 하 + ending 3 (~여)

This patterning of conjugation includes the following conjugative endings:

“it is”	“because”	Past tense “was” or “did”
~아	~아서	~았어
~어	~어서	~었어
~여	~어서	~였어

While it does look like a lot, notice that they all start with with 아, 어, 여. Examples of this pattern of conjugation.

1. 가 + 아 = 가
 가 + 아서 = 가서
 가 + 아요 = 가요 (it goes)

2. 서 + 어요 = 서요 (it stops)
 서 + 어 = 서
 서 + 어서 = 서서 (standing/rest/stop)

- 검다 (to be black)
 검 + 어 = 검어 (It's black)
 검 + 어서 + 검어서 (because it's black)

3. 공부하 + 여 = 공부해 (studied)
 공부하 + 여서 = 공부해서 (studying)
 공부하 + 여요 = 공부해요 (it studies)

- 행복하 + 여요 = 행복해요 (it is happy)
 행복하 + 여서 = 행복해서 (happy to...)

Notes
