

## Lesson 33: 그래서 and 아/어/여서

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In this lesson, you will learn how to use the adverb **그래서** and the ending **아/어/여서** to express the cause or reason for something. **그래서** and **아/어/여서** are similar to the words 'therefore' or 'so' in English. By the end of this lesson, you will be able to say things like "I went to bed last night, **so** I'm tired now.", "It's raining now, **so** I can't exercise.", etc.

### KEY INFORMATION

**그래서** = Adverb that means 'so' or 'therefore'.

**아/어/여서** = Ending that means 'so' or 'therefore'.

### 그래서

**그래서** is an adverb that means 'so' or 'therefore' in Korean. It connects two sentences when the preceding sentence is the reason or cause of the following sentence. **그래서** is always placed at the beginning of the following sentence. Let's look at some examples.

이 옷이 작아요. = **These clothes are small.**

못 입어요. = **I can't wear them.**

이 옷이 작아요. 그래서 못 입어요. = **These clothes are small. So, I can't wear them.**

오늘 날씨가 좋아요. = **The weather is good today.**

산책하고 싶어요. = **I want to go for a walk.**

오늘 날씨가 좋아요. 그래서 산책하고 싶어요. = **The weather is good today. So, I want to go for a walk.**

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### 아/어/여서

아/어/여서 is an ending that means 'so' or 'therefore' in Korean. It is used to connect two clauses in the same sentence. 아/어/여서 is attached to the verb stem in the first clause. Let's look at some examples.

내일 시험이 있어요. = ***I have an exam tomorrow.***

지금 공부해야 돼요. = ***I should study now.***

내일 시험이 있어서 지금 공부해야 돼요. = ***I have an exam tomorrow, so I should study now.***

지금 비가 와요. = ***It's raining now.***

운동을 못 해요. = ***I can't exercise.***

지금 비가 와서 운동을 못 해요. = ***It's raining now, so I can't exercise.***

### 아/어/여서 Conjugation Rules

Conjugation Rule	Examples
Last vowel In Verb Stem is ㅏ or ㅑ + 아서	살다 ( <b><i>to live</i></b> ) → 살아서
Last vowel In Verb Stem is NOT ㅏ or ㅑ + 어서	먹다 ( <b><i>to eat</i></b> ) → 먹어서
Verb Ends In 하다 + 여서	일하다 ( <b><i>to work</i></b> ) → 일해서

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### Things To Note

When using 아/어/여서 to express the reason for an action that took place in the past, the past tense ending is not attached to the verb preceding 아/어/여서. Here is an example:

***I went to bed late last night. So, I feel tired today. =***

어제 밤에 늦게 자서 오늘 피곤해요. (O)

어제 밤에 늦게 잤어서 오늘 피곤해요. (X)

Another thing to note is that with 감사합니다 (*Thank you*) and 죄송합니다 (*Sorry*) 아/어/어서 is used and not 그래서. Here are some examples:

늦어서 죄송합니다. = ***I'm sorry to be late.***

(lit. "I'm late, so I am sorry.")

도와주셔서 감사합니다. = ***Thank you for helping me.***

(Lit. "You helped me, so thanks.")

### Example Sentences

왜 한국어를 배워요?

= ***Why do you learn Korean?***

한국에 가고 싶어요. 그래서 한국어를 배워요.

= ***I want to go to Korea. So, I learn Korean.***

왜 택시를 탔어요?

= ***Why did you take a taxi?***

늦게 일어나서 택시를 탔어요.

= ***I woke up late, so I took a taxi.***

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왜 기분이 안 좋아요?

= **Why do you feel bad? (Lit. "Why mood is not good?")**

친구하고 싸웠어요. 그래서 기분이 안 좋아요.

= **I had an argument with my friend. So, I feel bad.**

왜 병원에 갔어요?

= **Why did you go to the hospital?**

배가 아파서 병원에 갔어요.

= **My stomach hurt, so I went to the hospital.**