

Lesson 52: 는 것

In this lesson, you will learn how to change verbs into nouns using **는 것**. This is similar to the 'gerund' form in English, which is a verb that is used as a noun. For example, consider the word 'eating'. In the sentence "I am eating.", 'eating' is a verb, whereas in the sentence "I like eating.", 'eating' is a noun (gerund). By the end of this lesson, you'll be able to take any verb and change it into its noun form and use it in a variety of sentences.

KEY INFORMATION

는 것 = used to change verbs into nouns

Conjugation: Verb Stem + **는 것**

는 것 is used to change verbs into nouns and is similar to the gerund form (-ing) in English. **는 것** is often used in written language, whereas in spoken language, the shorter **는 거** form is commonly used. Compared to **는 거**, **는 것** sounds a little more formal. Here are some examples of verbs changed into nouns using **는 것**:

타다 = to ride

타는 것 = riding (noun form)

저는 자전거 타는 것을 좋아해요. = **I like riding a bike.**

등산하다 = to hike

등산하는 것 = hiking (noun form)

저는 등산하는 것을 싫어해요. = **I hate hiking.**

걷다 = to walk

걷는 것 = walking (noun form)

다리가 아파서 걷는 것이 힘들어요. = **My legs hurt, so walking is difficult.**

보다 = to watch

보는 것 = watching (noun form)

영화를 보는 것은 제 취미예요. = **Watching movies is my hobby.**

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Conjugation Rules

는 것 is attached to verbs only. There are no special conjugation rules with 는 것. Simply attach it to the verb stem (unless the verb is irregular – see table below).

Conjugation Rule	Examples
Verb Stem Ends In Consonant / Vowel + 는 것	가다 (to go) → 가는 것 보다 (to see) → 보는 것 먹다 (to eat) → 먹는 것 공부하다 (to study) → 공부하는 것
<Irregular Conjugations>	살다 (to live) → 사는 것 열다 (to open) → 여는 것 팔다 (to sell) → 파는 것 만들다 (to make) → 만드는 것

Things To Note

In real conversations, when 는 것 is followed by the particles 이, 은 and 을, they are often contracted to 는 게, 는 건, and 는 걸.

다리가 아파서 **걷는 것이** 힘들어요. → 다리가 아파서 **걷는 게** 힘들어요.
= **My legs hurt, so walking is difficult.**

영화를 보는 것은 제 취미예요. → 영화를 보는 **건** 제 취미예요.
= **Watching movies is my hobby.**

저는 등산하는 것을 싫어해요. → 저는 등산하는 **걸** 싫어해요.
= **I hate hiking.**

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Example Sentences

집이 멀어서 학교에 오는 거 힘들어요. = ***My house is far, so coming to school is difficult.***

한국 드라마를 보는 거 좋아해요. = ***I like watching Korean dramas.***

혼자 밥을 먹는 게 너무 심심해요. = ***Eating alone is so boring.***

운동할 때 걷는 걸 좋아하지만 뛰는 걸 싫어해요. = ***When I exercise, I like walking, but I hate running.***

취미가 뭐예요? = ***What's your hobby?***

제 취미는 그림을 그리는 거예요. = ***My hobby is drawing pictures.***

오늘 저녁에 무슨 음식을 만들까요? = ***What shall we cook tonight?***
불고기를 만드는 게 어때요? * = ***How about making bulgogi?***

*는 게 어때요 means 'How about ~?' and is used to make a suggestion.