



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 아서 / 어서

Saying 'Because' and 'And Then'

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Grammar Connectors	아서 / 어서 Saying 'Because' and 'And Then'

## Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UC18zd1hbk0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UC18zd1hbk0>

[Visit Korean Ladder for all free lessons](https://www.koreanladder.com)

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## Core Idea

Okay, real question. How do I say 'I was sick, SO I went to the hospital' — all in one breath?

Right — in English we glue clauses with 'because' or 'and then.' Korean must have its own glue.

그 풀은 바로 아서 / 어서예요. In English, this connector means 'because' — and also 'and then.' One ending, two jobs.

선택은 모음으로 정해요. The choice depends on the stem's last vowel. ㅏ나 ㅑ로 끝나면 아서 — if it ends in ㅏ (a) or ㅑ (o), use 아서. 그 외에는 어서 — otherwise, 어서.

## Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 왜 늦었어요? —	Why were you late today?
Junho	차가 막혀서 늦었어요. —	The traffic was jammed, so I was late.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그래서 어떻게 했어요? —	So what did you do?
Junho	택시를 타고 와서 회의에 갔어요. —	I took a taxi and then went to the meeting.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
아서 / 어서 a-seo / eo-seo	because / and then	그 풀은 바로 아서 / 어서예요. In English, this connector means 'because' — and also 'and then.' One ending, two jobs.
ㅏ · ㅑ → 아서 / 그 외 → 어서 a, o → a-seo / else → eo-seo	pick 아서 after ㅏ/ㅑ, 어서 everywhere else	선택은 모음으로 정해요. The choice depends on the stem's last vowel. ㅏ나 ㅑ로 끝나면 아서 — if it ends in ㅏ (a) or ㅑ (o), use 아서. 그 외에는 어서 — otherwise, 어서.
하다 → 해서 ha-da → hae-seo	하다 verbs always become 해서	그리고 하다 동사는 해서가 돼요. And every 하다 verb becomes 해서 — for example 공부하다 turns into 공부해서.
예문 ye-mun	examples	예문을 볼까요. Let's look at real sentences and break them apart.
배가 아파서 병원에 갔어요 bae-ga a-pa-seo byeong-won-e ga-sseo-yo	My stomach hurt, so I went to the hospital.	배가 아파서 병원에 갔어요. My stomach hurt, so I went to the hospital. 아파서 carries the reason.
카페에 가서 커피를 마셔요 ka-pe-e ga-seo keo-pi-reul ma-syeo-yo	I go to the cafe and then drink coffee.	카페에 가서 커피를 마셔요. I go to the cafe and then drink coffee. 여기서 가서는 'and then' — pure sequence.
문맥이 결정해요 mun-maeg-i gyeol-jeong-hae-yo	context decides: reason or sequence	맞아요. 같은 어미예요. The same ending — and context tells you which one. If the first thing causes the second, it's 'because'; if it just comes first, it's 'and then.'
큰 규칙 keun gyu-chik	the big rule	한 가지 더 — 이게 제일 중요해요. One more thing, and this is the big rule of the lesson.



# Grammar / Structure Notes

## 아서 / 어서

아서 / 어서 — because / and then

links a reason OR a sequence

ㅏ · ㅑ → 아서 / 그 외 → 어서

ㅏ · ㅑ → 아서 / 그 외 → 어서 — pick 아서 after ㅏ/ㅑ, 어서 everywhere else

선택은 모음으로 정해요. The choice depends on the stem's last vowel. ㅏ나 ㅑ로 끝나면 아서 — if it ends in ㅏ (a) or ㅑ (o), use 아서. 그 외에는 어서 — otherwise, 어서.

## 하다 → 해서

하다 → 해서 — 하다 verbs always become 해서

그리고 하다 동사는 해서가 돼요. And every 하다 verb becomes 해서 — for example 공부하다 turns into 공부해서.

## 예문

예문 — examples

예문을 볼까요. Let's look at real sentences and break them apart.

## 배가 아파서 병원에 갔어요

배가 + 아파서 + 병원에 + 갔어요 — My stomach hurt, so I went to the hospital.

배가 아파서 병원에 갔어요. My stomach hurt, so I went to the hospital. 아파서 carries the reason.

# Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
따라 해 보세요	tta-ra hae bo-se-yo
배가아파서 병원에 갔어요	bae-ga a-pa-seo byeong-won-e ga-sseo-yo
배가 아파서 병원에 갔어요	bae-ga a-pa-seo byeong-won-e ga-sseo-yo
완벽해요	wan-byeo-kae-yo
카페에 가서 커피를 마세요	ka-pe-e ga-seo keo-pi-reul ma-syeo-yo
없어서	eop-sseo-sseo-seo (X) / eop-sseo-seo (O)

# Self-Check

- 1 Say 아서 / 어서 three times: slow, natural, then inside a short sentence.
- 2 Write one original sentence that was not in the video.
- 3 Rewatch the YouTube lesson and pause when the same pattern appears.



## Related / Subsequent Studies

Lesson	Why study it next	Link
는데 / Setting Up Background and Soft Contrast	B1 Grammar: compare 는데 / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-001</a>
(으)ㄹ 거예요 The Korean Future Tense and Plans	A2 Grammar: compare (으)ㄹ 거예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-TNS-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-TNS-002</a>
고 싶어요 Saying What You Want to Do	A2 Grammar: compare 고 싶어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-001</a>
았어요 / 었어요 The Korean Past Tense	A2 Grammar: compare 았어요 / 었어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-TNS-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-TNS-001</a>

## My Notes

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