



Korean Ladder Study Note

-(으)러 vs -(으)려고

Going Somewhere to Do Something

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Grammar Connectors	-(으)러 vs -(으)려고 Going Somewhere to Do Something

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real confession to open the show. I wanted to say, 'I'm going out to eat.' So I said 밥 먹으려고 가요. Hana, you gave me this little look. What did I get wrong?

아, 아주 좋은 실수예요. 한국 사람도 설명하기 어려워하는 부분이에요. 두 개가 정말 비슷하게 들려요.

맞아요. 오늘 핵심은 이거예요. 움직일 때는 -(으)러, 계획할 때는 -(으)려고. In English, one is for going somewhere, the other is for intending to do something.

먼저 -(으)러부터 볼게요. -(으)러는 '어디에 가는 목적'을 말해요. In English, it marks why you go — the purpose of the movement.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 주말에 뭐 해요? —	Junho, what are you doing this weekend?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	책 사러 서점에 가요. —	I'm going to the bookstore to buy a book.
Hana	무슨 책 사려고요? —	What book are you intending to buy?
Junho	요리를 배우려고 요리책을 사요. —	I'm buying a cookbook to learn cooking.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-(으)러 vs -(으)려고 —	movement purpose vs. intention	맞아요. 오늘 핵심은 이거예요. 움직일 때는 -(으)러, 계획할 때는 -(으)려고. In English, one is for going somewhere, the other is for intending to do something.
-(으)러 가다 / 오다 -(eu)reo gada / oda	go / come in order to ____	먼저 -(으)러부터 볼게요. -(으)러는 '어디에 가는 목적'을 말해요. In English, it marks why you go — the purpose of the movement.
가다 · 오다 · 다니다 gada · oda · danida	go · come · attend/commute	그래서 -(으)러 다음에는 거의 항상 가다, 오다, 다니다 같은 이동 동사가 와요. It has to end in a verb of movement.
밥 먹으러 가요 bap meogeureo gayo	I'm going (in order) to eat.	예문 하나 볼까요. 밥 먹으러 가요. In English, 'I'm going to eat' — literally, I go in order to eat.
받침 O → -으러 / 받침 X → -러 -euro / -reo	with final consonant → 으러, without → 러	동사 받침을 보세요. 먹다는 받침이 있어서 '먹으러'. 받침이 없으면 그냥 -러. 예를 들어 자다 → 자러.
커피 마시러 카페에 가요 keopi masireo kapee gayo	Going Somewhere to Do Something	Wait, let me try one. 커피 마시러 카페에 가요? Coffee... drink... to the cafe I go?
마시러 가요 masireo gayo	Going Somewhere to Do Something	완벽해요. 마시다는 받침이 없어서 '마시러'. 발음도 좋았어요.
-(으)려고 -(eu)ryeogo	intending to / in order to ____	이제 -(으)려고를 볼게요. 이건 '~하려는 의도'예요. In English, it marks intention — 'intending to,' 'in order to,' 'trying to.'



Grammar / Structure Notes

-(으)러 vs -(으)려고

-(으)러 vs -(으)려고 — movement purpose vs. intention

Different jobs, not interchangeable

-(으)러 가다 / 오다

-(으)러 가다 / 오다 — go / come in order to ____

Only with movement verbs: 가다, 오다, 다니다

가다 · 오다 · 다니다

가다 · 오다 · 다니다 — go · come · attend/commute

The 'movement' partners for -(으)러

밥 먹으러 가요

밥 + 먹 + 으러 + 가요 — I'm going (in order) to eat.

예문 하나 볼까요. 밥 먹으러 가요. In English, 'I'm going to eat' — literally, I go in order to eat.

받침 O → -으러 / 받침 X → -러

받침 O → -으러 / 받침 X → -러 — with final consonant → 으러, without → 러

먹다 → 먹으러, 자다 → 자러

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
-(으)러 vs -(으)려고	Listen once, repeat twice, then speak at natural speed.

Self-Check

- 1 Say -(으)러 vs -(으)려고 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
-(으)면 Saying 'If' and 'When' in Korean	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)면 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-002
아서 / 어서 Saying 'Because' and 'And Then'	A2 Grammar: compare 아서 / 어서 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-001
-더라도 / -(으)더라도 Saying 'Even If' for Strong Concession	C1 Grammar: compare -더라도 / -(으)더라도 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-CON-001
는데 / Setting Up Background and Soft Contrast	B1 Grammar: compare 는데 / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-001

My Notes

Your ladder to fluent Korean. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.