



Korean Ladder Study Note

-(으)면서

Doing Two Things at the Same Time

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Grammar Connectors	-(으)면서 Doing Two Things at the Same Time

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-006>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsN_IM1uBi0

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my problem. I know -고 can mean and, so can I say 밥을 먹고 TV를 봐요 if I mean I watch TV while eating?

So -고 can sound like and then, but -(으)면서 is while doing?

맞아요. 오늘의 핵심은 overlap이에요. 두 행동이 같은 시간에 겹쳐요. In English, while doing.

With a consonant-ending verb stem, use 으면서. 먹다 becomes 먹으면서.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 보통 출근할 때 뭐 해요? —	Junho, what do you usually do on your way to work?
Junho	저는 음악을 들으면서 걸어요. —	I walk while listening to music.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	좋네요. 저는 커피를 마시면서 뉴스를 봐요. —	Nice. I watch the news while drinking coffee.
Junho	아침에 두 가지를 같이 하네요. —	You do two things together in the morning.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
밥을 먹고 TV를 봐요 bap-eul meok-go TV-reul bwa-yo	I eat, and then I watch TV.	좋은 질문이에요. 밥을 먹고 TV를 봐요 usually sounds like I eat, and then I watch TV. One action after the other.
밥을 먹으면서 TV를 봐요 bap-eul meog-eu-myeon-seo TV-reul bwa-yo	I watch TV while eating.	If the eating and the watching overlap, Korean uses -(으)면서: 밥을 먹으면서 TV를 봐요.
V-으면서 / V-면서 V-eu-myeon-seo / V-myeon-seo	while doing V; doing V and another action at the same time	맞아요. 오늘의 핵심은 overlap이에요. 두 행동이 같은 시간에 겹쳐요. In English, while doing.
먹다 → 먹으면서 meok-da → meog-eu-myeon-seo	to eat → while eating	With a consonant-ending verb stem, use 으면서. 먹다 becomes 먹으면서.
보다 → 보면서 bo-da → bo-myeon-seo	to watch or see → while watching or seeing	With a vowel-ending verb stem, use 면서. 보다 becomes 보면서.
먹으면서 / 보면서 meog-eu-myeon-seo / bo-myeon-seo	Doing Two Things at the Same Time	The final consonant matters. 먹 ends with a 기역 sound, so add 으면서. 보 ends in a vowel, so add 면서.
먹으면서 · 보면서 meog-eu-myeon-seo · bo-myeon-seo	Doing Two Things at the Same Time	Let me try the form. 먹다 becomes 먹으면서. 보다 becomes 보면서.
먹으면서 TV를 봐요 meog-eu-myeon-seo TV-reul bwa-yo	Doing Two Things at the Same Time	좋아요. 먹으면서, 보면서. The rhythm is smooth: 먹으면서 TV를 봐요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

밥을 먹고 TV를 봐요

밥 + 을 + 먹 + 고 + TV + 를 + 봐요 — I eat, and then I watch TV.

좋은 질문이에요. 밥을 먹고 TV를 봐요 usually sounds like I eat, and then I watch TV. One action after the other.

밥을 먹으면서 TV를 봐요

밥 + 을 + 먹 + 으면서 + TV + 를 + 봐요 — I watch TV while eating.

If the eating and the watching overlap, Korean uses -(으)면서: 밥을 먹으면서 TV를 봐요.

V-으면서 / V-면서

V-으면서 / V-면서 — while doing V; doing V and another action at the same time

Attach to a verb stem.

먹다 → 먹으면서

먹다 → 먹으면서 — to eat → while eating

Stem ends in a consonant: 먹 + 으면서

보다 → 보면서

보다 → 보면서 — to watch or see → while watching or seeing

Stem ends in a vowel: 보 + 면서

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
먹으면서 / 보면서	meog-eu-myeon-seo / bo-myeon-seo
먹으면서 · 보면서	meog-eu-myeon-seo · bo-myeon-seo
먹으면서 TV를 봐요	meog-eu-myeon-seo TV-reul bwa-yo
음악을 들으면서	eumag-eul deur-eu-myeon-seo
음악을 들으면서 걸어요	eumag-eul deur-eu-myeon-seo geor-eo-yo
들으면서	deur-eu-myeon-seo
커피를 마시면서 책을 읽어요	keopi-reul ma-si-myeon-seo chaeg-eul ilg-eo-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say -(으)면서 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)러 vs -(으)려고 Going Somewhere to Do Something	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)러 vs -(으)려고 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-003
-(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
-(으)ㄴ / 는 탓에 / 덕분에 / 바람에 Assigning Blame, Credit, and Cause	C1 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄴ / 는 탓에 / 덕분에 / 바람에 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-CON-002

My Notes

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