



Korean Ladder Study Note

-아 / 어 가지고

The Spoken 'So' That Replaces 아서

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Colloquial Contractions	-아 / 어 가지고 The Spoken 'So' That Replaces 아서

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-CTR-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oykqan1uBko>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

So here's my problem. My textbook taught me 아서 for 'because', but when I listen to real Korean, I keep hearing 가지고. Are they the same thing?

그거 아주 좋은 질문이에요. They overlap a lot. 가지고 is the casual, spoken cousin of 아서. In English, both can mean 'so' or 'because.'

책은 아서를 가르쳐요. 하지만 실제 대화는 가지고를 좋아해요. Textbooks teach 아서, but conversation leans on 가지고.

패턴을 볼게요. 동사에 -아/어 가지고를 붙여요. You attach -아/어 가지고 to a verb stem — it links a cause to what happens next.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	왜 이렇게 늦었어? —	Why are you so late?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	길이 막혀 가지고 30분이나 걸렸어. —	The road was jammed, so it took a whole 30 minutes.
Junho	그래? 그럼 커피 시켜 가지고 좀 쉬자. —	Really? Then let's order coffee and take a break.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-아/어 가지고 -a/eo gajigo	so / because (spoken connector)	패턴을 볼게요. 동사에 -아/어 가지고를 붙여요. You attach -아/어 가지고 to a verb stem — it links a cause to what happens next.
갖고 gatgo	contracted form of 가지고	그리고 더 짧게 갖고라고도 해요. In fast speech it shrinks to 갖고 — same meaning, even more casual.
가지다 → 가지고 gajida → gajigo	'have' → 'having, and so'	맞아요. 원래 '가지고'는 '가지다'에서 왔어요. Literally 'having done that,' then it drifted into 'and so.' 의미가 부드러워졌어요.
배가 고파 가지고 라면을 먹었어요 baega gopa gajigo ramyeoneul meogeosseoyo	I was hungry, so I ate ramen	예문을 볼게요. 배가 고파 가지고 라면을 먹었어요. I was hungry, so I ate ramen.
고파서 = 고파 가지고 gopaseo = gopa gajigo	hungry, so...	들으셨어요? 고파 가지고. The 가지고 sits right where 아서 would: 배가 고파서 먹었어요 becomes 배가 고파 가지고 먹었어요.
늦게 일어나 가지고 버스를 놓쳤어요 neutge ireona gajigo beoseureul nochyeosseoyo	I woke up late, so I missed the bus	하나 더요. 늦게 일어나 가지고 버스를 놓쳤어요. I woke up late, so I missed the bus.
일어나 가지고 ireona gajigo	woke up, and so	Okay, so the pattern is: reason first, then 가지고, then the result. Let me make sure I read that right — 일어나 가지고, 'woke up, and so.'
이유 + 가지고 + 결과 iyu + gajigo + gyeolgwa	reason → so → result	완벽해요. 이유가 먼저, 그다음 결과. Reason first, result second. 아주 잘 읽었어요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-아/어 가지고

-아/어 가지고 — so / because (spoken connector)

Links reason → result, or step → next step

갖고

갖고 — contracted form of 가지고

Faster, more relaxed

가지다 → 가지고

가지다 → 가지고 — 'have' → 'having, and so'

The meaning softened over time

배가 고파 가지고 라면을 먹었어요

배가 + 고파 + 가지고 + 라면을 + 먹었어요 — I was hungry, so I ate ramen

예문을 볼게요. 배가 고파 가지고 라면을 먹었어요. I was hungry, so I ate ramen.

고파서 = 고파 가지고

고파서 = 고파 가지고 — hungry, so...

Same slot, more casual feel

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
배고파 가지고	baegopa gajigo
배고파 가지고 라면 먹었어요	baegopa gajigo ramyeon meogeosseoyo
배고파 갖고	baegopa gatgo

Self-Check

- 1 Say -아 / 어 가지고 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
그럼 / 근데 / 그치 Spoken Shortcuts for 그러면 · 그런데 · 그렇지	B1 Colloquial: compare 그럼 / 근데 / 그치 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-CTR-001
-르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것	B2 Colloquial: compare -르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001
-다는 게 / -라는 거 / -다니까 Spoken Reductions of Reported Speech	C1 Colloquial: compare -다는 게 / -라는 거 / -다니까 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-CTR-001
난 / 넌 / 뭘 / 날 Everyday Spoken Contractions of Particles	A1 Colloquial: compare 난 / 넌 / 뭘 / 날 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-002

My Notes

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