



Korean Ladder Study Note

-(으)ㄴ / 는 탓에 / 덕분에 / 바람에

Assigning Blame, Credit, and Cause

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Grammar Connectors	-(으)ㄴ / 는 탓에 / 덕분에 / 바람에 Assigning Blame, Credit, and Cause

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-CON-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztiaeQ90BfQ>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. In English I just say 'because of the rain.' But my Korean friend told me the word I picked sounded like I was... blaming the rain?

그게 바로 오늘의 핵심이에요. Korean has different 'because' words, and each one points a finger in a different direction.

In English, 'because' is neutral. In Korean, you choose the color of the cause before you even finish the sentence.

오늘의 패턴은 세 가지예요. 탓에, 덕분에, 바람에. Three connectors that all attach to a cause — but with very different attitudes.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어제 왜 회의에 못 왔어요? —	Why couldn't you come to the meeting yesterday?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	차가 갑자기 고장 나는 바람에 못 갔어요. —	My car suddenly broke down, so I couldn't make it.
Hana	저런. 그래도 김 대리 덕분에 회의는 잘 끝났어요. —	Oh no. Still, thanks to Assistant Manager Kim, the meeting went fine.
Junho	제가 자료를 안 보낸 탓에 김 대리가 고생했겠네요. —	Because I didn't send the materials, Kim probably had a hard time.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-(으)ㄴ/는 탓에 · 덕분에 · 바람에 tas-e · deokbun-e · baram-e	because of (blame) · thanks to · because of (sudden)	오늘의 패턴은 세 가지예요. 탓에, 덕분에, 바람에. Three connectors that all attach to a cause — but with very different attitudes.
탓에 tas-e	because of (a fault) — blame	먼저 탓에. 탓 means 'fault.' So 탓에 is 'because of' when something is a fault — the negative cause, the thing you'd complain about.
덕분에 deokbun-e	thanks to — credit	이제 덕분에. 덕 means 'grace' or 'benefit.' So 덕분에 is 'thanks to' — the cause you're grateful for. The good result.
바람에 baram-e	because of (a sudden trigger) — the unplanned domino	그리고 바람에. This one is special. 바람에 is 'because of' a sudden, unexpected action — something happened, and it tripped you into a result you didn't plan.
V-는 탓에 / V-(으)ㄴ 탓에 -neun tas-e / -(eu)n tas-e	present action · past action	정확해요. Now the grammar. What comes BEFORE the connector changes shape. Let's take 탓에 first.
게으른 탓에 · 늦은 탓에 · 날씨 탓에 ge-eureun tas-e · neujeun tas-e · nalssi tas-e	because (lazy) · because (was late) · because of (the weather)	동사가 현재면 -는 탓에, 과거면 -(으)ㄴ 탓에. 명사면 그냥 탓에. So: 게으른 탓에 — because someone is lazy; 늦은 탓에 — because they were late.
도와준 덕분에 · 친구 덕분에 dowajun deokbun-e · chingu deokbun-e	thanks to (your helping) · thanks to (my friend)	덕분에 also takes 명사 directly, or a past verb with -(으)ㄴ. 도와준 덕분에 — thanks to your helping. 친구 덕분에 — thanks to my friend.
V-는 바람에 -neun baram-e	because of (that sudden verb happening)	그런데 바람에는 규칙이 하나예요. 바람에 attaches ONLY to a verb, and always in the -는 form — even when the result is in the past.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-(으)ㄴ/는 탓에 · 덕분에 · 바람에

-(으)ㄴ/는 탓에 · 덕분에 · 바람에 — because of (blame) · thanks to · because of (sudden)

Same slot, three attitudes.

탓에

탓에 — because of (a fault) — blame

탓 = fault. Bad result.

비가 온 탓에 소풍이 취소됐어요.

비 + 가 + 온 + 탓에 + 소풍 + 이 + 취소됐어요. — Because of the rain, the picnic was cancelled.

예를 들어, 비가 온 탓에 소풍이 취소됐어요. Because it rained — and that's the villain here — the picnic got cancelled.

덕분에

덕분에 — thanks to — credit

덕 = benefit. Good result.

선생님 덕분에 시험에 합격했어요.

선생님 + 덕분에 + 시험 + 에 + 합격했어요. — Thanks to the teacher, I passed the exam.

선생님 덕분에 시험에 합격했어요. Thanks to the teacher, I passed the exam. 덕분에 gives someone the credit.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
비가 오는 바람에 다 저저씨요	biga oneun baram-e da jeojeosseoyo.
젖었어요 → 저저씨요	jeojeosseoyo → jeojeosseoyo
여러분 덕분에 즐거워씨요	yeoreobun deokbun-e jeulgeowosseoyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say -(으)ㄴ/는 탓에 / 덕분에 / 바람에 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
-더라도 / -(으)르더라도 Saying 'Even If' for Strong Concession	C1 Grammar: compare -더라도 / -(으)르더라도 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-CON-001
-(으)니까 Reason, Discovery, and Why It Isn't 아서/어서	B1 Grammar: compare -(으)니까 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-002
-(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

My Notes

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