



Korean Ladder Study Note

-길래 / -기에

근거와 이유를 대는 문어·구어 표현

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Grammar Sentence Endings	-길래 / -기에 근거와 이유를 대는 문어·구어 표현

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klXV7BDqa-A>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, my English-brain mistake. I keep saying 비가 와서 택시를 탔어요 for every rainy-day reason. But sometimes Koreans say 길래, and I do not know why.

좋은 질문이에요. 아서/어서 is not just 'and then.' It is often cause and result. 길래 is different — I noticed something, judged it, and then I acted.

그래서 오늘은 구어의 길래를 중심으로 봐요. In English, 길래 is the ending for observed grounds — a cue you noticed, then your move.

왜 중요하냐면, C1에서는 '왜?'만 말하면 부족해요. You also show how you got the reason — did you feel it, explain it, or notice a cue and decide?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	열차가 늦길래 잠깐 기다릴까요? —	The train seems late, so shall we wait a bit?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	사람이 많길래 창가 자리로 가요. —	There are a lot of people, so let's go to a window seat.
Hana	열차가 늦길래 잠깐 기다릴까요? —	The train seems late, so shall we wait a bit?
Junho	사람이 많길래 창가 자리로 가요. —	There are a lot of people, so let's go to a window seat.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-길래 -gillae	I noticed / judged X, so I acted	그래서 오늘은 구어의 길래를 중심으로 봐요. In English, 길래 is the ending for observed grounds — a cue you noticed, then your move.
근거를 대는 방식 geungeoreul daeneun bangsik	How you present the grounds	왜 중요하냐면, C1에서는 '왜?'만 말하면 부족해요. You also show how you got the reason — did you feel it, explain it, or notice a cue and decide?
-기에 -gie	since / as (written, formal reason)	그리고 기에예요. 기에는 이유를 대는 문어·격식 표현이에요. 길래처럼 '내가 보고 판단한 단서' 뉘앙스가 꼭 있는 건 아니예요. In English, 기에 is since or as in written, formal reason — broader than 길래.
길래 · 기에 gillae · gie	spoken observed grounds · written/formal reason	Got it. So 길래 is the 'I saw the cue, so I moved' spoken tool. 기에 is the polished written cousin for giving a reason — not always that noticing story.
부족하기에... bujokagie...	since it was insufficient...	이 문장은 격식 있는 이유 제시예요. 길래처럼 '내가 밖에 나가서 보고 판단했다'는 장면이 꼭 필요하진 않아요.
비가 오길래 내가... biga ogillae naega...	Rain was falling, so I...	길래에서 자주 나오는 규칙이에요. The subject of the 길래 clause and the subject of the main clause often do not match.
울길래 ulgillae	근거와 이유를 대는 문어·구어 표현	완벽해요. Cue is the cat. Actor is you. That subject mismatch is exactly the 길래 feel.
아서/어서 · 길래 · 니까 aseo/eoseo · gillae · nikka	own cause/result · observed grounds · explanatory reason	이제 아서/어서, 니까와 비교해요. 배가 고파서 밥을 먹었어요 feels like my own state leading to a result. 길래 is more 'I picked up a cue outside me.'



Grammar / Structure Notes

-길래

-길래 — I noticed / judged X, so I acted

Spoken: observation or judgment → speaker's action or decision

근거를 대는 방식

근거를 대는 방식 — How you present the grounds

길래 · 기에 · 니까 · 아서/어서 each choose a different reason lane

-기에

-기에 — since / as (written, formal reason)

Formal reason; not always an observation → action pair like 길래.

길래 · 기에

길래 · 기에 — spoken observed grounds · written/formal reason

Related neighborhood. Different jobs.

비가 오길래 택시를 탔어요.

비가 + 오 + 길래 + 택시 + 를 + 탔어요 + . — I saw it was raining, so I took a taxi.

먼저 길래 예문을 들어 보세요. 비가 오길래 택시를 탔어요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
울길래	ulgillae
사람이 많길래 창가 자리로 갔어요	sarami mankillae changga jarirro gasseoyo
많길래	mankillae
배가 고프길래 먼저 먹었어요	baega gopeugillae meonjeo meogeosseoyo
고프길래	gopeugillae

Self-Check

- 1 Say -길래 / -기에 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
-는 셈이다 / -기 마련이다 / -는 법이다 Endings for Generalizing and Concluding	C1 Grammar: compare -는 셈이다 / -기 마련이다 / -는 법이다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-END-001
-(으)르게요 Promising and Committing to Do Something	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)르게요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-002
-(으)르까요? / -(으)르시다 Suggesting and Proposing Together	A1 Grammar: compare -(으)르까요? / -(으)르시다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-003
-(으)세요 Making Polite Requests and Gentle Commands	A1 Grammar: compare -(으)세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-004

My Notes

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