

-아/어지다

become, get — a change of state

Turns an adjective into a change. Where the adjective describes how something is, this describes it becoming so — and it is written as one word.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Last vowel ㅣ or ㅜ	-아지다	좋다 → 좋아지다
Any other vowel	-어지다	예쁘다 → 예뻐지다
하다 adjectives	해지다	건강하다 → 건강해지다
Merging	as in -아요/어요	크다 → 커지다
Spacing	one word	좋아지다 — not 좋아 지다
Verbs take	-게 되다	가게 되다

WHEN TO USE IT

The vowel follows the -아요/어요 rule with the usual merges: 좋아지다, 예뻐지다, 커지다. Adjectives in 하다 give 해지다: 건강해지다, 조용해지다.

Note the spelling: 지다 fuses onto the adjective and is written without a space. 좋아 지다 is an error.

The change is usually gradual, which makes it the natural way to talk about weather, health, skills, and feelings shifting over time: 날씨가 따뜻해졌어요.

Attached to certain verbs it produces something close to a passive: 만들어지다 (be made), 켜지다 (be switched on), 알려지다 (become known). This is a smaller, lexical set rather than a general rule — you learn these one by one.

IN USE

- 요즘 날씨가 따뜻해졌어요.
The weather has got warmer lately.
- 운동을 시작하고 건강해졌어요.
I've become healthier since I started exercising.
- 한국어 실력이 많이 좋아졌어요.
My Korean has improved a lot.
- 저녁이 되니까 조용해졌어요.
It got quiet once evening came.
- 이 빵은 매일 아침에 만들어져요.
This bread is made every morning.

6 시간이 지나면 괜찮아질 거예요.

It'll get better with time.

COMPARED WITH

-게 되다

The pair divides by word class: adjectives take -아/어지다, verbs take -게 되다. Both describe change, but they are not interchangeable.

추워졌어요. (it's got colder) / 가게 됐어요. (it turns out I'm going)

Plain adjective

The adjective states a condition; -아/어지다 states the shift into it. Choosing the plain form loses the sense of change over time.

날씨가 따뜻해요. (it's warm) / 날씨가 따뜻해졌어요. (it's got warm)

되다

되다 on its own attaches to nouns: 의사가 되다. -아/어지다 attaches to adjectives. English "become" covers both.

의사가 됐어요. (became a doctor) / 유명해졌어요. (became famous)

WATCH OUT

X 한국어 실력이 좋아 졌어요.

O 한국어 실력이 좋아졌어요.

지다 attaches directly and is written as one word. The space is a common spelling error.

X 운동해서 건강하어졌어요.

O 운동해서 건강해졌어요.

Adjectives ending in 하다 become 해지다, following the same rule as 해요.

X 한국에서 일해지게 됐어요.

O 한국에서 일하게 됐어요.

일하다 is a verb, so it takes -게 되다 alone. Do not stack the two change constructions.