

-아/어야지요

you really ought to; I'd better

States what someone should do, with a note of "obviously." Turned on yourself it is resolve; turned on someone else it edges toward telling off.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Last vowel ㅣ or ㅓ	-아야지요	가다 → 가야지요
Any other vowel	-어야지요	먹다 → 먹어야지요
하다 verbs	해야지요	공부해야지요
Spoken contraction	-아/어야쨌	해야쨌
To yourself	-아/어야지	일어나야지
Neutral version	-아/어야 되다	가야 돼요

WHEN TO USE IT

The vowel follows the -아요/어요 rule: 해야지요, 가야지요, 먹어야지요. It contracts to -아/어야쨌 in speech, and the casual form is -아/어야지.

About yourself it expresses resolve, often muttered: 내일부터는 일찍 일어나야지. No listener is really required.

About someone else it says they ought to do something and implies they are not: 약속을 지켜야지요. The 지요 element assumes you both know this already, which is what gives it the reproachful edge. Aimed at anyone senior it is out of place.

Compared with -아/어야 되다, which states a plain requirement, this ending adds the speaker's attitude about it.

IN USE

- 1 내일부터는 일찍 일어나야지.
From tomorrow I really must get up early.
- 2 약속을 했으면 지켜야지요.
If you made a promise, you ought to keep it.
- 3 아픈데 병원에 가야쨌.
You're ill — you should go and see a doctor.
- 4 이제 슬슬 준비해야지요.
It's about time we got ready.
- 5 밥은 제때 먹어야지요.
You really should eat at proper times.

6 올해는 꼭 운동을 시작해야지.

This year I'm definitely going to start exercising.

COMPARED WITH

-아/어야 되다

-아/어야 되다 reports a requirement; -아/어야지요 adds that you think it should be obvious. The second carries attitude, the first does not.

약속을 지켜야 돼요. (you have to) / 약속을 지켜야지요. (well, you ought to)

-(으)세요

A polite request asks; this ending points out a duty. To someone senior, only the request form works.

병원에 가세요. (please go) / 병원에 가야죠. (you should be going)

-지요?

The 지요 inside is the same element: it presumes shared knowledge. That is exactly why the sentence can sound like a mild scolding.

약속을 지키지요? (you keep promises, right?) / 지켜야지요. (you should be keeping it)

WATCH OUT

X 이제 슬슬 준비하어야지요.

O 이제 슬슬 준비해야지요.

하다 becomes 해 before this ending, as everywhere else.

X 부장님, 좀 쉬셔야지요.

O 부장님, 좀 쉬시는 게 좋겠습니다.

The ending implies the person is failing to do something obvious. Aimed upward it sounds like a reprimand.

X 날씨가 좋아야지요. — as a plain statement

O 날씨가 좋았으면 좋겠어요.

This ending concerns things someone can choose to do. For a wish about the weather, use -았/었으면 좋겠다.