

-았/었더니

I did that, and then

The first-person half of the -더니 pair. You did something, and what you found or caused follows.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Last vowel ㅣ or ㅓ	-았더니	가다 → 갔더니
Any other vowel	-었더니	먹다 → 먹었더니
하다 verbs	했더니	공부했더니
Discovery	found a situation	갔더니 문을 닫았어요
Consequence	caused an effect	많이 먹었더니 배가 아파요
Subject	yourself	동생이 갔더니 is wrong

WHEN TO USE IT

The vowel follows the -았/었- rule: 갔더니, 먹었더니, 했더니.

The first clause is your own past action, and the second is what resulted or what you discovered: 가게에 갔더니 문을 닫았더라고요.

Two flavours run through it. Discovery: you did something and found a situation waiting. Consequence: your action produced an effect, often on your body — 많이 먹었더니 배가 아파요.

Because the subject is you, swapping it for someone else is the classic error. 동생이 갔더니 is wrong unless you are quoting their own account.

IN USE

- 1 가게에 갔더니 벌써 문을 닫았어요.
I went to the shop and found it already closed.
- 2 아침을 많이 먹었더니 배가 불러요.
I ate a big breakfast, and now I'm full.
- 3 전화를 했더니 안 받더라고요.
I called, and there was no answer.
- 4 어제 늦게 잤더니 오늘 너무 피곤해요.
I went to bed late yesterday, so I'm exhausted today.
- 5 직접 만들었더니 생각보다 맛있었어요.
I made it myself, and it turned out better than expected.
- 6 창문을 열었더니 시원한 바람이 들어왔어요.
I opened the window and cool air came in.

COMPARED WITH

-더니

The pair divides by subject. -더니 for what you watched someone else do; -았/었더니 for what you did yourself.

동생이 공부하더니 합격했어요. / 제가 공부했더니 합격했어요.

-(으)니까

-(으)니까 can also mark discovery on doing something, and the two overlap. -았/었더니 is more strongly tied to a past action of your own.

가 보니까 문을 닫았어요. / 갔더니 문을 닫았어요.

-아서/어서

-아서 states a cause plainly; -았/었더니 frames it as something you did and then observed the outcome of.

많이 먹어서 배가 아파요. (because I ate) / 많이 먹었더니 배가 아파요. (I ate, and now)

WATCH OUT

X 동생이 가게에 갔더니 문을 닫았어요.

O 동생이 가게에 갔는데 문을 닫았대요.

-았/었더니 reports your own action. For what someone else did, use -는데 with a reported ending.

X 가게에 가더니 문을 닫았어요. — about yourself

O 가게에 갔더니 문을 닫았어요.

Without the past marker, the ending points at someone else's action that you observed.

X 공부하였더니 합격했어요.

O 공부했더니 합격했어요.

하다 becomes 했 here, exactly as in the ordinary past tense.