

대로

as, in accordance with

Says one thing follows another as its model. Attaches to nouns and to modifiers alike — and the spacing changes between the two.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any noun	joined	약속대로
Completed action	-(으)ㄴ 대로	말한 대로
Ongoing or general	-는 대로	보는 대로 말하세요
As soon as	-는 대로 + future	도착하는 대로 연락할게요
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	만들다 → 만드는 대로
Spacing	noun joined, modifier spaced	약속대로 / 말한 대로

WHEN TO USE IT

With a noun it joins directly: 약속대로 (as promised), 계획대로 (as planned), 마음대로 (as you please).

With a modifier it takes a space, and the tense matters. 말한 대로 means "as I said" — the saying is finished. 말하는 대로 means "as I say" — ongoing, or a general rule.

One extra use of the -는 form is temporal: attached to a future action it means "as soon as." 도착하는 대로 연락드릴게요. This reading appears with arrangements and promises, where -자마자 would feel too abrupt.

IN USE

- 1 약속대로 여섯 시에 도착했어요.
I arrived at six, as promised.
- 2 제가 말한 대로 하세요.
Do it the way I said.
- 3 모든 게 계획대로 됐어요.
Everything went according to plan.
- 4 보는 대로 솔직하게 말해 주세요.
Please tell me honestly, just as you see it.
- 5 도착하는 대로 연락드릴게요.
I'll get in touch as soon as I arrive.
- 6 마음대로 하세요.
Do as you like.

COMPARED WITH

처럼

처럼 says something resembles another; 대로 says it follows it as an instruction or a model. The difference is imitation versus compliance.

가수처럼 노래해요. (sings like a singer) / 배운 대로 노래해요. (sings as taught)

-자마자

In its "as soon as" sense, -는 대로 points forward and suits promises. -자마자 works freely with past events and stresses immediacy.

도착하는 대로 연락할게요. (I'll call on arrival) / 도착하자마자 연락했어요. (I called the instant I arrived)

Tense inside

-(으)ㄴ 대로 reports what was already said or done; -는 대로 covers the ongoing or the general case. Choosing wrongly changes who is following whom, and when.

말한 대로 (as I said) / 말하는 대로 (as I say)

WATCH OUT

X 제가 말한대로 하세요.

O 제가 말한 대로 하세요.

After a modifier, 대로 is a separate word. Only after a bare noun does it join: 약속대로.

X 어제 제가 말하는 대로 했어요.

O 어제 제가 말한 대로 했어요.

The instruction was already given, so the modifier is past. -는 대로 would describe an ongoing or general instruction.

X 저녁을 만드는 대로 부를게요.

O 저녁을 만드는데 부를게요.

Stems ending in ㄹ drop it before -는, as everywhere in the modifier system.