

-답시고

claiming to, on the pretext of

Quotes someone's own justification and refuses it. The speaker is reporting what the person said they were doing — and making clear they don't buy it.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Verb	-(느)ㄴ 답시고	돕다 → 돕는답시고
Verb, vowel stem	-ㄴ 답시고	공부하다 → 공부한답시고
Adjective	-답시고	바쁘다 → 바쁜답시고
Noun	-(이)랍시고	전문가랍시고
Second clause	a bad outcome	일을 더 망쳤다
Judgement	always critical	never neutral

WHEN TO USE IT

The ending is built on the quotative. Verbs take -(느)ㄴ 답시고, adjectives -답시고, and nouns -(이)랍시고: 돕는답시고, 바쁜답시고, 전문가랍시고.

The first clause gives the actor's stated reason; the second reports what actually came of it, and it is never good: 돕는답시고 나섰다가 일을 더 망쳤다.

The criticism is built into the ending. You cannot use it neutrally, and you cannot use it about a justification you accept.

Because it belittles, it is used about others — or self-deprecatingly about yourself, but never respectfully about a superior.

IN USE

- 1 돕는답시고 나섰다가 일을 더 망쳐 놓았다.
He waded in to help, as he put it, and made a worse mess of it.
- 2 공부한답시고 방에 들어가더니 게임만 했다.
He went off to his room to study, supposedly, and played games instead.
- 3 바쁜답시고 연락 한 번 없더군요.
Too busy, he claimed — and not a word from him.
- 4 전문가랍시고 나서서 엉뚱한 소리만 했다.
He put himself forward as an expert and talked nonsense.
- 5 직접 만든답시고 손댔다가 오히려 망가뜨렸어요.
He said he'd make it himself, got his hands on it, and broke it.

6 선물이랍시고 준 게 겨우 이거였다.

This was all he gave, by way of a present.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)ㄴ/는 척하다

척하다 says someone put on an act; 답시고 says they claimed a reason and the speaker rejects it. Pretence versus pretext.

돕는 척했어요. (pretended to help) / 돕는답시고 망쳤어요. (helping, so he said)

-(으)려고

-(으)려고 states a purpose neutrally; 답시고 quotes it with a sneer.

도우려고 나섰어요. (stepped in to help) / 돕는답시고 나섰어요. (stepped in to "help")

-기로서니

Both carry reproach. 기로서니 grants a reason then says it doesn't justify enough; 답시고 doesn't grant it at all.

바쁜기로서니 연락도 못 하나? (busy, granted, but) / 바쁜답시고 연락도 없더라. ("busy," he says)

WATCH OUT

X 돕는답시고 나서서 큰 도움이 되었다.

O 돕는답시고 나섰다가 일을 더 망쳤다.

The ending rejects the stated reason. A good outcome contradicts it.

X 부장님께서 바쁜답시고 못 오셨습니다.

O 부장님께서 바쁘셔서 못 오셨습니다.

답시고 belittles the person's own account. Applied to a superior it is disrespectful, honorifics or not.

X 전문가답시고 나섰다. — meaning "as befits an expert"

O 전문가답게 조언해 주었다.

-답게 means "as befits" and is complimentary. -(이)랍시고 is the sneering form and means something quite different.