

-든지

whichever, it doesn't matter

Presents options and declares that the choice is irrelevant. Close to -거나 in form, but the attitude behind it is different.

How it attaches

Situation	Form	Example
Any verb or adjective	-든지	가다 → 가든지
With a noun	-(이)든지	커피든지 차든지
Both options marked	-든지 -든지	가든지 말든지
Question words	fixed forms	뭐든지, 언제든지, 누구든지
Spoken short form	-든	가든 말든
Different ending	-던지 = recalling	얼마나 춥던지

Notes

Attach -든지 to any stem, or (이)든지 to a noun. It usually appears twice, once on each option: 가든지 말든지 마음대로 하세요. The shortened -든 is common in speech.

Attached to a question word it produces the "any-" series, alongside the ones built with (이)나: 뭐든지 (anything), 언제든지 (any time), 누구든지 (anyone), 어디든지 (anywhere).

The difference from -거나 is the speaker's stance. -거나 lays out real alternatives; -든지 says pick whichever, it makes no difference to me. Depending on tone that can be generous or dismissive.

One spelling trap: -던지 is a different ending entirely, used for recalling something past. 얼마나 춥던지 means "how cold it was." Same look, unrelated meaning.

Examples

- 가든지 말든지 마음대로 하세요.
Go or don't — it's up to you.
- 커피든지 차든지 아무거나 주세요.
Coffee, tea, anything is fine.
- 뭐든지 물어보세요.
Ask me anything.
- 언제든지 연락 주세요.
Get in touch any time.
- 여기는 누구든지 올 수 있어요.
Anyone is welcome here.
- 먹든지 말든지 알아서 하세요.
Eat or don't — it's up to you.

Compared with

-거나

-거나 offers a genuine choice; -든지 waves it away. Substituting one for the other changes how invested the speaker sounds.

책을 읽거나 영화를 봐요. (I do one or the other) / 읽든지 보든지 하세요. (whichever, I don't mind)

(이)나

Both form "any-" words. 누구나 and 누구든지 overlap heavily; 든지 stresses the freedom of choice a little more.

누구나 올 수 있어요. / 누구든지 올 수 있어요.

-던지

A separate ending that recalls a past impression, usually with 얼마나. Only the spelling is similar.

가든지 말든지 (go or not) / 얼마나 춥던지 (how cold it was)

Watch out

✗ 어제 얼마나 춥든지 몰라요.

○ 어제 얼마나 춥던지 몰라요.

Recalling a past impression takes -던지 with ㅏ. -든지 with ㅡ is about indifference between options.

✗ 부장님, 가든지 말든지 하세요.

○ 부장님, 편하신 대로 하십시오.

-든지 말든지 can sound dismissive. Aimed upward it reads as impatience rather than flexibility.

✗ 커피든지 차 주세요.

○ 커피든지 차든지 주세요.

In this construction both options normally carry the ending. Marking only the first leaves the sentence unbalanced.