

-도록

so that; to the point of

States the aim or the limit of an action. Unlike -(으)려고, the two clauses may have different subjects — which is what makes it so useful.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any verb or adjective	-도록	않다 → 늦지 않도록
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-도록	만들다 → 만들도록
Different subjects	allowed	아이들이 보도록 크게 썼어요
Extent, until	-도록	밤이 새도록
Soft instruction	-도록 하다	늦지 않도록 하세요
Never takes tense	plain stem only	갔도록 is wrong

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -도록 to any stem — no vowel rule, ㄹ stays, no tense in front.

The main use is purpose: 늦지 않도록 일찍 출발하세요. Crucially, the person achieving the aim need not be the one acting: 아이들이 잘 볼 수 있도록 크게 썼어요. With -(으)려고 that sentence would be impossible.

A second use marks an extent or limit, closer to "until": 밤이 새도록 이야기했어요 (we talked until dawn), 목이 아프도록 노래했어요.

Attached to 하다 it forms -도록 하다, a soft instruction common in workplaces and notices: 다음부터는 늦지 않도록 하세요. It is gentler than a bare imperative because it names the goal rather than the order.

IN USE

- 1 늦지 않도록 일찍 출발하세요.
Set off early so you won't be late.
- 2 아이들이 잘 볼 수 있도록 크게 썼어요.
I wrote it large so the children could see it clearly.
- 3 감기에 걸리지 않도록 옷을 따뜻하게 입으세요.
Dress warmly so you don't catch a cold.
- 4 밤이 새도록 이야기를 나눴어요.
We talked until dawn.
- 5 약속을 잊지 않도록 달력에 표시해 두었어요.
I marked it on the calendar so that I would not forget the appointment.

6 음식이 상하지 않도록 냉장고에 넣어 주세요.

Put it in the fridge so the food doesn't spoil.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)려고

-(으)려고 needs one subject and expresses your own intention; -도록 allows two and states a goal that may concern someone else.

사려고 돈을 모아요. (I save so I can buy) / 아이가 사도록 돈을 줬어요. (I gave money so the child could buy it)

-게 하다

-게 하다 makes someone do something; -도록 하다 asks them to see to it. The second is markedly softer and common in polite instructions.

일찍 오게 했어요. (I made them come early) / 일찍 오도록 하세요. (please see that you come early)

-기 위해서

Also states purpose, and also allows an abstract goal. -도록 is more natural when the aim is that some condition should or should not come about.

건강을 지키기 위해서 운동해요. / 병에 걸리지 않도록 운동해요.

WATCH OUT

X 아이들이 잘 보려고 크게 썼어요.

O 아이들이 잘 보도록 크게 썼어요.

-(으)려고 requires the same subject in both clauses. Here the children see and you write, so -도록 is the only option.

X 감기에 걸리지 않았도록 조심하세요.

O 감기에 걸리지 않도록 조심하세요.

-도록 never carries tense. The goal lies ahead, so the plain stem is all that is needed.

X 저녁을 만들도록 하세요. — meaning "I made her cook"

O 저녁을 만들게 했어요.

-도록 하다 is an instruction to the listener. To report that you made someone do something, use -게 하다.