

# 에게서 / 한테서

from — a person or an animal

The mirror image of 에게 / 한테. Adding 서 turns the person from the target into the source.

## How it attaches

| Register         | Form             | Example     |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Speech           | 한테서              | 친구한테서 들었어요  |
| Writing, formal  | 에게서              | 선배에게서 배웠습니다 |
| Honorific source | 께                | 선생님께 배웠어요   |
| Places take      | 에서 instead       | 회사에서 받았어요   |
| Casual speech    | 서 often dropped  | 친구한테 받았어요   |
| Common verbs     | 받다, 듣다, 배우다, 빌리다 | 동생한테서 빌렸어요  |

## Notes

Where 에서 gives the place something came from, 에게서 and 한테서 give the person. The 서 is doing the same work in both: it marks an origin. 한테서 belongs to speech, 에게서 to writing.

It turns up with the verbs of receiving and learning: 받다, 듣다, 배우다, 빌리다, 얻다. 친구한테서 책을 빌렸어요.

One thing to know before you drill it: in everyday speech Koreans very often drop the 서 and say 친구한테 받았어요. The verb makes the direction obvious, so no confusion follows. Keep the 서 in writing, where the sentence has to stand on its own.

## Examples

- 친구한테서 소식을 들었어요.  
I heard the news from a friend.
- 부모님께 용돈을 받았어요.  
I got pocket money from my parents.
- 누구한테 배웠어요?  
Who did you learn it from?
- 동생에게서 전화가 왔어요.  
I got a call from my younger sibling.
- 회사에서 메일이 왔어요.  
An email came from the company.
- 선배한테서 좋은 이야기를 들었어요.  
I heard something good from a senior colleague.

## Compared with

### 에게 / 한테

Without 서 the person receives; with 서 the person supplies. The verb usually settles which one you need.

친구한테 줬어요. (gave to a friend) / 친구한테서 받았어요. (received from a friend)

### 에서

Same job, different kind of source. Places and organisations take 에서; people and animals take 에게서 or 한테서.

회사에서 연락이 왔어요. / 친구한테서 연락이 왔어요.

### 께

There is no honorific form ending in 서. When the source deserves respect, 께 covers both directions and the verb carries the rest of the politeness.

선생님께 배웠어요. (learned from the teacher) / 선생님께 드렸어요. (gave to the teacher)

## Watch out

✗ 회사한테서 연락을 받았어요.

○ 회사에서 연락을 받았어요.

Organisations are places. Keep 한테서 and 에게서 for people and animals.

✗ 선생님한테서 배웠어요.

○ 선생님께 배웠어요.

한테서 is too casual for someone you are honouring, and there is no 께 서 form for sources. 께 handles both directions.

✗ 친구한테서 선물을 줬어요.

○ 친구한테 선물을 줬어요.

주다 sends something outward, so the friend is the target, not the source. Drop the 서.