

-(으)ㄹ 법하다

it's plausible that

Says something is believable given what you know. Shares its 법 with -(으)ㄴ/는 법이다 but does an entirely different job.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-ㄹ 법하다	그러다 → 그럴 법해요
Ends in a consonant	-을 법하다	있다 → 있을 법해요
Ends in ㄹ	nothing added	만들다 → 만들 법해요
Before a noun	-(으)ㄹ 법한	있을 법한 이야기
Common partner	충분히	충분히 그럴 법해요
Different meanings	법이다 / 만하다	rule / worth doing

WHEN TO USE IT

Attachment is the standard rule with the ㄹ short form: 만들다 gives 만들 법하다.

It rates something as plausible rather than likely: 충분히 있을 법한 이야기예요 — that's entirely believable. It often appears with 충분히 or 그럴.

The modifier form -(으)ㄹ 법한 is the more common shape: 있을 법한 이야기, 나올 법한 질문.

Two neighbours to keep apart. 법이다 states a rule about the world; 법하다 rates a possibility. And -(으)ㄹ 만하다, which looks similar, means "worth doing."

IN USE

- 1 충분히 있을 법한 이야기예요.
That's an entirely believable story.
- 2 그 사람이라면 그럴 법해요.
Coming from him, that's plausible enough.
- 3 시험에 나올 법한 문제를 골라 봤어요.
I picked out questions that might plausibly come up.
- 4 누구나 한 번쯤 겪을 법한 일이에요.
It's the sort of thing anyone might go through once.
- 5 집에서도 만들 법한 요리네요.
That looks like something you could plausibly make at home.
- 6 화가 날 법도 하죠.
It's understandable that he'd be angry.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)ㄴ/는 법이다

Same noun, opposite jobs. 법이다 asserts how things always go; 법하다 rates one case as believable.

실수하는 법이다. (people always do) / 실수할 법해요. (plausible that he did)

-(으)ㄴ 만하다

Easy to confuse by shape. 만하다 rates worth or tolerance; 법하다 rates plausibility.

볼 만해요. (worth watching) / 있을 법해요. (believable)

-(으)ㄴ 것 같다

것 같다 predicts what will happen; 법하다 accepts that something could be so. One forecasts, the other concedes.

비가 올 것 같아요. (I expect rain) / 그럴 법해요. (that could well be)

WATCH OUT

X 집에서도 만들 **법**해요.

O 집에서도 만들 **만**해요.

A stem ending in ㄴ already supplies it, as with 만들 거예요 and 만들 만해요.

X 그 영화는 볼 **법**해요. — meaning "worth watching"

O 그 영화는 볼 **만**해요.

법하다 rates plausibility, not worth. For a recommendation the word is 만하다.

X 사람은 누구나 실수할 **법**하다. — as a general rule

O 사람은 누구나 실수하는 **법**이다.

To state a universal, the form is 법이다. 법하다 comments on a single plausible case.