

-(으)ㄹ 겸

and also, killing two birds

Names a second purpose alongside the first. One trip, two reasons — and Korean often stacks the phrase twice to list both.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-ㄹ 겸	쉬다 → 쉴 겸
Ends in a consonant	-을 겸	먹다 → 먹을 겸
Ends in ㄹ	nothing added	만들다 → 만들 겸
Listing two aims	-(으)ㄹ 겸 -(으)ㄹ 겸 해서	실 겸 볼 겸 해서
Between nouns	noun 겸 noun	아침 겸 점심
Spacing	겸 is a noun	실 겸, 아침 겸 점심

WHEN TO USE IT

Attachment is the standard rule with the ㄹ short form: 만들다 gives 만들 겸. 겸 is a noun and takes a space.

The characteristic pattern doubles it: -(으)ㄹ 겸 -(으)ㄹ 겸 해서, listing two aims for one action. 바람도 쉴 겸 운동도 할 겸 해서 걸어왔어요.

Both purposes belong to the same person, and the action is one. It is not a way of joining two separate activities.

With nouns, 겸 links two roles or functions directly: 아침 겸 점심, 서재 겸 침실, 대표 겸 감독.

IN USE

- 바람도 쉴 겸 운동도 할 겸 해서 걸어왔어요.
I walked over, partly for the air and partly for the exercise.
- 친구도 만날 겸 서울에 다녀왔습니다.
I went up to Seoul, partly to see a friend.
- 공부도 할 겸 카페에 자주 가요.
I often go to cafés, partly to study.
- 선물도 살 겸 백화점에 들렀어요.
I stopped by the department store, partly to buy a present.
- 직접 만들 겸 재료도 구경할 겸 시장에 갔어요.
I went to the market to make it myself and to look at the ingredients.
- 늦게 일어나서 아침 겸 점심을 먹었어요.
I got up late, so I had brunch.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)ㄴ/는 김에

김에 adds a second action to one already planned; 겸 names a second reason for a single action. Close, and often interchangeable.

나가는 김에 우유 사 와. (while you're out) / 바람 쐬 겸 나갔어요. (partly for the air)

-기 위해서

위해서 gives the single main purpose; 겸 presents one purpose among two, more casually.

운동하기 위해서 걸어요. (in order to exercise) / 운동도 할 겸 걸어요. (partly for exercise)

Noun 겸 noun

Between nouns it joins two roles in one thing: 아침 겸 점심, 서재 겸 침실, 대표 겸 감독.

아침 겸 점심 (brunch) / 서재 겸 침실 (study-cum-bedroom)

WATCH OUT

X 직접 만들 **겸** 시장에 갔어요.

O 직접 만들 **겸** 시장에 갔어요.

A stem ending in ㄹ already supplies it, as with 만들 거예요 and 만들 뿐이다.

X 제가 공부할 **겸** 동생이 놀았어요.

O 제가 공부도 할 **겸** 카페에 갔어요.

Both purposes belong to one person performing one action. Two different subjects need separate clauses.

X 늦게 일어나서 아침 **겸** 점심을 먹었어요.

O 늦게 일어나서 아침 **겸** 점심을 먹었어요.

겸 is a noun and takes spaces on both sides.