

-(으)ㄹ지어다

thou shalt; let it be so

A solemn command from an older Korean. It survives in scripture, proclamations, and anywhere a writer wants the weight of an ancient voice.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-ㄹ지어다	기억하다 → 기억할지어다
Ends in a consonant	-을지어다	믿다 → 믿을지어다
Ends in ㄹ	nothing added	만들다 → 만들지어다
Solemn assertion	-(으)ㄹ지니라	복이 있을지니라
Addressee	a people, posterity	not one person present
Never takes tense	plain stem only	기억했을지어다 is wrong

WHEN TO USE IT

Attachment is the standard rule with the ㄹ short form: 만들다 gives 만들지어다. It is written joined, and takes no tense.

It is a command or exhortation, not a statement: 이 일을 길이 기억할지어다. The addressee is usually a whole people, a congregation, or posterity — not one person in the room.

The related -(으)ㄹ지니라 makes a solemn assertion rather than a command, and the two often appear together in the same text.

In modern Korean it is used almost entirely for effect — in historical fiction, in translations of classical texts, or ironically.

IN USE

- 후손들은 이 일을 길이 기억할지어다.
Let posterity long remember this.
- 뜻을 세웠거든 흔들리지 말지어다.
Having set your purpose, waver not.
- 약한 자를 업신여기지 말지어다.
Despise not the weak.
- 이 땅에 평화가 있을지어다.
Let there be peace upon this land.
- 손수 만들지어다, 그리하면 그 값을 알리라.
Make it with your own hands, and you shall know its worth.

- 6 무릇 배우는 자는 스스로를 낮출지어다.
Whosoever learns, let him humble himself.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)세요

The everyday polite command. -(으)ㄴ지어다 is not a step up in politeness but a step out of modern Korean altogether.

기억하세요. (please remember) / 기억할지어다. (let it be remembered)

-도록 하다

도록 하다 instructs in an institutional register; -(으)ㄴ지어다 proclaims in an archaic one.

기억하도록 하십시오. (formal instruction) / 기억할지어다. (proclamation)

-(으)ㄴ지니라

The paired ending. 지어다 commands; 지니라 declares a truth solemnly. Classical texts alternate between them.

겸손할지어다. (be humble) / 겸손할지니라. (shall be humble)

WATCH OUT

X 그때 기억했을지어다.

O 이 일을 길이 기억할지어다.

The ending never carries tense, and it commands rather than reports.

X 손수 만들을지어다.

O 손수 만들지어다.

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

X 부장님, 이 서류를 확인할지어다.

O 부장님, 이 서류를 확인해 주시기 바랍니다.

The ending addresses a people or posterity, not a colleague. Used at work it reads as mockery.