

-(으)ㄹ 줄 알다/모르다

know how to / not know how to

Reports a learned skill. Built from the future modifier plus 줄, a noun meaning "method" — and the same shape has a second, unrelated meaning that catches everyone.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-ㄹ 줄 알다	하다 → 할 줄 알아요
Ends in a consonant	-을 줄 알다	읽다 → 읽을 줄 알아요
Ends in ㄹ	nothing added	만들다 → 만들 줄 알아요
Cannot do it	-(으)ㄹ 줄 모르다	할 줄 몰라요
Spacing	줄 is a separate word	할 줄 알아요 — not 할줄
Past = assumption	-(으)ㄹ 줄 알았다	비가 올 줄 알았어요

WHEN TO USE IT

Attachment is the standard rule, with the ㄹ short form: 만들다 gives 만들 줄 알아요. 줄 is a noun, so it stands as its own word.

It is specifically about knowing how — a skill acquired by learning: swimming, driving, cooking, playing an instrument, speaking a language. For possibility or permission, Korean uses -(으)ㄹ 수 있다 instead.

Now the trap. In the past, -(으)ㄹ 줄 알았다 usually does not mean "I knew how to." It means I thought it would be so, and typically introduces a mistaken assumption: 비가 올 줄 알았어요 — I thought it would rain (but it didn't). Context decides, but this reading is far more common.

IN USE

- 저는 수영할 줄 알아요.
I know how to swim.
- 한국 음식을 만들 줄 알아요?
Do you know how to cook Korean food?
- 아직 운전할 줄 몰라요.
I don't know how to drive yet.
- 한글은 읽을 줄 아는데 뜻은 몰라요.
I can read Hangul, but I don't know what it means.
- 오늘 비가 올 줄 알았어요.
I thought it was going to rain today.

- 6 그 사람이 올 줄 몰랐어요.
I had no idea he would come.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)ㄴ 수 있다

수 있다 covers ability and circumstance alike; 줄 알다 is only about a skill you learned. For "I can go tomorrow," only 수 있다 works.

수영할 줄 알아요. (I know how) / 내일 갈 수 있어요. (I'm able to go)

못

못 says a particular attempt was blocked; 줄 모르다 says the skill was never acquired.

수영할 줄 몰라요. (I never learned) / 오늘은 수영 못 해요. (I can't today)

-(으)ㄴ 줄 알았다 as assumption

The past form almost always means "I assumed." To say you knew how to do something in the past, Korean prefers 할 수 있었어요 or rewording.

비가 올 줄 알았어요. (I thought it would rain) / 그때는 수영할 수 있었어요. (I could swim back then)

WATCH OUT

X 한국 음식을 만들 **줄** 알아요.

O 한국 음식을 만들 **수** 알아요.

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

X 저는 수영할 **줄** 있어요.

O 저는 수영할 **수** 알아요.

줄 pairs with 알다 and 모르다, not with 있다. 수 pairs with 있다 and 없다. Keep the two constructions apart.

X 내일 갈 **줄** 알아요. — meaning "I can go tomorrow"

O 내일 갈 **수** 있어요.

Going somewhere is not a learned skill. Reserve 줄 알다 for abilities you had to acquire.