

-(으)ㄹ 뿐이다

that's all, merely

Narrows a claim to one thing and closes the door on anything more. Often used to deflect praise or to play something down.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-ㄹ 뿐이다	하다 → 할 뿐이에요
Ends in a consonant	-을 뿐이다	좋다 → 좋을 뿐이에요
Ends in ㄹ	nothing added	만들다 → 만들 뿐이에요
Past	-았/었을 뿐이다	했을 뿐입니다
With a noun	noun + 뿐이다	이것뿐이에요
Formal variant	-(으)ㄹ 따름이다	할 따름입니다

WHEN TO USE IT

Attachment is the standard rule with the ㄹ short form: 만들다 gives 만들 뿐이다. Past is -았/었을 뿐이다, and with a noun 뿐이다 attaches directly: 이것뿐이에요.

It insists that nothing beyond this applies: 저는 제 할 일을 했을 뿐입니다 — I merely did my job. In Korean this is a standard way to wave off thanks or credit.

It also states scarcity plainly: 남은 것은 이것뿐이에요.

The related -(으)ㄹ 따름이다 means the same in a more formal register, common in speeches and written statements.

IN USE

- 저는 제가 할 일을 했을 뿐입니다.
I merely did what I was supposed to do.
- 그저 운이 좋았을 뿐이에요.
I was just lucky, that's all.
- 남은 것은 이것뿐이에요.
This is all that's left.
- 저는 그냥 지켜볼 뿐이었어요.
I merely stood and watched.
- 시간이 조금 걸릴 뿐이지 어렵지는 않아요.
It just takes a while — it isn't difficult.

6 그는 아무 말 없이 웃을 뿐이었어요.

He said nothing and only smiled.

COMPARED WITH

만

만 limits a noun; -(으)ㄹ 뿐이다 limits a whole statement and shuts it off. The second is heavier and more emphatic.

저만 갔어요. (only I went) / 그냥 갔을 뿐이에요. (I merely went, nothing more)

-(으)ㄹ 뿐만 아니라

Same 뿐, opposite move. 뿐이다 stops at one thing; 뿐만 아니라 negates the limit in order to add another.

싸 뿐이에요. (it's only cheap) / 싸 뿐만 아니라 맛도 좋아요. (cheap and tasty too)

밖에

밖에 needs a negative verb and complains about scarcity; 뿐이다 states the limit directly with a positive one.

이것밖에 없어요. / 이것뿐이에요.

WATCH OUT

X 저는 그냥 만들 뿐이에요.

O 저는 그냥 만들 뿐이에요.

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

X 저는 제 할 일을 했을뿐입니다.

O 저는 제 할 일을 했을 뿐입니다.

뿐 is a noun and takes a space after a modifier. Only after a bare noun does it join: 이것뿐이에요.

X 이것뿐이 없어요.

O 이것뿐이에요. / 이것밖에 없어요.

뿐이다 takes a positive predicate; 밖에 takes a negative one. Mixing the two produces neither.