

-(으)까요?

shall we? I wonder if

A question that turns inward or outward depending on the subject. With we it proposes; with anyone else it wonders aloud.

How it attaches

Stem type	Form	Example
Ends in a vowel	- ㄴ 까요?	가다 → 갈까요?
Ends in a consonant	- 을 까요?	먹다 → 먹을까요?
Ends in ㄹ	- 까 요?	만들다 → 만들까요?
Proposal	subject is we	같이 갈까요?
Speculation	third person	비가 올까요?
Past speculation	- 았/었 을까요?	벌써 갔을까요?

Notes

With we, it is a proposal that invites an answer: 같이 갈까요? Because it is a question rather than a decision, it is gentler than -(으)십시오 and safe with almost anyone.

With a third person or a situation, the same form becomes speculation: 내일 비가 올까요? (do you think it'll rain?). Here you are not proposing anything, just thinking out loud and inviting an opinion.

Attachment is the standard rule, and ㄹ takes the short form: 만들다 gives 만들까요? For speculation about the past, the tense goes inside: 벌써 갔을까요?

Examples

- 1 우리 같이 점심 먹을까요?
Shall we have lunch together?
- 2 제가 도와드릴까요?
Shall I help you?
- 3 내일 비가 올까요?
Do you think it'll rain tomorrow?
- 4 이 옷 어떨까요?
How about these clothes?
- 5 벌써 도착했을까요?
Do you think they've arrived already?
- 6 창문을 열까요?
Shall I open the window?

Compared with

-(으)십시오

A question leaves the decision open; -(으)십시오 announces it. Open with -(으)까요? and switch once the other person agrees.

갈까요? (shall we?) / 갑시다. (let's go)

-(으)래요?

-(으)래요? asks what the listener wants; -(으)까요? asks what the two of you should do. The first is more casual and puts the choice entirely on them.

같이 갈까요? (shall we go together?) / 같이 갈래요? (do you want to come?)

-겠-

For speculation, -(으)까요? asks the listener for their view; -겠어요 states your own on-the-spot impression.

맛있을까요? (do you think it's good?) / 맛있겠어요. (that looks good)

Watch out

✗ 저녁을 만들을까요?

○ 저녁을 만들까요?

Stems ending in ㄹ already supply it, so 을 is not added. Compare 만들거예요 and 만들면, which behave the same way.

✗ 제가 먼저 갈까요. — as a decision

○ 제가 먼저 갈게요.

This ending always asks. To announce what you have decided to do, use -(으)게요.

✗ 그 사람이 벌써 갈까요?

○ 그 사람이 벌써 갔을까요?

Speculation about something already finished needs the past inside the ending: -았/었을까요?