

-(으)ㄹ라치면

whenever one tries to

Every time you set about doing something, the same thing gets in the way. A single ending, written joined, and always about a recurring frustration.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-ㄹ라치면	쉬다 → 쉬ㄹ라치면
Ends in a consonant	-을라치면	먹다 → 먹을라치면
Ends in ㄹ	-라치면	만들다 → 만들라치면
Spelling	one ending, joined	실라치면, not 실 라치면
Common partners	꼭, 하필	... 꼭 전화가 온다
Spoken version	-(으)려고만 하면	쉬려고만 하면

WHEN TO USE IT

Vowel stems take -ㄹ라치면, consonant stems -을라치면, and a ㄹ stem adds nothing: 만들라치면. It is one ending and is written joined — the 라치면 is not a separate word.

The situation must be recurring. You are not describing one occasion but a pattern: 좀 실라치면 꼭 전화가 온다.

The second clause names the interference, and 꼭 or 하필 usually reinforces it — it is always the same thing, always at the wrong moment.

The tone is one of weary complaint, and the register is literary. In speech, -(으)려고만 하면 says the same thing.

IN USE

- 1 좀 실라치면 꼭 전화가 걸려 온다.
The moment I try to rest, the phone always rings.
- 2 밖에 나갈라치면 하필 비가 쏟아진다.
Whenever I set out, down comes the rain.
- 3 뭘 좀 먹을라치면 손님이 들어오곤 했다.
Every time I sat down to eat, a customer would come in.
- 4 이야기를 꺼낼라치면 그는 자리를 피했다.
Whenever I tried to raise it, he found somewhere else to be.
- 5 직접 만들라치면 재료부터 구하기가 어렵다.
Whenever one sets about making it oneself, the materials alone are hard to come by.
- 6 잠들라치면 위층에서 소리가 났다.
Just as I was dropping off, there would be a noise upstairs.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)려던 참이다

참이다 describes one particular moment; -(으)려 라치면 describes a pattern that repeats.

나가려던 참이었어요. (I was just leaving) / 나갈라치면 비가 온다. (every time I set out)

-(으)ㄹ 때마다

때마다 states recurrence neutrally; -(으)ㄹ 라치면 adds the frustration of being thwarted each time.

쉴 때마다 전화가 와요. (each time I rest) / 쉴라치면 꼭 전화가 온다. (I never get to rest)

-기 일쑤이다

일쑤이다 says something happens all too often; -(으)ㄹ 라치면 sets up the attempt that keeps being interrupted.

늦기 일쑤예요. (always late) / 나갈라치면 비가 온다. (rains whenever I go out)

WATCH OUT

X 좀 쉴 라치면 전화가 온다.

O 좀 쉴라치면 전화가 온다.

-(으)ㄹ 라치면 is a single ending and is written joined.

X 어제 쉴라치면 전화가 왔다.

O 좀 쉴라치면 꼭 전화가 온다.

The construction describes a repeating pattern. A single dated occasion does not fit.

X 쉴라치면 기분이 좋아진다.

O 쉴라치면 꼭 전화가 걸려 온다.

The second clause names what interferes. A pleasant outcome leaves the ending with nothing to complain about.