

-(으)ㅁ으로써

by means of, through

Names the method by which something is achieved. And it sits next to a form learners confuse constantly — -(으)로서, which means something else entirely.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-ㅁ으로써	참여하다 → 참여함으로써
Ends in a consonant	-음으로써	민다 → 믿음으로써
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ + ㅁ	만들다 → 만듦으로써
With a noun	(으)로서	대화로서 해결했다
Status, not means	(으)로서	대표로서 참석했다
Cause, not means	-(으)로 인해	폭우로 인해 지연됐다

WHEN TO USE IT

Vowel stems take -ㅁ으로써, consonant stems -음으로써. Stems in ㄹ keep the ㄹ and add ㅁ: 만듦으로써.

The first clause is the method, the second the result: 적극적으로 참여함으로써 문제를 해결할 수 있었다. Substituting a cause here would be wrong — for causes, the form is -(으)로 인해.

Now the pair worth fixing early. -(으)로써 marks a means or instrument; -(으)로서 marks a status or role. 대화로써 해결했다 means it was solved through dialogue; 대표로서 참석했다 means he attended as a representative.

The register is written and institutional — policy documents, reports, formal speeches.

IN USE

- 1 적극적으로 참여함으로써 문제를 해결할 수 있었다.
By taking an active part, we were able to solve the problem.
- 2 규칙을 지킴으로써 사고를 예방할 수 있습니다.
Accidents can be prevented by observing the rules.
- 3 꾸준히 연습함으로써 실력이 향상되었다.
Skills improved through steady practice.
- 4 직접 만듦으로써 원가를 낮출 수 있었습니다.
By making it in-house, we were able to lower costs.
- 5 이 문제는 대화로써 해결해야 합니다.
This matter should be resolved through dialogue.
- 6 자료를 투명하게 공개함으로써 의혹을 해소했다.
By disclosing the data openly, they put the suspicions to rest.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)로서

The pair that matters. 로써 is the means; 로서 is the capacity in which someone acts. One letter apart, and the difference is not stylistic.

대화로써 해결했다. (through dialogue) / 대표로써 참석했다. (as a representative)

-(으)로 인해

인해 gives the cause of something; 으로써 gives the method used to achieve it. Cause versus instrument.

폭우로 인해 지연됐다. (because of rain) / 대화로써 해결했다. (by means of dialogue)

-아서/어서

-아서 links two actions loosely; 으로써 explicitly presents the first as the instrument of the second.

연습해서 늘었어요. (practised, and improved) / 연습함으로써 향상되었다. (improved through practice)

WATCH OUT

X 그는 대표로써 회의에 참석했다.

O 그는 대표로서 회의에 참석했다.

Attending in a capacity takes 로서. 로써 would mean he was the instrument used to attend.

X 직접 만들음으로써 원가를 낮췄습니다.

O 직접 만듦으로써 원가를 낮췄습니다.

A ㅁ stem keeps the ㅁ and adds ㅁ, giving 만듦 rather than 만들음.

X 폭우가 내림으로써 행사가 취소되었다.

O 폭우로 인해 행사가 취소되었다.

Rain is a cause, not a method. 으로써 requires a deliberate means.