

-(으)면 안 되다

must not, is not allowed

The refusal half of the permission pair. Literally "if you do it, it won't do" — a rule stated impersonally rather than an order aimed at one person.

How it attaches

Stem type	Form	Example
Ends in a vowel	-면 안 되다	가다 → 가면 안 돼요
Ends in a consonant	-으면 안 되다	먹다 → 먹으면 안 돼요
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ stays	만들다 → 만들면 안 돼요
Formal	-(으)면 안 됩니다	들어가면 안 됩니다
Direct request instead	-지 마세요	들어가지 마세요
Not required	안 -아/어도 되다	안 가도 돼요

Notes

Attachment is the ordinary -(으)면 rule, and ㄹ stems keep their ㄹ: 만들다 gives 만들면 안 돼요.

It states a prohibition as a fact about the world rather than a request from you: 여기에서 담배를 피우면 안 돼요 reads as "smoking here isn't allowed." Compare -지 마세요, which is you personally asking someone to stop.

Its most common job is answering a permission question in the negative, because -아/어도 되다 cannot simply be negated. Be careful with the alternative that looks similar: 안 -아/어도 되다 means "you don't have to," which is the opposite of forbidding.

Examples

- 여기에 주차하면 안 됩니다.
You mustn't park here.
- 수업 중에 자면 안 돼요.
You mustn't sleep during class.
- 이건 만지면 안 돼요.
You mustn't touch this.
- 늦으면 안 되니까 서두르세요.
We mustn't be late, so please hurry.
- 약속을 잊으면 안 됩니다.
You mustn't forget the promise.
- 거짓말하면 안 되지요.
You shouldn't tell lies, should you?

Compared with

-지 마세요

-지 마세요 is a request from you to the listener; -(으)면 안 되다 reports a rule. Signs and regulations use the second; a friend asking you to stop uses the first.

여기에 주차하지 마세요. (I'm asking) / 여기에 주차하면 안 돼요. (it's not allowed)

-아/어도 되다

The pair works as question and refusal, but the construction changes between them. This asymmetry is the single most common error with permission in Korean.

가도 돼요? → 네, 가도 돼요. / 아니요, 가면 안 돼요.

-아/어야 되다

Obligation and prohibition are opposites: one says you have to, the other says you must not. Note that "you don't have to" is neither — that is 안 -아/어도 되다.

가야 돼요. (you have to go) / 가면 안 돼요. (you must not go) / 안 가도 돼요. (you don't have to go)

Watch out

✗ 이 음식을 만들으면 안 돼요.

○ 이 음식을 만들면 안 돼요.

A stem ending in ㄹ keeps it and adds nothing, exactly as with plain -(으)면.

✗ 안 가면 돼요. — meaning "you must not go"

○ 가면 안 돼요.

Moving the 안 changes the meaning to "it's fine if you don't go." The negation belongs on 되다, not on the main verb.

✗ 숙제를 안 하면 안 돼요? — asking permission to skip it

○ 숙제를 안 해도 돼요?

Double negatives are grammatical here but confusing. To ask whether something can be skipped, use 안 -아/어도 되다.