

-(으)ㄴ 후에

after doing

The partner of -기 전에, built differently. "After" uses the past modifier -(으)ㄴ, so the form changes with the stem — and the ㄹ drops.

How it attaches

Stem type	Form	Example
Ends in a vowel	-ㄴ 후에	가다 → 간 후에
Ends in a consonant	-은 후에	먹다 → 먹은 후에
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	만들다 → 만든 후에
Same meaning	-(으)ㄴ 다음에 / 뒤에	먹은 다음에
With a noun	noun + 후에	식사 후에
Never	no 았/었 before it	갔은 후에 does not exist

Notes

A stem ending in a vowel takes -ㄴ 후에 and the ㄴ tucks into the syllable: 가 becomes 간 후에. A consonant stem takes -은 후에: 먹 becomes 먹은 후에. Stems in ㄹ drop it: 만들다 gives 만든 후에.

The -(으)ㄴ here is the past modifier from the modifier system, which is why it already carries a completed sense. Adding 았/었 on top is wrong: 갔은 후에 does not exist.

후에 has close relatives you will meet immediately: 다음에 and 뒤에 mean the same thing and swap in freely. -고 나서 also translates as "after," with a little more emphasis on finishing the first action before starting the second.

Examples

- 1 숙제를 한 후에 놀아요.
I play after I've done my homework.
- 2 수업 후에 만날까요?
Shall we meet after class?
- 3 밥을 먹은 다음에 산책했어요.
I went for a walk after eating.
- 4 한국에 온 후에 많이 배웠어요.
I've learned a lot since coming to Korea.
- 5 손을 씻은 후에 드세요.
Eat after washing your hands.
- 6 일이 끝난 후에 연락할게요.
I'll get in touch after work finishes.

Compared with

-기 전에

Same job in reverse, different machinery. "Before" is invariant -기; "after" changes shape with the stem. Drilling them together fixes the asymmetry in memory.

먹기 전에 / 먹은 후에

-고 나서

Very close in meaning. -고 나서 stresses that the first action was completed and finished with; -(으)ㄴ 후에 simply places it earlier in time.

숙제를 한 후에 놀아요. / 숙제를 하고 나서 놀아요.

-(으)ㄴ 지

Also built on the past modifier, but it measures elapsed time rather than sequencing events.

한국에 온 후에 (after coming) / 한국에 온 지 3년 됐어요. (it's been 3 years since)

Watch out

✗ 밥을 먹는 후에 산책했어요.

○ 밥을 먹은 후에 산책했어요.

-는 is the present modifier and describes something ongoing. "After" needs the past modifier -(으)ㄴ.

✗ 저녁을 만들은 후에 쉬었어요.

○ 저녁을 만든 후에 쉬었어요.

Stems ending in ㄹ drop it before -(으)ㄴ. The same happens in 산 후에 and 안 후에.

✗ 한국에 왔은 후에 친구가 생겼어요.

○ 한국에 온 후에 친구가 생겼어요.

-(으)ㄴ already means the action is complete, so 았/었 is not added on top.