

-(으)ㄴ/는 김에

while you're at it, since you're doing it anyway

Adds a second errand to one you were already doing. The first action is the real reason you are there; the second is opportunistic.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Action still ahead	-는 김에	가다 → 가는 김에
Action already done	-(으)ㄴ 김에	오다 → 온 김에
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	만들다 → 만드는 김에
Asking a favour	-는 김에 + request	나가는 김에 부쳐 주세요
Adjectives	impossible	좋은 김에 does not work
Equal actions take	-고, -(으)면서	둘 다 계획했다면 -고

WHEN TO USE IT

Use -는 김에 when the first action is still ahead or under way, and -(으)ㄴ 김에 when it is already done: 시내에 가는 김에 (since I'm going into town) versus 여기까지 온 김에 (since I've come all this way). Stems in ㄹ drop it.

It takes action verbs only — there has to be an occasion to piggyback on. Adjectives cannot supply one.

The logic matters more than the form. The two actions cannot be equally important: the first is your actual purpose, and the second is added because the opportunity arose. If you set out to do both, this is the wrong construction.

It is also a polite way to ask a favour, since it presents the request as no extra trouble: 나가는 김에 이것 좀 부쳐 주세요.

IN USE

- 1 시내에 가는 김에 은행에도 들르게요.
Since I'm going into town, I'll stop by the bank too.
- 2 여기까지 온 김에 커피 한잔 하고 가요.
Since we've come this far, let's have a coffee before we go.
- 3 나가는 김에 이것 좀 부쳐 주시겠어요?
Since you're going out, could you post this for me?
- 4 저녁을 만드는 김에 내일 것도 준비했어요.
While I was making dinner, I prepared tomorrow's as well.
- 5 청소하는 김에 창문도 닦았어요.
While I was cleaning, I did the windows too.

6 말이 나온 김에 이야기를 좀 더 해 볼까요?

Since the subject has come up, shall we talk about it a bit more?

COMPARED WITH

-(으)면서

-(으)면서 has two actions running at the same time with equal weight. -는 김에 subordinates the second to the first as an afterthought.

청소하면서 음악을 들었어요. (both at once) / 청소하는 김에 창문도 닦았어요. (added while I was at it)

-는 동안

-는 동안 marks a stretch of time during which something else happened, possibly by someone else. -는 김에 is about seizing an opportunity you created.

제가 청소하는 동안 동생은 잤어요. (meanwhile) / 청소하는 김에 정리도 했어요. (while at it)

-고

If both actions were planned from the start, they are simply sequential and take -고. 김에 requires that the second was unplanned.

은행에 가고 시장에도 갔어요. (both planned) / 은행에 간 김에 시장에도 들렀어요. (bank first, market as a bonus)

WATCH OUT

X 날씨가 좋은 김에 산책했어요.

O 날씨가 좋아서 산책했어요.

김에 needs an action to piggyback on. An adjective describes a state, not an occasion.

X 저녁을 만드는 김에 내일 것도 했어요.

O 저녁을 만드는 김에 내일 것도 했어요.

Stems ending in ㄴ drop it before -는, as everywhere in the modifier system.

X 은행하고 시장에 가는 김에 둘 다 갔어요.

O 은행에 간 김에 시장에도 들렀어요.

The second action has to be the unplanned extra. If both were the point of the trip, use -고.