

-(으)ㄴ/는 탓에

because of — and it went badly

A reason that assigns blame. 탓 means "fault," so the outcome is always unwelcome — the mirror image of 덕분에.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any noun	noun + 탓에	날씨 탓에
Verb, present	-는 탓에	오다 → 오는 탓에
Adjective	-(으)ㄴ 탓에	바쁘다 → 바쁜 탓에
Completed action	-(으)ㄴ 탓에	늦은 탓에
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	만들다 → 만드는 탓에
Result must be	negative	good outcomes take 덕분에

WHEN TO USE IT

With a noun, 탓에 attaches directly: 비 탓에, 날씨 탓에. With a clause it follows the modifier system — verbs take -는 탓에, adjectives -(으)ㄴ 탓에, completed actions -(으)ㄴ 탓에. Stems in ㄹ drop it.

The result must be negative. This is not a stylistic preference but part of the word: 탓 is what you blame. A good outcome with 탓에 sounds wrong to a Korean ear.

Because it assigns fault, it can carry an accusing tone. 남 탓하지 마세요 — don't blame others — uses the same word as a verb.

For a neutral reason with no blame, -기 때문에 is the safe choice.

IN USE

- 갑작스러운 비 탓에 행사가 취소됐어요.
The event was cancelled because of the sudden rain.
- 늦게 출발한 탓에 비행기를 놓쳤어요.
I missed the flight because I set off late.
- 요즘 바쁜 탓에 운동을 못 하고 있어요.
I haven't been able to exercise because I'm so busy lately.
- 준비가 부족한 탓에 좋은 결과를 얻지 못했다.
Owing to inadequate preparation, we failed to get a good result.
- 서둘러 만드는 탓에 실수가 잦아요.
Mistakes are frequent because we make them in a rush.

6 길이 미끄러운 탓에 사고가 자주 납니다.

Accidents happen often because the road is slippery.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)ㄴ/는 덕분에

An exact pair. 덕분에 credits a good outcome, 탓에 blames a bad one. Choosing between them is a matter of how the result turned out.

비 탓에 취소됐어요. (blame) / 도와주신 덕분에 잘 끝났어요. (credit)

-기 때문에

때문에 is neutral and works with any outcome. If you do not want to assign fault, it is the safer ending.

비 때문에 취소됐어요. (neutral) / 비 탓에 취소됐어요. (the rain is to blame)

-는 바람에

Also produces a bad result, but from something sudden and unexpected rather than from assigning fault.

늦은 탓에 놓쳤어요. (my lateness was at fault) / 차가 막히는 바람에 놓쳤어요. (traffic intervened)

WATCH OUT

X 열심히 공부한 탓에 시험에 합격했어요.

O 열심히 공부한 덕분에 시험에 합격했어요.

탓 means fault. For a good outcome the word is 덕분.

X 서둘러 만들는 탓에 실수가 많아요.

O 서둘러 만드는 탓에 실수가 많아요.

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

X 부장님 탓에 일이 늦어졌습니다.

O 여러 사정으로 일이 늦어졌습니다.

탓에 openly assigns blame. Naming a superior as the cause is a direct accusation, so a neutral phrasing is wiser.