

-(으)ㄴ/는지 알다/모르다

know or not know whether, what, when

Embeds a question inside a sentence. Korean leaves the question word exactly where it stood — no reordering, no extra word for "whether."

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Verb, present	-는지	오다 → 오는지
Adjective	-(으)ㄴ지	좋다 → 좋은지
Past, any word type	-았/었는지	갔는지
Not yet decided	-(으)ㄹ지	갈지 모르겠어요
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	알다 → 아는지
이다	-인지	학생인지

WHEN TO USE IT

The form follows the modifier system: verbs take -는지, adjectives -(으)ㄴ지, and the past is -았/었는지 for everything. For something not yet decided, -(으)ㄹ지. Stems in ㄹ drop it: 아는지, 만드는지.

It works with or without a question word. 언제 오는지 알아요? asks when; 오는지 알아요? asks whether. The structure does not change.

Note the particle: what you know is marked with 을/를 when the embedded clause is treated as an object, but in practice Korean simply says 언제 오는지 알아요 with no particle at all — and that is the natural form.

모르다 is used far more than 알다 here, because saying you do not know is the more common conversational move: 어디에 있는지 모르겠어요.

IN USE

- 1 그 사람이 언제 오는지 알아요?
Do you know when he's coming?
- 2 화장실이 어디에 있는지 모르겠어요.
I don't know where the toilet is.
- 3 이 음식이 매운지 몰라서 못 먹었어요.
I didn't eat it because I didn't know whether it was spicy.
- 4 어제 무슨 일이 있었는지 아세요?
Do you know what happened yesterday?
- 5 내일 갈지 안 갈지 아직 모르겠어요.
I still don't know whether I'll go tomorrow or not.

6 저는 그분이 한국 사람인지 몰랐어요.

I didn't know that he was Korean.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)냐고 하다

-냐고 reports a question someone asked; -는지 embeds a question inside knowing, wondering, or checking. Both translate as "whether."

오냐고 물었어요. (he asked whether I'm coming) / 오는지 몰라요. (I don't know whether he's coming)

-(으)ㄴ 지

A different word that looks nearly identical. -(으)ㄴ 지 with a space measures elapsed time; -는지 joined means "whether."

온 지 3년 됐어요. (three years since coming) / 오는지 몰라요. (whether he's coming)

-(으)ㄹ지

Used when the matter is undecided or lies ahead. 갈지 모르겠어요 is about a decision not yet made; 가는지 모르겠어요 is about a fact you lack.

갈지 모르겠어요. (I haven't decided) / 가는지 모르겠어요. (I don't know if he goes)

WATCH OUT

X 이 음식이 맵는지 알려 주세요.

O 이 음식이 매운지 알려 주세요.

맵다 is an adjective, so it takes -(으)ㄴ 지. -는지 belongs to verbs and the 있다 group.

X 그 사람이 뭘 만들는지 모르겠어요.

O 그 사람이 뭘 만드는지 모르겠어요.

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

X 그 사람이 언제 오는 지 알아요?

O 그 사람이 언제 오는지 알아요?

Written joined it means "whether." With a space it becomes the unrelated -(으)ㄴ 지 that measures elapsed time.