

-(으)나

but, although — written register

The literary counterpart of -지만. Same meaning, different setting: you read it far more often than you hear it.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Ends in a vowel	-나	가다 → 가나
Ends in a consonant	-으나	좋다 → 좋으나
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	만들다 → 만드나
Past	-았/었으나	갔으나
Whether or not	-(으)나 안 -(으)나	오나 안 오나
Spoken version	-지만, -는데	중지만

WHEN TO USE IT

Attachment is the standard rule, and ㄹ drops: 만들다 gives 만드나. Tense goes in front: 갔으나, 좋았으나.

It belongs to writing — reports, articles, formal announcements. In conversation it sounds stiff, and -지만 or -는데 is what people actually say.

It has a second use worth knowing: repeated on the same verb, positive and negative, it means "whether or not." 비가 오나 안 오나 갈 거예요. This use does appear in speech, as a fixed pattern.

Note also the sentence-initial connector 그러나, which is the written equivalent of 하지만 and comes from the same ending.

IN USE

- 1 가격은 비싸나 품질이 좋다.
It is expensive, but the quality is good.
- 2 여러 번 시도했으나 실패했다.
We tried several times but failed.
- 3 그 계획은 좋으나 비용이 문제다.
The plan is sound, but cost is an issue.
- 4 이 제품은 국내에서 만드나 해외에서도 판매된다.
This product is made domestically but is also sold abroad.
- 5 비가 오나 안 오나 경기는 열립니다.
The match will go ahead whether it rains or not.

6 노력했다. 그러나 결과는 좋지 않았다.

We made an effort. However, the result was poor.

COMPARED WITH

-지만

Identical meaning, different register. -지만 works everywhere; -(으)나 sounds formal or old-fashioned in speech.

비싸지만 좋아요. (speech) / 비싸나 품질이 좋다. (writing)

-(으)ㄴ/는데

-는데 supplies background and softens; -(으)나 states a plain opposition. Written Korean prefers the second for clear contrast.

비싼데 좋아요. (it's pricey — and good) / 비싸나 좋다. (expensive, yet good)

-(으)나 -(으)나

Doubled with a negative, it means "regardless." This pattern survives in ordinary speech even though the plain ending does not.

가나 안 가나 상관없어요. / 좋으나 싫으나 해야 돼요.

WATCH OUT

X 국내에서 만들으나 해외에서도 판매된다.

O 국내에서 만드나 해외에서도 판매된다.

Stems ending in ㄹ drop it before this ending, as with -(으)니까 and -(으)세요.

X 이거 비싸나 맛있어요.

O 이거 비싸지만 맛있어요.

-(으)나 clashes with casual conversation. In speech, use -지만 or -는데.

X 여러 번 시도하나 실패했다.

O 여러 번 시도했으나 실패했다.

Unlike -아서, this ending accepts tense — and a completed past attempt needs it.