

-(으)니까

because, since — the speaker's reasoning

The other "because." Where -아서/어서 states a plain cause, this one presents the reason as your grounds for what follows — which is why only this ending can lead into a request.

How it attaches

Stem type	Form	Example
Ends in a vowel	-니까	가다 → 가니까
Ends in a consonant	-으니까	먹다 → 먹으니까
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	만들다 → 만드니까
Past	-았/었으니까	가다 → 갔으니까
이다	-(이)니까	학생이니까
Followed by	commands, suggestions	닫으세요, 갑시다, 하지 마세요

Notes

Two things make -(으)니까 different from -아서. It accepts commands and suggestions: 추우니까 창문을 닫으세요. And it takes tense: 어제 갔으니까 오늘은 안 가요. Both are impossible with -아서.

Attachment follows the standard rule — vowel stems take 니까, consonant stems 으니까 — with the usual ㄹ behaviour: the ㄹ drops. 만들다 gives 만드니까, 살다 gives 사니까.

It has a second use worth knowing: discovery. Attached to an action, it can mean "upon doing X, I found that Y": 집에 가니까 아무도 없었어요. Here it is not giving a reason at all, just a sequence in which something was noticed.

Examples

- 1 시간이 없으니까 빨리 가세요.
There's no time, so please hurry.
- 2 비가 오니까 우산을 가져가세요.
It's raining, so take an umbrella.
- 3 제가 할 테니까 걱정하지 마세요.
I'll take care of it, so don't worry.
- 4 배고프니까 밥부터 먹읍시다.
I'm hungry, so let's eat first.
- 5 어제 갔으니까 오늘은 안 가도 돼요.
We went yesterday, so we don't have to go today.
- 6 위험하니까 조심하세요.
It's dangerous, so be careful.

Compared with

-아서/어서

The clearest test is what comes next. If the second clause tells someone to do something, only -(으)니까 works. For a plain report of cause, either is fine, though -아서 sounds more neutral.

추워서 닫았어요. (I closed it) / 추우니까 닫으세요. (please close it)

Fixed greetings

Social formulas are locked to -아서. Substituting -(으)니까 sounds argumentative, as though you were justifying yourself.

만나서 반갑습니다. / not 만나니까 반갑습니다

-(으)ㄴ/는데

-는데 sets up background without claiming causation. Use it when you are leading into something rather than explaining it.

추우니까 닫으세요. (because it's cold) / 추운데 창문이 열려 있어요. (it's cold, and the window is open)

Watch out

✗ 제가 만들으니까 기다려 주세요.

○ 제가 만드니까 기다려 주세요.

Stems ending in ㄹ drop it before this ending. The same applies to 사니까, 아니까, 노니까.

✗ 만나니까 반갑습니다.

○ 만나서 반갑습니다.

Greetings and apologies are fixed expressions built on -아서. 늦어서 죄송합니다 works the same way.

✗ 배가 고파서 밥 먹을까요?

○ 배가 고프니까 밥 먹을까요?

A suggestion counts as a command form, so -아서 is blocked. Any clause ending in -(으)까요, -(으)세요, or -(으)십시오 needs -(으)니까 in front of it.