

-(으)려고 하다

plan to, be about to

Takes -(으)려고 and closes it with 하다. The result reports an intention forming, or an action on the verge of happening.

How it attaches

Stem type	Form	Example
Ends in a vowel	-려고 하다	가다 → 가려고 해요
Ends in a consonant	-으려고 하다	먹다 → 먹으려고 해요
Ends in ㄹ	-려고 하다	만들다 → 만들려고 해요
About to	uncontrolled events	비가 오려고 해요
Unfulfilled intention	-(으)려고 했다	전화하려고 했는데
Spoken contraction	-(으)려구요	가려고요

Notes

Attachment follows the standard rule with the ㄹ short form: 만들다 gives 만들려고 해요. Tense goes on 하다, never on the first verb.

With a person as subject it reports a plan you are turning over: 주말에 부산에 가려고 해요. It is softer than -(으)ㄹ 거예요, which announces something settled.

With events outside anyone's control, the intention drops out and only the timing remains — "about to": 비가 오려고 해요, 해가 지려고 해요.

The past form carries a particular flavour: an intention that did not come off. 전화하려고 했는데 못 했어요 — I meant to call but couldn't.

Examples

- 1 주말에 부산에 가려고 해요.**
I'm planning to go to Busan this weekend.
- 2 이제 자려고 해요.**
I'm about to go to sleep.
- 3 내년에 한국어 시험을 보려고 해요.**
I'm thinking of taking the Korean exam next year.
- 4 비가 오려고 하는데 우산 있어요?**
It looks like it's about to rain — do you have an umbrella?
- 5 전화하려고 했는데 너무 늦었어요.**
I meant to call, but it got too late.
- 6 저녁은 집에서 만들려고 해요.**
I'm planning to make dinner at home.

Compared with

-(으)ㄹ 거예요

-(으)ㄹ 거예요 states a decision; -(으)려고 하다 reports one taking shape. For something already booked, the first is the natural choice.

부산에 갈 거예요. (it's arranged) / 부산에 가려고 해요. (I'm thinking of going)

-기로 하다

-기로 하다 marks the moment of deciding, often jointly with someone. -(으)려고 하다 describes an intention you are holding.

가려고 해요. (I intend to go) / 가기로 했어요. (we've decided to go)

-(으)ㄹ까 하다

Even less settled — you are toying with the idea. The three form a scale from vague to fixed.

갈까 해요. (maybe I'll go) → 가려고 해요. (I intend to) → 갈 거예요. (I'm going)

Watch out

✗ 저녁을 만들으려고 해요.

○ 저녁을 만들려고 해요.

A stem ending in ㄹ takes the short form, exactly as with plain -(으)려고 and -(으)러.

✗ 어제 전화했으려고 했어요.

○ 어제 전화하려고 했어요.

Tense belongs on 하다 at the end. The first verb always stays in its plain stem form.

✗ 어제 부산에 가려고 해요.

○ 어제 부산에 가려고 했어요.

With a past time word, 하다 must be in the past too — which also gives the sense that the plan did not work out.