

-게 되다

end up doing, come to be

Marks a change that came about rather than one you engineered. Korean reaches for it constantly, because claiming full credit for your own circumstances can sound immodest.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any verb	-게 되다	알다 → 알게 되다
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-게 되다	만들다 → 만들게 됐어요
Reporting a change	-게 되었다 / 됐다	일하게 됐어요
Future outcome	-게 될 거예요	알게 될 거예요
Adjectives take	-아/어지다	예뻐지다, 건강해지다
Never takes tense	plain stem only	갔게 됐어요 is wrong

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -게 되다 to any verb stem — no vowel rule, ㄹ stays, no tense in front. The tense goes on 되다, and 되었어요 contracts to 됐어요 in speech.

The meaning is that circumstances brought the situation about: 한국에서 일하게 됐어요 reads as "it worked out that I'm working in Korea." Say 한국에서 일해요 and you are simply stating a fact; the -게 되다 version credits the situation rather than yourself.

This modesty is why it appears so often in self-introductions and announcements. It also covers changes that genuinely were outside your control: 그 사실을 알게 됐어요.

It attaches to verbs. For an adjective — becoming pretty, becoming healthy — use -아/어지다 instead.

IN USE

- 올해부터 한국에서 일하게 됐어요.
As it turns out, I'll be working in Korea from this year.
- 우연히 그 사실을 알게 됐어요.
I came to find out about it by chance.
- 처음에는 싫었는데 좋아하게 됐어요.
I disliked it at first, but I've come to like it.
- 사정이 생겨서 못 가게 됐어요.
Something came up, so I can't go after all.
- 한국 음식도 잘 만들게 됐어요.
I've got to the point where I can cook Korean food well.

6 언젠가는 알게 될 거예요.

You'll find out eventually.

COMPARED WITH

-아/어지다

The two split by word class. Verbs take -게 되다; adjectives take -아/어지다. 예쁘게 되다 is wrong for "become pretty."

가게 됐어요. (it worked out that I go) / 예뻐졌어요. (she's become prettier)

Plain statement

Both are grammatical; the difference is stance. -게 되다 presents the outcome as something that happened to you, which reads as modest.

한국에서 일해요. (I work in Korea) / 한국에서 일하게 됐어요. (I've ended up working in Korea)

-기로 하다

-기로 하다 credits a decision; -게 되다 credits circumstance. Choosing between them says who was in charge.

가기로 했어요. (we decided to go) / 가게 됐어요. (it turned out I'm going)

WATCH OUT

X 요즘 날씨가 춥게 됐어요.

O 요즘 날씨가 추워졌어요.

춥다 is an adjective, so the change takes -아/어지다. -게 되다 belongs with verbs.

X 한국에 갔게 됐어요.

O 한국에 가게 됐어요.

Tense sits on 되다 only. The first verb stays in its plain stem form.

X 제가 회의를 준비하게 했어요. — meaning "I ended up preparing it"

O 제가 회의를 준비하게 됐어요.

-게 하다 means making someone else do something. For a change that happened to you, the verb is 되다.