

-거늘

and yet; seeing that

An archaic connective with two faces. It states a given fact, then either draws a conclusion from it or turns it against what followed.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any verb or adjective	-거늘	알다 → 알거늘
Past	-았/었거늘	일렀거늘
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-거늘	만들거늘
Concessive reading	... rhetorical question	어찌 듣지 않았느냐
Causal reading	... a conclusion	달리 볼 것이 없다
Lamenting instead	-건만	기다렸건만

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -거늘 to any stem — no vowel rule, ㄹ stays, and tense may appear in front: 하였거늘. The emphatic 거늘랑 also occurs.

In the concessive use it means "and yet": 여러 번 일렀거늘 어찌 듣지 않았느냐. The second clause is usually a rhetorical question or a reproach.

In the causal use it means "seeing that": 이치가 그러하거늘 달리 볼 것이 없다.

Which one you get is decided by the second clause. Against -건만, which laments, 거늘 rebukes or reasons — it is drier and more admonishing.

IN USE

- 여러 번 일렀거늘 어찌 듣지 않았느냐.
You were told again and again — why did you not listen?
- 이치가 그러하거늘 달리 볼 것이 없다.
Such being the principle, there is nothing else to consider.
- 누구나 아는 사실이거늘 새삼 물을 일이 아니다.
It is a fact everyone knows, and no matter for fresh inquiry.
- 그토록 애썼거늘 어찌 이런 결과가 나왔는가.
After so much effort — how has it come to this?
- 손수 만들거늘 어찌 값을 따지겠는가.
It is made by his own hand — how should one haggle over the price?

6 뜻이 굳거늘 무엇을 더 말하라.

His purpose being firm, what more is there to say?

COMPARED WITH

-건만

Both archaic and both concessive. 건만 laments and grieves; 거늘 rebukes and reasons. Sorrow versus reproof.

기다렸건만 오지 않았다. (alas) / 일렀거늘 듣지 않았느냐. (why did you not?)

-(으)매

In the causal reading they overlap. 매 is purely a reason; 거늘 keeps a trace of "this being so, surely..."

뜻이 있으매 길이 열린다. (since) / 이치가 그러하거늘 (seeing that)

-(으)ㄴ들

Both take rhetorical questions. -(으)ㄴ들 supposes something and calls it futile; 거늘 states a fact and demands an explanation.

후회한들 무슨 소용인가. (futile) / 일렀거늘 어찌 듣지 않았느냐. (why not?)

WATCH OUT

X 여러 번 일렀거늘 잘 들었다.

O 여러 번 일렀거늘 어찌 듣지 않았느냐.

In the concessive reading the second clause must reproach or question. Compliance leaves the ending with nothing to do.

X 부장님께서 여러 번 이르셨거늘 어찌 그러셨습니까.

O 부장님께서 여러 번 말씀하셨는데 어찌 된 일인지요.

거늘 admonishes. Directed at a superior it is impertinent, honorifics or not.

X 야, 여러 번 말했거늘 왜 안 들어.

O 야, 여러 번 말했는데 왜 안 들어.

거늘 is classical. In conversation it sounds like a line from a period drama.