

-기 십상이다

is likely to — and it won't be good

Warns that something is apt to go wrong. Another fixed -기 pattern, and the counterpart of -기 마련이다 with the sympathy removed.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any verb	-기 십상이다	실수하다 → 실수하기 십상이다
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-기 십상이다	잃다 → 잃기 십상이다
Usual shape	-(으)면 ... 십상이다	서두르면 실수하기 십상이다
Outcome must be	undesirable	합격하기 십상이다 is wrong
Spacing	십상 is a noun	실수하기 십상이다
Never takes tense	plain stem only	실수했기 십상이다 is wrong

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -기 십상이다 to a verb stem — no vowel rule, ㄹ stays, no tense in front. 십상 is a noun and takes a space.

The outcome must be undesirable. That is not a preference but part of the meaning: 십상 predicts a slip, a loss, a mistake. A good outcome makes the sentence ungrammatical.

It normally follows a condition, and the pair reads as a warning: 서두르면 실수하기 십상이에요.

Against 마련이다, the difference is stance. 마련이다 consoles — it happens to everyone. 십상이다 warns — be careful, or this will happen to you.

IN USE

- 1 서두르면 실수하기 십상이에요.
Rush it and you're likely to slip up.
- 2 준비 없이 시작하면 실패하기 십상이다.
Starting without preparation is a recipe for failure.
- 3 늦게까지 스마트폰을 보면 잠을 설치기 십상이다.
Look at your phone late and you'll sleep badly.
- 4 급하게 만들면 맛이 없기 십상이에요.
Make it in a hurry and it's likely to taste poor.
- 5 혼자 결정하면 후회하기 십상입니다.
Decide alone and you'll probably regret it.
- 6 메모하지 않으면 잊어버리기 십상이에요.
If you don't write it down you're apt to forget.

COMPARED WITH

-기 마련이다

Same shape, opposite stance. 마련이다 consoles about what happens to everyone; 십상이다 warns about what will happen to you.

실수하기 마련이에요. (it happens to us all) / 실수하기 십상이에요. (you'll slip up)

-(으)ㄹ 것 같다

것 같다 predicts anything, good or bad, and hedges. 십상이다 predicts only bad outcomes and states them firmly.

늦을 것 같아요. (I think I'll be late) / 늦기 십상이에요. (you're bound to be late)

-는 바람에

바람에 reports a bad outcome that already happened; 십상이다 predicts one that has not.

서두르는 바람에 실수했어요. (I rushed and erred) / 서두르면 실수하기 십상이에요. (rushing leads to errors)

WATCH OUT

X 열심히 하면 합격하기 십상이에요.

O 열심히 하면 합격할 거예요.

십상이다 predicts an unwelcome result. For a good outcome, a plain future works.

X 어제 서둘러서 실수했기 십상이에요.

O 어제 서두르는 바람에 실수했어요.

-기 never carries tense, and 십상이다 predicts rather than reports. For something that already happened, use a past construction.

X 서두르면 실수하기 십상이에요.

O 서두르면 실수하기 십상이에요.

십상 is a noun and takes a space.