

-기로 하다

decide to, agree to

Marks the moment a decision is made. Usually reported in the past even when the action is still ahead — because the deciding is what already happened.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any verb	-기로 하다	가다 → 가기로 하다
Reporting a decision	-기로 했다	만나기로 했어요
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-기로 하다	만들다 → 만들기로 했어요
Resolving not to	안 + verb + 기로	안 피우기로 했어요
Other verbs	약속하다, 결정하다	가기로 약속했어요
Never takes tense	plain stem only	갔기로 했어요 is wrong

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -기로 하다 to any plain stem — no vowel rule, ㄹ stays, and no tense in front. The tense goes on 하다.

The point that surprises learners is that the past form is standard for future plans: 내일 만나기로 했어요 means "we've arranged to meet tomorrow." The meeting is future, but the decision is past, and Korean marks the decision.

It frequently describes a joint arrangement, which is why it fits appointments and agreements so well. 하다 can also be swapped for a more specific verb: 약속하다 (promise), 결정하다 (decide), 정하다 (settle on).

For a resolution about stopping something, the negative goes on the first verb: 담배를 안 피우기로 했어요.

IN USE

- 내일 세 시에 만나기로 했어요.
We've arranged to meet at three tomorrow.
- 올해부터 담배를 안 피우기로 했어요.
I've decided to stop smoking this year.
- 매일 아침 운동하기로 했어요.
I've decided to exercise every morning.
- 친구하고 같이 여행 가기로 약속했어요.
I promised to travel with a friend.
- 저녁은 제가 만들기로 했어요.
It's been decided that I'll make dinner.

6 회의는 다음 주로 미루기로 했습니다.

We've decided to postpone the meeting to next week.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)려고 하다

-(으)려고 하다 is an intention you hold; -기로 하다 is a decision already taken, often with someone else. The second is firmer.

가려고 해요. (I'm thinking of going) / 가기로 했어요. (it's decided)

-(으)ㄹ 거예요

Both report settled plans, but -기로 했어요 points at the act of deciding, which is why it suits appointments and agreements.

내일 만날 거예요. (I'm meeting them) / 내일 만나기로 했어요. (we've arranged to meet)

-(으)ㄹ 게요

-(으)ㄹ 게요 makes a promise on the spot; -기로 하다 reports a decision already made, possibly some time ago.

제가 할게요. (I'll do it) / 제가 하기로 했어요. (I've been assigned it)

WATCH OUT

X 내일 세 시에 만나기로 해요.

O 내일 세 시에 만나기로 했어요.

The decision is already made, so 하다 goes in the past even though the meeting is tomorrow. The present form sounds like you are deciding as you speak.

X 어제 갔기로 했어요.

O 어제 가기로 했어요.

-기로 never carries tense. Only 하다 does.

X 담배를 피우지 않기로 했어요. — and 안 in the same sentence

O 담배를 안 피우기로 했어요.

Either negation works on its own, but do not stack them. 안 피우기로 했어요 and 피우지 않기로 했어요 are both correct alone.