

-기로서니

granted that ..., but even so

Concedes a reason and then rejects it as insufficient. There is reproach built into the ending — you are telling someone their excuse does not stretch that far.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any verb or adjective	-기로서니	바쁘다 → 바쁘기로서니
Past	-았/었기로서니	잘못했기로서니
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-기로서니	만들기로서니
Common partner	아무리	아무리 바쁘기로서니
Second clause	reproach or question	연락 한 번 못 하나?
Neutral concession	-더라도	바쁘더라도

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -기로서니 to any stem — no vowel rule, ㄹ stays, and tense may appear in front: 했기로서니. The variant 기로선들 also occurs.

The first clause grants a fact, usually one the other person has offered as an excuse. The second says it does not justify what followed: 아무리 바쁘기로서니 연락 한 번 못 하나?

That second clause is normally a rhetorical question or a reproach, and 아무리 almost always introduces the first.

The tone is scolding, so it is aimed downward or sideways — not at someone senior. The register is elevated but the feeling is sharp.

IN USE

- 1 아무리 바쁘기로서니 연락 한 번 못 하나?
Busy as you may be, could you not have got in touch once?
- 2 아무리 화가 났기로서니 그런 말을 해서는 안 되지.
Angry as you were, you had no business saying such a thing.
- 3 아이가 잘못했기로서니 그렇게 심하게 혼낼 일인가.
The child may have done wrong, but was that any reason to scold him so harshly?
- 4 급하기로서니 인사도 없이 가 버리다니.
In a hurry or not, to leave without so much as a goodbye.
- 5 직접 만들기로서니 이렇게 오래 걸릴 줄이야.
Making it yourself is one thing, but who would have thought it would take this long?

6 아무리 어렵기로서니 포기할 수는 없다.

Difficult as it is, we cannot give up.

COMPARED WITH

-더라도

-더라도 concedes neutrally and moves on; -기로서니 concedes in order to rebuke.

바쁘더라도 연락하세요. (please get in touch) / 바쁘기로서니 연락도 못 하나? (couldn't you have?)

-(으)ㄴ들

Both take rhetorical questions. -(으)ㄴ들 concludes that nothing would change; -기로서니 says the excuse does not stretch that far.

후회한들 무슨 소용인가. (futile) / 바쁘기로서니 그럴 수 있나. (not an excuse)

-(으)ㄴ지라도

-(으)ㄴ지라도 is a plain literary concession with no reproach. -기로서니 always carries the scolding.

어려울지라도 하겠다. (however hard) / 어렵기로서니 그만둘 순 없지. (that's no excuse)

WATCH OUT

X 아무리 바쁘기로서니 열심히 일했어요.

O 아무리 바쁘기로서니 연락 한 번 못 하나?

The second clause must reject the excuse, usually as a rhetorical question. A neutral statement leaves the reproach unsaid.

X 부장님이 아무리 바쁘시기로서니 연락도 안 하십니까?

O 부장님께서 많이 바쁘셨나 봅니다.

The ending scolds. Directed at a superior it is impertinent, whatever the honorifics.

X 아무리 화가 나기로서니 그런 말을 했다.

O 아무리 화가 났기로서니 그런 말을 해서는 안 되지.

The anger is a completed fact, so the past belongs inside, and the second clause has to deliver the rebuke.