

-자고 하다

suggest that we — reporting a proposal

The third reported-speech form. Built on -자, and the simplest of the four: no word-class split, no irregulars.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any action verb	-자고 하다	가다 → 가자고 해요
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-자고 하다	만들다 → 만들자고 해요
Negative	-지 말자고 하다	가지 말자고 했어요
Tense	on 하다	가자고 했어요
Spoken contraction	-재요	가재요
Adjectives	impossible	좋자고 does not exist

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -자고 하다 to any action verb stem. Nothing changes, ㄹ stays, and tense never appears in front — it goes on 하다.

Whatever the original wording, a reported suggestion comes out this way. 같이 갈까요, 같이 갑시다, and 같이 가자 all become 같이 가자고 했어요.

The negative is built on 말다, as always: -지 말자고 하다.

In speech it contracts to -재요: 가재요, 먹재요. Alongside -대요, -래요, and -내요, these four contractions are what you actually hear.

IN USE

- 친구가 같이 영화를 보자고 했어요.
My friend suggested we watch a movie together.
- 동료가 점심을 같이 먹자고 해요.
A colleague is suggesting we have lunch together.
- 어머니가 저녁을 같이 만들자고 하셨어요.
My mother suggested we make dinner together.
- 그 얘기는 오늘 하지 말자고 했어요.
They suggested we not discuss it today.
- 주말에 등산 가재요.
Apparently they want us to go hiking this weekend.

6 회의를 다음 주로 미루자고 했습니다.

It was proposed that we postpone the meeting to next week.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)라고 하다

A command tells you alone to act; a suggestion includes the speaker. One syllable decides which.

가라고 했어요. (he told me to go) / 가자고 했어요. (he suggested we go)

-(느)ㄴ다고 하다

Statements report what is; suggestions report what someone proposed doing. Reporting a plan as a statement changes who intends to act.

간다고 했어요. (he said he's going) / 가자고 했어요. (he suggested we go)

The four contractions

Once you know all four reported forms, their spoken contractions become worth memorising as a set.

-대요 (statement) / -래요 (command) / -재요 (suggestion) / -내요 (question)

WATCH OUT

X 친구가 같이 갑시다 했어요.

O 친구가 같이 가자고 했어요.

The report always strips politeness back to the plain propositive. 갑시다 and 갈까요 both become 가자고.

X 어제 친구가 같이 갔자고 했어요.

O 어제 친구가 같이 가자고 했어요.

-자고 never carries tense. The past goes on 하다 at the end.

X 그 얘기는 하지 않자고 했어요.

O 그 얘기는 하지 말자고 했어요.

Negative propositives use 말다. 않다 cannot form a suggestion.