

-지 말고

instead of doing that

Offers an alternative rather than a flat prohibition. The connective form of **말다**, so it belongs with requests and suggestions — not with statements of fact.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any action verb	-지 말고	타다 → 타지 말고
ㄹ stems keep the ㄹ	-지 말고	만들다 → 만들지 말고
Must be followed by	request or suggestion	걸어요, 하세요, 갑시다
Statement of fact takes	-지 않고 / 안 -고	타지 않고 걸었어요
With a noun	noun + 말고	이거 말고 저거
Flat prohibition	-지 마세요	타지 마세요

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach **-지 말고** to any action verb stem, then follow with what you would rather have happen: 택시 타지 말고 걸어요. The ㄹ of **말다** drops, as it does in **마세요**.

The restriction that matters is what follows. Because **말다** belongs to requests, the second clause has to be a command, suggestion, or request. For a plain statement about what you did instead, Korean uses **-지 않고** or **안 -고**.

It softens advice considerably. 걱정하지 마세요 tells someone to stop; 걱정하지 말고 쉬세요 gives them somewhere to go instead.

With a noun, **말고** works on its own and means "not this one, but": 이거 말고 저거 주세요.

IN USE

- 1 택시 타지 말고 같이 걸어요.
Let's walk together instead of taking a taxi.
- 2 너무 걱정하지 말고 좀 쉬세요.
Don't worry so much — get some rest.
- 3 밖에서 사 먹지 말고 집에서 만들어 드세요.
Rather than eating out, make something at home.
- 4 혼자 하지 말고 같이 합시다.
Let's do it together instead of you doing it alone.
- 5 이거 말고 저거 주세요.
Not this one — that one, please.

- 6 망설이지 말고 한번 해 보세요.
Don't hesitate — just give it a try.

COMPARED WITH

-지 마세요

-지 마세요 closes an option; -지 말고 replaces it with another. The second is much easier to hear as advice.

걱정하지 마세요. (stop worrying) / 걱정하지 말고 쉬세요. (rest instead of worrying)

-지 않고

The statement version. Use **않고** when you are reporting what happened, and **말고** when you are asking for something.

택시를 타지 않고 걸었어요. (I walked instead) / 택시 타지 말고 걸어요. (let's walk instead)

Noun + 말고

With a bare noun it means "other than this one." Very common when ordering or choosing.

이거 말고 저거요. / 커피 말고 차 주세요.

WATCH OUT

X 어제 택시를 타지 말고 걸었어요.

O 어제 택시를 타지 않고 걸었어요.

-지 말고 belongs with requests. To report what you actually did, use -지 않고 or 안 -고.

X 걱정하지 말고 있어요.

O 걱정하지 말고 좀 쉬세요.

Something has to follow as the alternative, and it has to be a request or suggestion. A bare statement leaves the sentence hanging.

X 이거 말고 저거 주지 않으세요.

O 이거 말고 저거 주세요.

The negation is already carried by **말고**. Adding another negative in the second clause reverses the request.