

마다

every, each

Says something repeats at every instance of the noun. One form for every word, and no exceptions to memorise — the difficulty is knowing when Korean prefers **매** instead.

How it attaches

Use	Form	Example
Repeating time	마다 after the noun	주말마다 등산해요
Interval	number + unit	삼 년마다 열려요
Each individual	implies difference	사람마다 달라요
Any noun	no change	나라마다 문화가 달라요
Sino-Korean option	매 + noun	매일, 매주, 매년
Never combine	매 and 마다	매일 or 날마다 — not 매일마다

Notes

With a time word, **마다** gives a repeating schedule: 주말마다 등산해요 (I hike every weekend). With an interval it gives a frequency: 삼 년마다 열려요 (it's held every three years).

With a countable noun it means "each one, individually" and almost always sets up a difference: 사람마다 생각이 달라요. If everyone in fact agrees, **마다** is the wrong particle — it exists to draw out variation.

Korean also has the Sino-Korean prefix **매**, which attaches to the front: 매일, 매주, 매년. It overlaps with **마다** but is not a particle, and the two never combine. Where both exist, **매일** is the more common everyday word and **날마다** the slightly more emphatic one.

Examples

- 버스가 십 분마다 와요.**
The bus comes every ten minutes.
- 나라마다 문화가 달라요.**
Every country has a different culture.
- 그 사진을 볼 때마다 웃어요.**
I laugh every time I see that photo.
- 주말마다 등산을 해요.**
I go hiking every weekend.
- 사람마다 취향이 다르죠.**
Everyone has different tastes, don't they?
- 해마다 여행을 가요.**
I travel every year.

Compared with

매

매 is a prefix and joins the front of Sino-Korean time words; **마다** is a particle and follows any noun. **매** sounds slightly more formal and is limited to a fixed set.

매일 운동해요. / 날마다 운동해요. — never 매일마다

모든

모든 sits before a noun and gathers everything into one group; **마다** keeps the items apart and looks at them one by one.

모든 사람이 왔어요. (everyone came, as a group) / 사람마다 달라요. (each person differs)

언제나

언제나 means "always" as a continuous state; **마다** counts discrete occasions. English "always" covers both.

언제나 친절해요. (always kind) / 올 때마다 친절해요. (kind every time she comes)

Watch out

✗ 매일마다 운동해요.

○ 매일 운동해요.

매 and **마다** both mean "every," so using them together doubles the meaning. Choose **매일** or **날마다**.

✗ 사람마다 생각이 같아요.

○ 사람마다 생각이 달라요.

마다 exists to highlight variation between individuals. If everyone agrees, use **모든 사람이** or **다들** instead.

✗ 마다 주말에 등산해요.

○ 주말마다 등산해요.

마다 is a particle and always follows its noun. Nothing in Korean attaches to the front except prefixes like **매**.