

-는 게 좋겠다

had better, I'd suggest

Recommends a course of action. Built from -는 것 plus 좋겠다 — literally "doing it would be good."

How it attaches

Situation	Form	Example
Any verb	-는 게 좋겠다	가다 → 가는 게 좋겠어요
Ends in ㄴ	ㄴ drops	만들다 → 만드는 게 좋겠어요
Advising against	안 + verb	안 가는 게 좋겠어요
Full form	-는 것이 좋겠다	가는 것이 좋겠습니다
To someone senior	-(으)시는 게	가시는 게 좋을 것 같습니다
Never takes tense	plain stem + 는	갔는 게 좋겠어요 is wrong

Notes

Attach -는 to the verb stem, then 게 좋겠다. 게 is the contracted form of 것이. Stems ending in ㄴ drop it: 만드는 게 좋겠어요.

The -겠- inside is doing real work. 좋아요 would state a fact about what is good; 좋겠어요 presents it as your judgement, which is what makes the sentence a suggestion rather than a pronouncement.

It is gentler than -아/어야 되다, which says something is required. Advising a friend to see a doctor, 병원에 가는 게 좋겠어요 suggests; 병원에 가야 돼요 insists.

To advise against something, negate the first verb: 안 가는 게 좋겠어요.

Examples

- 1 많이 아프면 병원에 가는 게 좋겠어요.
If it hurts a lot, you'd better see a doctor.
- 2 비가 오니까 우산을 가져가는 게 좋겠어요.
It's raining, so you'd better take an umbrella.
- 3 오늘은 일찍 자는 게 좋겠어요.
You'd better go to bed early tonight.
- 4 그 이야기는 안 하는 게 좋겠어요.
It'd be better not to bring that up.
- 5 저녁은 집에서 만드는 게 좋겠어요.
It'd be better to make dinner at home.
- 6 지금 출발하시는 게 좋겠습니다.
It would be best to leave now.

Compared with

-아/어야 되다

-아/어야 되다 states a requirement; -는 게 좋겠다 offers advice. The first leaves no room to decline.

병원에 가야 돼요. (you have to go) / 병원에 가는 게 좋겠어요. (you'd better go)

-(으)세요

An imperative directs; this construction recommends. When you are not in a position to instruct, the softer form is safer.

일찍 주무세요. (go to bed early) / 일찍 자는 게 좋겠어요. (you'd be better off sleeping early)

-(으)ㄴ 것 같다

For advice to someone senior, wrapping the suggestion in 것 같다 softens it further. Direct advice upward is delicate in Korean.

가는 게 좋겠어요. (to a peer) / 가시는 게 좋을 것 같습니다. (to a superior)

Watch out

✗ 저녁을 만드는 게 좋겠어요.

○ 저녁을 만드는 게 좋겠어요.

Stems ending in ㄴ drop it before -는, as everywhere in the modifier system.

✗ 어제 병원에 갔는 게 좋겠어요.

○ 어제 병원에 갔어야 했어요.

This construction only advises about what to do next, so it takes no past form. For a missed obligation, use -았/었어야 하다.

✗ 사장님, 지금 가는 게 좋겠어요.

○ 사장님, 지금 가시는 게 좋을 것 같습니다.

Advising a superior needs the honorific -(으)시- and a further softener. Direct advice upward can sound presumptuous.