

-노라고

I did my best, but ...

Claims a genuine effort and then admits it fell short. Easily confused with -느라고, which is a different ending entirely.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Action verb	-노라고	하다 → 하노라고
Ends in ㄹ	ㄹ drops	만들다 → 만드노라고
Subject	first person	your own effort
Second clause	a shortfall	결과가 신통치 않다
Never takes tense	plain stem only	했노라고 — different construction
Different ending	-느라고	일하느라고 못 갔어요

WHEN TO USE IT

Attach -노라고 to an action verb stem — no vowel rule, ㄹ drops before it, no tense in front.

The subject is normally first person. You are reporting your own effort: 하노라고 했는데 결과가 신통치 않다 — I did what I could, but the result is poor.

The second clause must record a shortfall. That is the whole point: the effort was real, the outcome disappointing.

The frame -노라고 한 것이 is common, and the phrase 하노라고 하다 is close to a set expression.

IN USE

- 1 하노라고 했는데 결과가 신통치 않습니다.
I did what I could, but the result is nothing special.
- 2 준비하노라고 했지만 부족한 점이 많았다.
I prepared as best I could, yet there were many shortcomings.
- 3 돕노라고 나선 일이 오히려 방해가 되었다.
I stepped in meaning to help, and only got in the way.
- 4 쓰노라고 쓴 글이 이 모양입니다.
I wrote it as carefully as I could, and this is what came out.
- 5 직접 만드노라고 애썼지만 시간이 모자랐다.
I laboured to make it myself, but there was not enough time.
- 6 아끼노라고 아꼈는데도 살림은 늘 빠듯했다.
We scrimped as much as we could, and money was always tight.

COMPARED WITH

-느라고

The pair to keep straight. -느라고 says your activity used up the time and something else failed. -노라고 says you tried your best and the outcome disappointed.

일하느라고 못 갔어요. (busy working) / 하노라고 했는데 부족하다. (tried, fell short)

-고도

-고도 points out a gap between action and behaviour, often critically. -노라고 is self-deprecating about one's own effort.

알고도 말 안 했다. (knew and said nothing) / 하노라고 했지만 모자랐다. (tried but fell short)

나름대로

The everyday way to say the same thing. 나름대로 했는데 defends an effort without the archaic ending.

나름대로 했는데 부족했어요. (speech) / 하노라고 했지만 부족했다. (writing)

WATCH OUT

X 일하노라고 모임에 못 갔어요.

O 일하느라고 모임에 못 갔어요.

To say an activity took up your time, the ending is -느라고. -노라고 claims an effort that fell short.

X 하노라고 했더니 결과가 훌륭했다.

O 하노라고 했는데 결과가 신통치 않다.

The second clause has to record a shortfall. A good outcome removes the ending's reason for existing.

X 그 사람은 하노라고 했지만 부족했다.

O 저는 하노라고 했지만 부족했습니다.

The subject is normally the speaker. Applied to someone else it reads oddly, since you cannot vouch for their effort from inside.