

제 3 과

기타 문법



1. -는 동안 **during the time/while (someone is) VERBing, ...**

예시 대화 1:

마야: 지난 학기에는 강의하시는 동안 한번도 쉬지 않으셨는데...
지훈: 글썸 말이야.

예시 대화 2:

세영: 제이미 씨, 한국에 있는 동안 좋은 거 많이 구겨했어요?
제이미: 네. 여기 저기 많이 다녔어요. 재미 있었어요.

You learned in Book 2 that **N (time duration) 동안** means “for the duration of N”:

열쇠를 잃어버려서 룸메이트 돌아올 때까지 다섯 시간 동안이나 문 밖에서 기다려야 했어요.
I lost my key so I had to wait for 5 (long) hours outside the door until my roommate came back!

이번 학기 동안 교양 수업을 많이 들어 놓고 싶습니다.
This term, I want to take lots of general ed. classes and get the requirements out of the way.



V-는 동안 has the same sense of setting up a time period (during which something happens), and the best translation for the phrase is *while (someone is) VERBing, ...*. The -는 동안 clause sets up a “backdrop” (bigger time frame) for the other, shorter and more specific activity or event:

비가 오는 동안은 잔디에 물을 줄 필요가 없어요.
While it is raining/During the period of rain, there is no need to water the lawn.

내가 교환 교수님께 답장을 보내는 동안 교수님께(로부터) 새로 이메일이 왔습니다.
While I was sending a reply to the exchange professor, a new email arrived from him/her.

The **-는 동안** phrase in general should be used with verbs that express **an action with duration**. For example, the following sentences sound odd in Korean:

NO: 그 여자가 예쁜 동안 그 남자는 그 여자와 데이트를 했다.
While she was pretty, he dated her.

NO: 내 여드름이 큰 동안 나는 발표하고 싶지 않습니다.
While my zit is big, I don't want to do a presentation. → OK: 내 여드름이 작아질 때까지...

If the adjective (or the verb 있다) sets up a time period with a clear beginning and ending, it can be used with the -는 동안 phrase:

내가 여기 있는 동안 내가 잠깐 가게에 들러도 되겠지?
While you are here, can I perhaps make a quick stop at the store?

할아버지께서 편찮으신 동안은 집에 일찍 가 봐야 돼.
While my grandpa is not well, I really should get home early.

밖이 추운 동안은 별로 외출하고 싶지 않아.
I don't really want to go outside while it's cold out.

Be careful with the order of clauses when you translate. As with all other Korean subordinate clauses, the -는 동안 clause has to begin the sentence, although English translation may be otherwise. Also more natural English translations might use “when” instead of “while.”

내가 없는 동안 아주 외로웠어.
When you were not around/absent, I was very lonely.

저는 한국에 있는 동안 너무 바빠서 한국어를 배울 기회가 없었습니다.
I was so busy when/while I was in Korea – I did not have an opportunity to learn Korean.



If the action is going to take place in the future, it is possible to use -을 동안, but it is still possible to use -는 동안:
어른들이 말씀하실 동안 밖에서 놀고 있어라. When the adults are talking, you kids go outside and play.

2. -으면서 / -으며 while VERBing

예시 대화 1:

마야: 이번 주에 같이 코리아 타운에 가지 않을래?
지훈: 초대 (invitation)는 고맙지만, 리포트 쓰면서 시험 공부하려면 좀 힘들 거 같애.

예시 대화 2:

제이미: 세영 씨, 한국에서는 운전하면서 전화를 받아도 돼요?
세영: 네. 그런데 운전하면서 텍스트는 치면 안돼요.

Although -으면서 is similar to -는 동안 in having a sense of “while”, the two cannot be used interchangeably. The connector -으면서 links two verb phrases expressing activities that **the same Subject** performs **simultaneously**. Thus, -으면서 cannot be used if the Subjects are different, nor if one activity stops when the other occurs:

할아버지는 진지를 드시면서 말씀을 많이 하세요. Grandpa talks a lot while eating.
강의를 들으면서 이메일을 했어요. I did email while listening to the lecture.
할머니를 집으로 모시고 오면서 가게에 들렀어요. I stopped by the store while bringing Grandma home.

Also be careful not to confuse these with -으면 “if/when”.

We know “I” must have brought Grandma to MY (or our) home (instead of Grandma’s) because of the word 집.

In English, since the Subjects are the same, it is natural to leave the Subject word out of the “while” phrase.



Be careful that you *have* the same subject for both clauses, although you should not *repeat* the Subject word:

저는 보통 TV를 보면서 밥을 먹습니다. I usually watch TV and eat at the same time.
No: 저는 보통 TV를 보면서 저는 밥을 먹습니다. I usually watch TV while I eat at the same time.
No: 나는 TV를 보면서 내 친구는 밥을 먹었어요. (incorrect)
→ 내가 TV를 보는 동안 내 친구는 밥을 먹었어요. (correct)

In this sentence, the “main” clause is about 내 친구, meaning, the whole sentence is *about* 내 친구. For that reason, 내 친구 gets a topic marker. On the other hand, 나, or the fact that 나 is watching TV, serves as a backdrop, thus 나 does not get to be marked with a topic marker.