

WAYS TO SAY 'ONLY' IN KOREAN

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SAY 'ONLY' IN KOREAN, AND IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE CONTEXT. WHICH ONE YOU PICK MAY DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO USE IT AS AN ADVERB, ADJECTIVE ETC.

NOUN + 만

Attach "만" directly after a noun. "만" replaces any topic marker or subject marker that would have gone there.

"Only" I speak Korean

저만 한국말을 합니다

"He only likes movies"

그는 영화만 좋아해요

"만" can also follow verbs that have been changed into nouns

"You only have to go to class to graduate"

매일 수업에가기만 하면 졸업할 수 있을 거예요.

NOUN + 뿐이다

"The only thing I have left is time"

While "만" can be used with verbs converted into nouns, "뿐이다" cannot. In order to use this form with verbs, take the verb stem and add "르/을 뿐이다" (르 if the verb stem ends in a vowel, and 을 if it ends in a consonant).

It seems like I only sleep this days

요즘은 내가 잠을 잘 뿐인것 같다.

Using "만" this sentence could be written as "

요즘은 내가 잠을 자기만 해요.

NOUN + 밖에

This form is only used in negative constructions. The literal meaning of "밖에" is outside, as in "집밖에"

NOUN + 뿐만 아니라 VERB STEM + 르/을 뿐만 아니라

This one is a combination of 뿐 and 만 and means "It's not only (noun), but -"

그것뿐만 아니라 이것도 그래요.

"It's not only that, but this too."

저는 회사원일 뿐만 아니라 사장입니다.

"I'm not only an employee, but I'm the president."

단지/다만/오직

단지 can translate "only" but another good translation is "simply"
나는 단지 자고 싶다.

다만 can translate as "only" but another good translation is "merely"
나는 다만 키가 작을 뿐이다

오직" is often used in combination with "만" or "뿐"
그건 오직 당신만이 할 수 있는 일이다.

VERB STEM + 르/을 따름이다

This one can translate as "I'm only~" or "I'm just~," and is most often used with descriptive verbs (adjectives).

그 친구의 성격이 부러울 따름이다. "It's just that I'm jealous of his personality."
스테이크에 캐첩을 뿌리는 것은 별로라고 생각할 따름입니다. "I just think putting ketchup on steak isn't that great."