



Misaeng (An Incomplete Life) is the story about corporate office workers in the fictional trading company One International, a story which deeply resonated with its viewers and became a cultural phenomenon for its vivid portrayal of the corporate world. This series revolves around the protagonist Jang Geu-Rae (Yim Si-Wan), as he and other employees at the company tread their way through the grueling world of corporate life as “Misaeng”. Let’s learn English through Misaeng!

By Soo-Kyung Lee (AllThatEnglish.com) Copyright CJ E&M tvN Misaeng



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Misaeng Episode 7.

Former star intern Jang Baek-Gi resents his supervisor, who never entrusts him with any of his team’s important projects, citing Baek-Gi’s “lack of basics”. So Baek-Gi has scheduled an interview with another company.



Headhunter: I am calling to confirm your interview for tomorrow.

Jang Baek-Gi: Oh, right. It’s tomorrow. Yes, I’m available. No, I’ll use my monthly leave.

[Manager Oh sees Baek-Gi and approaches him]

Manager Oh: I heard your report got a thumbs-down from the Finance Team.

Jang Baek-Gi: Yes.

Manager Oh: And I heard you weren’t even given a reason why.

Jang Baek-Gi: That’s right.

1.

Today’s Expression

“thumbs down”

(거절)

A thumbs down (or thumbs-down) refers to the act of pointing your thumb downward. Colloquially, it means “no”, so this expression can be used to mean a rejection or disapproval. If you’re on the receiving end of a rejection, you get a thumbs down. If you’re the one doing the rejecting, you’re giving a thumbs-down.

- » I got a thumbs down on my project.
- » The department gave me a thumbs down.

Synonymously, you can replace a “thumbs down” with a “red light” or a “no-go”. For example, you can say, “The proposal received a red light” or “The manager gave us a no-go on the proposal.”

The opposite of a thumbs-down is a thumbs up. You can also say a “green light” or “go-ahead”.

2.

Special Tip!

“paid leave”

(월차/연차 휴가)

A leave of absence is a period of time that an employee spends away from his/her primary job, while retaining employee status. A leave of absence can be shortened to leave, which is classified into two types: paid leave and unpaid leave.

Paid leave refers to leave granted to employees for purposes of vacation, sickness, or other personal matters. To use it in a sentence, you could say that you are taking (paid) leave. You can also be more specific and say that you are taking vacation leave, sick leave (family sick leave, if you are using your leave to take care of an ailing family member), or personal leave.

Casually, you can simply say that you are taking time off work. If you are away from work for one day, you are taking a/the day off. If you are away for half of the day, you could say that you are taking a half day (off work) or that you are off in the morning/afternoon. If you are away because you are sick, you can say that you are taking a sick day.