Mastering Conversational Korean
KOREAN FOR BEGINNERS

- Learn to read Korean with ease
- Practical phrases help you converse with confidence
- A comprehensive "cheat" makes you thorough, meaning the language to live
- The CD-DVTA teaches Korean through real-life help you to pronounce like a pro
The Korean letters (Hangeul) look a lot different than the English alphabet, but the reading and writing is much more straightforward. Below is a guide to the approximate sound of each character, as well as how to write it correctly.

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—Kyubyong Park, Seoul, South Korea
—Henry J. Amen IV, San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A.
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You're on a sidewalk in the center of Seoul, in the ultra-hip shopping district of Myeongdong. Fresh off the plane, all you can do is stand and stare at the bright neon lights with their funny angular letters. The ample sidewalk is swarming with pedestrians, and the chattering hum of their strange, lilting language is making your head swim. Just as you're about to pass out from stimulus overload, you get a tap on the shoulder. He has the look of a young professional, maybe late 20s, dressed business casual, smiling widely. "Hello. Can I help you find something?"

Ordinarily, you're wary of friendly strangers you meet in a foreign city, especially when you're there for the first time and don't really know where you're going. But something about this guy tells you he's sincere, that it's okay to trust him. And you're right—because you're in Korea now!

An authentic voice
Congratulations—you just met your narrator! You may think you're lucky to have bumped into such a helpful, charming young man. And, well, of course you are! But the truth is many visitors to Korea have this exact experience. As a foreigner, you'll find the Korean people incredibly curious and engaging. They're as excited to learn about you and where you're from as they are to share their own unique culture with you.

This is your narrator in a nutshell, and Korean for Beginners is written entirely in his voice. You won't encounter dry grammar lessons or rote vocabulary memorization in these pages. At the same time, you're not going to see things dumbed down or oversimplified. Instead, you'll be learning the basics of the Korean language—and the culture that created it—by way of an authentic, one-on-one dynamic. Straight from your narrator's mouth, as it were.

It's this authenticity that makes Korean for Beginners the best resource out there for picking up the language as it's being spoken today—short of heading down to Myeongdong and meeting your own guide, that is!

Learning that runs deep
Your authors know the tribulations of language learning—Kyubyong as a Korean studying English and Henry as an American studying Korean. From these struggles and, yes, occasional successes, has come insight, and we're happy to share this insight with you in Korean for Beginners.

From how to use honorifics to show the proper respect in a conversation, to what exactly a particle is. From deciphering Hangeul—the Korean writing system—to learning how to say "I can't eat kimchi." These are some of the essentials of Korean language learning, and they'll be illustrated over and over again, along with many others. Heck, by the end we'll have you saying "I CAN eat kimchi!"

Korean for Beginners is divided into 27 chapters, and each includes a core lesson on a fundamental element of the language, with plenty of practical applications thrown in. What's more, each ends in a two-part conclusion. The first is a list of further vocabulary related to the subject matter of the chapter, designed to enhance and expand your understanding. And the second offers a relevant cultural tidbit, guaranteed to teach you something interesting about the country and its people, be it the layout of a Korean computer keyboard or the rules of a Korean drinking game.

At the back of the book, you'll find a Korean-English/English-Korean glossary with all the terms featured in the chapters. And, perhaps most importantly of all, Korean for Beginners comes with a multimedia package that includes video instruction on pronouncing the characters and audio recordings of the example phrases and sentences in the book.

So crank up the bulgogi grill and put a bottle of soju on ice—you're about to learn Korean!
Welcome to Korean!

An Introduction to Korean and the Korean Spirit

Welcome! I’m so happy you’ve decided to learn Korean. Not only will you discover how more than 70 million people on the Korean peninsula communicate with each other, but you’ll be learning one of the most systematic languages in the world. Most importantly, though, you’re going to be hanging out with me, your faithful guide, as I take you on an in-depth tour of Korean. (This is great for me, too, as it gives me a chance to practice my English with you, something most Koreans are always eager to do!)

But before we start, I have a question for you: What do you know about Korea?

Sports and beef: cultural windows

I’m not sure how closely you follow the news, but you might recall that in 2008, mass demonstrations were held throughout South Korea to protest the purchase of beef from the U.S. But why? Koreans love beef! Apparently, there were some concerns about the meat not being safe for consumption. What was probably the bigger issue, though, was that Koreans didn’t like the idea of their president being “persuaded” by the U.S. to sign onto the deal.

A few years earlier, in 2002, there was another occasion for Koreans to gather by the thousands and show their support for their country. Only this time, the atmosphere was more positive, the intention being to cheer on the national soccer team in the World Cup. Koreans are very enthusiastic and passionate about their country and culture. During the games, all the fans wore red shirts and cheered for victory. Prior to this tournament, the Korean soccer team had never won a single World Cup game. You can imagine the excitement when they made it all the way to the semifinals!

People around the world who’ve witnessed events like these in the international news must be asking themselves: why are Koreans so passionate?

Korea and Koreans are dynamic

Korea is a small country, similar in size to Great Britain. But there are around 50 million people in South Korea, and 25 million in North Korea. This means the population density on the peninsula is very high. South Korea’s capital, Seoul, is one of the largest and most crowded cities in the world. And all of these people are always on the go. The expression " carácter" is used by Koreans to sum up the bustling nature of the country and its people. But why are they in such a hurry?

Perhaps we can find the answer by looking at the modern history of Korea. You see, after the Korean War of 1950–1953, much of the land and its infrastructure was in ruins. So Koreans became determined and made many sacrifices to rebuild their country as quickly as possible. As a result, in less than 50 years, South Korea was...
transformed into a developed nation. It joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1996, and in 2008 it was ranked 15th in the world by gross domestic product (GDP).

But even now, Koreans feel they should be doing something more to progress further. This explains why they always seem to be in a hurry and why they’re so passionate about their history, their culture, and their homeland.

All systems go…

Just one more thing before we launch ourselves into the world of Korean language. Keep in mind that it’s very different from English and other European languages. I’m sure the first thing you’ll notice is the characters.

Korean doesn’t use the Roman alphabet, unfortunately, so you’re probably worried that it’s going to be much more difficult to learn than Spanish, French, German, or other languages you may have studied in school.

But don’t worry! Korean characters are formed in a very systematic and straightforward way, so they’re easy to pick up. Actually, they’re so simple that most Korean children learn them before they even enter school. Sounds good, right? I’ll show you what I mean in the next chapter.

Are you ready to begin the adventure? I know I am. Just remember, I’m here to help, and I’ll never laugh at you or criticize you along the way (well, maybe a giggle here and there, but hopefully I’ll be giggling with you). Trust me—I’ll take you where you need to go!

Further Vocabulary: Korean food

Another important part of Korean culture is the food! We’d better go over some of the basics.

- [pap] steamed rice
- [panchan] side dish
- [kimchi] kimchi
- [kuk] soup
- [kimbap] rice rolled in dried laver (something like sushi, but much cheaper!)
- [pibimbap] a rice bowl with assorted ingredients
- [pokkeumbap] fried rice
- [jjigae] stew
- [kalbitang] beef-rib soup
- [samgyetang] chicken soup with ginseng and various ingredients
- [pulgogi] Korean barbecue
- [tteok] rice cake
- side dish
Korean Style Say what?

With the spread of modern communication methods, such as texting and online messaging services, languages are constantly being modified for convenience. Tons of creative abbreviations, both for words and emotions, have cropped up in English. Do you know all the ones above? No? Omg, imho you’d better study up! ;-)

Korean is no exception to this phenomenon. If you have a chance to chat with a Korean online or by texting, you’re sure to run into a few strange looking words, like this one:

This probably doesn’t seem that odd to you, since we haven’t even gone over Korean characters yet! But take my word that this is a strange construction indeed. First of all, there aren’t any vowels in this “word”! That’s because it’s an abbreviation, and it stands for "thank you very much". Even though this goes against the basic rule of Korean word formation, it’s frequently used on the Internet.

There are other types of language peculiarities that have developed as a result of messaging services. Emoticons are one of them. Koreans use emoticons even more frequently than English speakers do, but their emoticons are different. The main thing to notice is that they’re made to be viewed vertically, so you don’t have to tilt your head to figure them out. Let’s take a look.

^;^ -or- ^^ (smile) : Imagine a smiling face.

(сrying) : eyes and tears

(angry) : Imagine your eyes when you’re angry.

(laughter) : laughing sound

(laughter) : laughing sound

Many people enjoy these realistic emoticons, even though they aren’t actually Korean. They’re not used in formal contexts, but they’ve become quite popular on the Internet. If you see them, you might just see your mood change from (^;^) to ^;^!
Korean Characters
An Introduction to the Korean Characters and Their Pronunciation

The English alphabet is made up of 26 letters. Likewise, Korean has its own characters, and they're called Hangeul. Due to the strong cultural influence of the Chinese in East Asia, Koreans used to use Hangeul in combination with Chinese characters. Nowadays, however, Hangeul is sufficient for almost all communication, and Chinese characters are used much less frequently in Korea.

Hangeul is probably the easiest East Asian character system to learn. For example, Japanese writing is made up of three different sets of characters: hiragana, katagana, and Chinese characters (kanji in Japanese). And, of course, the Chinese language uses Chinese characters. There are thousands of these, most of them quite complicated, and in order to learn to read and write Chinese, you have to memorize them one by one. Now compare these to the 40 Korean characters, which you'll soon see are formed in a very scientific and commonsense way. No sweat!

Hangeul is a unique writing system, created in 1444 by King Sejong the Great. His goal was to increase literacy in the country, so obviously he wanted to make Hangeul as easy to learn as possible. You only have to look at modern Korea's extremely low illiteracy rate (less than 2%) for proof of the system's success.

Just like the English alphabet, Hangeul contains consonants and vowels. The shape of each one was designed to copy the shape of vocal organs such as the mouth, throat, and tongue when it's spoken, as you'll see in the videos. Maybe this clue will help you make sense of the characters.

Something else before we begin. An important key to understanding Hangeul is to think in terms of syllables. In English, letters are grouped together into syllables. Sometimes just one letter can be a syllable, and there are no rules about the location of vowels and consonants within a syllable. In Korean, on the other hand, syllables are never made up of just one character, and strict formulas govern the creation of syllables. They all contain a combination of Consonants and Vowels, and there are just two patterns for this: C + V and C + V + C.
And finally, keep in mind that the size and location of the characters can vary depending on which of the above patterns is being used. Sound confusing? Yeah. But it'll make perfect sense once you see the examples below.

Okay, let's check out the consonants first.

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<th>Ø/ng</th>
<th>Ί</th>
<th>j, ch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>ʹ</td>
<td>kk</td>
<td>ͺ</td>
<td>tt</td>
<td>´</td>
<td>pp</td>
<td>Ώ</td>
<td>ss</td>
<td>Ơ</td>
<td>jj</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Ί</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>΍</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>Ύ</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>Ώ</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>Ί</td>
<td>ch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you know how many consonants English has? Right, 21. Well, in Korean there are 19 consonants. That's not as many as English, but are you still worried 19 is too many to memorize? There's no need! All you have to do is learn a few simple rules about their shape and pronunciation.

We'll start by splitting the 19 consonants into different groups. First, we have the 9 basic consonants.

### Basic Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ͳ</td>
<td>[g, k]</td>
<td>ᵀᵃᵇᵃⁿᵍ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ͷ</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td>ᴽᵃʳᵃ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>͹</td>
<td>[d, t]</td>
<td>ᵇᵃʳⁱ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An important note! While other books try to teach Korean by spelling out words with English letters, I feel that to truly learn the language, you need to become familiar with the characters. Each character has a similar sound to a letter or letters in English, but not exactly the same! These are only approximations to help you learn the pronunciation of the characters. So I don't want you to overemphasize the comparisons to English letters. Instead, try to hear and learn each character's sound with fresh ears. Pay close attention to the videos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Basic Consonants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ͳ: g, k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ͷ: n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>͹: d, t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>΃: m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>昶: b, p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>･: s, sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ή: Ø/ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ί: j, ch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Korean language is fascinating and complex, and there are so many more patterns and exceptions to learn, but I hope this gives you a good starting point to understand the consonants! Keep practicing and you'll get the hang of it!
2.4  is pronounced similarly to  at the end of a syllable; in other positions, it’s closer to .

EX.:

ถ  [pyeol]  star,

ி೭  [norae]  song

2.5  is pronounced similarly to  at the beginning of a word and at the end of a syllable; in other positions, it’s closer to .

EX.:

ൠၗ  [maeum]  heart, mind

2.6  is pronounced similarly to  at the beginning of a word and at the end of a syllable; in other positions, it’s closer to .

EX.:

෡ხ  [paji]  pants,

ၵఋ  [chapda]  to catch, hold,

ጌfähig  [haengbok]  happiness

2.7  is pronounced similarly to  before the vowels Υ, Η, Γ, ζ, and Ν; in other positions, it’s closer to .

EX.:

ཅ෧  [shinbal]  shoes,

/photo

2.8  has no sound when it comes at the beginning of a syllable, but is close to  when it’s at the end of a syllable.

EX.:

࿼ჷ࿌  [ojingeo]  squid

2.9  is pronounced similarly to  at the beginning of a word; in other positions, it’s closer to .

EX.:

Ⴎ૵  [chogeum]  a little,

ຫၴ  [saja]  lion

is a tricky one. English speakers will hear it as  or , but Koreans themselves can’t hear any difference. This is why Koreans—and other East Asians—find it difficult to differentiate between  and  sounds when speaking English.

is a

difference. You might wonder why Koreans bother writing  at the beginning of a syllable if it has no sound. To understand, think about the principal rule I mentioned earlier: Every syllable is composed of at least one consonant and a vowel, remember? Well, what if you want to write a syllable with only a vowel sound? That’s when you place  in the first position. It’s a consonant, so it lets you follow the rule of syllable construction, but it has no sound, so it allows the vowel to be pronounced by itself. Understand?
All of these consonants can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of the syllable, except for the consonant at the end of a syllable which is called "[patchim]". For example, when pronouncing "StreamWriter" as third-position consonants, you should make them softer than when they're in the first position. It's almost like you're just mouthing the consonant without making any noise. It sounds a bit confusing, I know, but don't worry. I'll explain the concept further in the next chapter.

Double consonants

Next, we have the five double consonants: "ͺ", "ͺ", "ʨ", "ﻁ", and " ifdef. Do you recognize the shapes of these? As their name implies, they're doubles of some of the basic consonants. Their pronunciation is harder and thicker than "ͺ", "ͺ", "ʨ", "ﻁ", and " ifdef.

Double consonants are perhaps the hardest element of Korean pronunciation for English speakers to hear and mimic, and can lead to some very funny misunderstandings! For example, you might wind up asking a father for his "moon's" hand in marriage instead of his "daughter's" (": "daughter," : "moon"), and you could then offer to give her a "tail," not a "ring" (": "tail," : "ring"). Even native Koreans of particular regions sometimes make mistakes in the pronunciation of "ﻁ". They sometimes cook "flesh" when what they really wanted was "rice" (": "flesh," : "rice").

So don't despair if you can't make out these double consonants at first. They'll take some time. Pay special attention to the videos.

---

**List of Double Consonants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Double Consonant</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ͺ</td>
<td>tt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ͺ</td>
<td>ttal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʨ</td>
<td>ʨalrae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʨ</td>
<td>ʨtaerida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʦ</td>
<td>ssal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʦ</td>
<td>ssauda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʨ</td>
<td>jjireuda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʨ</td>
<td>jjireuda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Note:* The table above shows the correct pronunciation of each double consonant. The pronunciation is different in North and South Korea, so it's important to be aware of the regional differences.
Strong (aspirated) consonants

The shapes in this final group of five consonants should also look familiar to you now. Each one is formed by adding a line to or slightly modifying one of the basic consonants. For example, ͳ becomes ɿ, ͹ becomes ɼ, ΄ becomes WindowState2.15. EX.: Ṉ n, Ή becomes ΐ, and ί becomes Ό. Pretty simple, right?

List of Strong Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ɿ</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>Ṉ n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ɼ</td>
<td>[h]</td>
<td>ṍ Ṉa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WindowState2.15</td>
<td>[t]</td>
<td>Ṉ tada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WindowState2.19</td>
<td>[ch]</td>
<td>ḍ kochu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WindowState2.17</td>
<td>[p]</td>
<td>ṙ podo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The consonants in this group are aspirated. What does this mean? Well, when you speak them, you should release a puff of air, which gives them a more forceful sound. Does that make sense? Here, try this: put your hand over your mouth. When you pronounce ͳ [g], ͹ [d], ΄ [b], Ή [ng], and ί [j], you should only feel a very weak breath of air being expelled from your mouth. Now pronounce the aspirated consonants: ɿ [k], ɼ [t], WindowState2.15 [p], ΐ [h], and WindowState2.19 [ch]. You release a more powerful puff of air for each one, which you should feel on your hand. That's aspiration—got it?

Okay, and just like we talked about with the basic consonants, both double and aspirated consonants can function as ෦ᆹ෦ᆹ, consonants at the end of a syllable. Remember to make these softer, like you're just mouthing the consonant without making any noise.

Vowels

Basic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Α</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>Ṉ a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ε</td>
<td>ι</td>
<td>Ṉ ι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Υ</td>
<td>ι</td>
<td>Ṉ ι</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ι</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>Ṉ o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ξ</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>Ṉ u</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Double

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Γ</td>
<td>ya</td>
<td>Ṉ ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Β</td>
<td>ae</td>
<td>Ṉ ae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Δ</td>
<td>yae</td>
<td>Ṉ yae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η</td>
<td>yeo</td>
<td>Ṉ yeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ζ</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>Ṉ e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Θ</td>
<td>ye</td>
<td>Ṉ ye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ν</td>
<td>yo</td>
<td>Ṉ yo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>΢</td>
<td>yu</td>
<td>Ṉ yu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Κ</td>
<td>wa</td>
<td>Ṉ wa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Λ</td>
<td>wae</td>
<td>Ṉ wae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Μ</td>
<td>oe</td>
<td>Ṉ oe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ο</td>
<td>weo</td>
<td>Ṉ weo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Π</td>
<td>we</td>
<td>Ṉ we</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ρ</td>
<td>wi</td>
<td>Ṉ wi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Τ</td>
<td>ui</td>
<td>Ṉ ui</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In English, there are five vowels: a, e, i, o, and u. But Korean has 21! Oh no! Okay, hold on. You don't have to freak out because, just like the consonants, we can divide up the vowels according to type so they're easier to learn. Basic vowels

To begin separating the vowels into groups, we have to think back to the two patterns for constructing Korean syllables: C + V and C + V + C. As you can see, no matter which pattern is used, the vowel always goes in the second position.

One defining feature of all vowels is how they are written in relation to the first-position Consonant. Some are written to the right of the Consonant, while others are placed below the Consonant. So first, let's look at the 3 basic vowels that go to the right of the Consonant.
And don't forget, the English letters in brackets are just general guides, not exact matches for the Korean sounds. Don’t think of the Korean characters as simple substitutions for English letters, but as completely independent and unique sounds. Pay close attention to the videos.

List of Basic Vowels

1. _ALPHA
   similar to the “a” in “want”

2. _iota
   similar to the “ee” in “keep”

EX.:

3. _ai
   kid

EX.:

4. _eo
   similar to the “o” in “done”

EX.:

5. _eoreun
   adult

This is a tricky one because there’s no real comparative letter sound in English. Pay careful attention to its pronunciation!

These vowels are written vertically as if they’re standing upright. They’re placed directly to the right of a consonant, as in the word abeoji.

List of Vertical Basic Vowels

1. _ALPHA
   similar to the “a” in “toe”

2. _eu
   similar to the “u” in “push”

EX.:

3. _oi
   cucumber

EX.:

4. _u
   similar to the “u” in “rude”

EX.:

This is another tricky vowel, because there’s no great English comparison. Watch the video a couple extra times for this one.
These vowels are placed directly below a consonant, as in the word ַָּּ́ (seudoku). They look like they're lying down, don't they?

Double vowels (diphthongs)

Have you heard of diphthongs? They're vowels that are a little more complex. They combine two different sounds to create a single new sound. All of the six basic Korean vowels you just learned have diphthongs associated with them.

Let's look first at the diphthongs made from Α, Ε, and Υ. These are vertical vowels, so their diphthongs are also vertical and are written to the right of a consonant.

**List of Vertical Double Vowels**

- Γ (ya) 2.26: similar to the "ya" in "yahoo"
- Ζ (e) 2.29: similar to the "e" in "pet"

**Examples:**
- ྽ૐ (yagu): baseball
- ᇛၦ𝐦وء (keikeu): cake

- Η (yeo) 2.27: similar to the "yo" in "young"
- Δ (yae) 2.30: similar to the "ye" in "yes"

**Examples:**
- ࿥൑ (yeoreum): summer
- ࿧ૺ (yaegi): story

Do you remember how we made the aspirated consonants? Right, by adding a line to or slightly modifying one of the basic consonants. Well, the same is true for the formation of these diphthong vowels. Add a line to Α and Ε and you get Γ and Η. Next, the third and fourth vowels in this list are made by combining two basic vowels. Β is created from Α + Υ, and Ζ comes from Ε + Υ. Interestingly, though, most Koreans these days can't distinguish between these two vowels because their sounds are so close to each other. The same is true of the final two diphthongs listed here, Δ and Θ. That means two less sounds for you to learn. Yes!

Okay. Now let's look at two horizontal diphthongs that are made from the basic vowels Ι and Ξ. Remember, these are written below the consonant.

**List of Horizontal Double Vowels**

- Ν (yo) 2.32: similar to the "yo" in "yodel"
- ΢ (yu) 2.33: similar to the "yu" in "yule"

**Examples:**
- སྲེ (kyoshil): classroom
- ၉ྷ (yuri): glass

It's easy to see how Ι becomes Ν, and Ξ becomes ΢.
Great! Just seven more vowels to go! These last diphthongs are a little different, because they're combinations of a horizontal vowel and a vertical vowel.

**Horizontal + Vertical Vowels**

2.34: ΙΑ, similar to the “wa” in “want”

**EX.:** ထ [wang] king

2.35: ΙΒ, similar to the “we” in “wet”

**EX.:** ဒ [wae] why

2.36: ΙΥ, similar to the “we” in “wet”

**EX.:** ဘ૑ [oeguk] foreign country

2.37: ΟΕ, similar to the “wo” in “worry”

**EX.:** ဴ [weon] won (Korean currency)

2.38: Π, similar to the “we” in “wet”

**EX.:** ༼်ሽ [seuweteo] sweater

2.39: Ρ, similar to the “wee” in “week”

**EX.:** ၁&display [wiheom] danger

2.40: Τ, similar to the “u” in “push” plus the “ee” in “keep”

**EX.:** ၡຫ [uisa] doctor

You've made it—nice work! I bet now you might be a little confused about some of the vowels that look similar to each other. But with a little practice and continued exposure, I know you'll find it easy to tell them apart.

And what about their unfamiliar pronunciations? Well, here's a tip for pronouncing those final seven diphthongs. Just think of them as adding together the pronunciations of the two vowels that make up the diphthong, as shown.

Let's practice the most difficult one, Τ. Start by loudly making the sound of the first vowel, Σ, and then add Υ. Do this a couple times, and then say the whole thing faster, and faster, and faster… Soon, you'll be sounding just like a Korean!

Also, you probably noticed that Λ, Μ, and Π have the same pronunciation. Maybe you're wondering what the point is of having three separate characters for the same sound. Is it just to make it hard on you? Well, yes, but that's not the only reason! Having more characters means the Korean language can contain more words through homophones (words that sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings).

Hmm…are you still thinking, “How am I ever going to be able to remember all these characters and their strange, foreign pronunciations?” Hey, lighten up! You just started, so don't expect to be an expert immediately. No one can do that, not even me. ^^
But if you're still feeling discouraged, let me put things in perspective for you. Picture yourself riding a bus along the hectic, skyscraper-lined streets of Seoul. Outside your window, you're watching all the billboards, street signs, and storefront banners fly by. How cool will it be when you realize you can decipher those alien characters and pronounce all the words you see? It's a gratifying experience, believe me, and one you'll be capable of before you know it.

Further Vocabulary: Taste

- **taste, flavor**
- **appetite**
- **delicious**
- **bad**
- **bland**
- **salty**
- **sweet, sugary**
- **spicy**
- **bitter**
Korean Style: Korean computer keyboards

Have you ever seen a Korean keyboard? If not, have you ever imagined how speakers of other languages use keyboards to write in their language on a computer? Well, studying a Korean keyboard is not only interesting in itself, but it also offers some insight into the relationships between the different Korean characters.

On the English keypad, each letter is assigned a single button. And you make capital letters by holding down the <shift> key. That's only 26 different letter keys, right? Well, as you just learned, in Korean there are 19 consonants and 21 vowels. So how do they fit 40 characters onto those 26 keys? Let's take a look.

Start at the <Q> key in the upper left-hand corner. There are two Korean characters on this button: ΄ on the bottom and ΅ above it. Remember that ΅ is the double consonant of ΄? So, while in English you use the <shift> key to make capital letters, in Korean you can type double consonants with <shift>. Does that make sense? Moving to the right in the same row, you can see Ί and ΋, ͹ and ͺ, ͳ and ʹ, and ˑ and Έ. All of the consonants that make double consonants are in the upper left section of the keyboard.

Great. And what about aspirated consonants? Well, check out the bottom row of keys. Starting from the left, you have Ό, Ύ, Ό, and Ώ. And the vowels? Most of the basic ones are in the second row to the right, and their diphthongs (double vowels) occupy the keys above them.

But where are Κ, Λ, Μ, Ο, Π, Ρ, and Τ? Remember how I told you that each of these seven diphthongs is a combination of two other vowels? With that in mind, can you guess how to type them? Correct! If you want to type Κ, you hit Ι first, and then Α, which will automatically create the character Κ on the screen. Λ is Ι + Β, Μ is Ι + Υ, and so on.

As you can see, the Korean characters aren't randomly positioned on the keyboard like the English letters are. Because of this, Koreans can type very quickly, and that's one of the many reasons why computers and the Internet are so prevalent in Korean society.
In this chapter, let's practice some of what you've learned so that it'll stick, okay? To do that, we'll take a look at how Korean words are formed and pronounced.

Now, you may remember from when you were young and learning English that there are lots of words that don't fit the typical pronunciation patterns. This probably made it more difficult for you to learn some words (and very difficult for Koreans learning English!). For example, without spending time to think about it, try to pronounce this word: "floccinaucinihilipilification." Can you do it? It's an English word, but I bet many native English speakers would be a little confused as to how it should sound.

Lucky for you, almost all Korean words follow certain fundamental pronunciation rules. Once you learn these rules, you'll be able to pronounce pretty much any Korean word you see. You may not know what it means, but hey, we'll get to that later!

There's even more good news about Korean pronunciation: there are no accents. Every syllable of every word is spoken with the same stress. Do you understand what I mean? Think about the word "Canada." In English, we usually accent the first syllable, like this: CA-na-da. Well, in Korean, all syllables receive the same stress, like this: CA-NA-DA.

And finally, the intonations in Korean will be similar to those you use in English. There aren't any concrete rules about this, but the main thing to remember is that, just like in English, you let your voice get higher in pitch at the end of a question. Consider how you'd say "Are you having fun?" The intonation of "fun" is higher than that of the rest of the sentence.

Okay. It's time for a pop quiz. How do you pronounce this word: ၗأنشطة

Uh-huh, the correct answer is [eumshik]. Let's look at it syllable by syllable. First, we know that oreach is silent because it's at the beginning of a syllable, right? Next, do you remember how to pronounce the vowel Σ? And then the consonant Β. Look at the shape of Β. It's closed, so your mouth should also be closed. Then, in the second syllable, · is like [sh], because it's followed by the vowel Υ, which makes an [ee] sound. And ͳ is like [k]. Great!

There's one note of caution with this pronunciation, however. It's actually one of the basic rules I mentioned in the previous chapter. And this rule is about consonants that appear in the third position (C + V + C). Do you remember the name for these consonants? That's right, දැළුන්! I mentioned a couple times that these have a different pronunciation than consonants in the first position. They're softer, almost like you're simply mouthing the consonant without making any noise.

So in the word ၗأنشطة, the [k] sound produced by the ͳ should be subdued. Finish the word with your mouth in the correct shape to pronounce this character, but don't actually make the sound. This is very important, because...
If you make a strong [k] sound, Koreans will hear the word .setValue instead of .setValue. The meaning will be completely different, which is bad, because .setValue is a very essential word. It means "food"!

Here are a couple more to practice with:

3.2  setValue  [pap] steamed rice
3.3  setValue  [ramyeon] instant noodles (ramen)

Not too hard, right? Just follow what you learned in chapter 2, and what I just told you about [:value]. setValue is still the main element in Korean meals, though the younger generation is becoming increasingly fond of Western foods like spaghetti and pizza. And setValue is the most popular snack in Korea. You've probably seen different versions of it where you live, right? Wow, with all this talk of food, I'm getting pretty hungry! We'd better move on. ^;^

Let's keep looking at those third-position consonants. Here are three very similar one-syllable words:

Can you pronounce these? The first two characters are the same in all three, yes? setValue is like [n], and setValue is the vowel sound [a]. Now, if you add the appropriate [:value] consonants to each one, you get setValue, setValue, and setValue.

But what happens when you apply the pronunciation rule for third-position consonants that I discussed above? Remember, you should shape your mouth as if to pronounce the final consonant but not actually make a sound. How does this affect the pronunciations of these words?

Well, it turns out that the consonants setValue, setValue, and setValue all have the same sound when they're in the third position like this. They all become a soft, non-aspirated [t] sound. Can you hear it? So the pronunciation of each of these words is exactly the same: [nat].

Is this rule confusing? You might think so now, but it's such a common element of Korean that you'll get used to it fast.

So now you've learned some examples of Korean homophones—words that sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings.

As you may have noticed, the [:value] pronunciation rule is used when there's no other sound following the third-position consonant. Well, what happens if there is a sound after it? If it's followed by another consonant sound, then the rule still applies. But, if the next sound is a vowel, then something different happens. To demonstrate, let's add the syllable setValue onto the words we just looked at, creating:

What happens now? Well, the third-position consonants revert to their true sound.  setValue is [nas + i], right? So that's how you pronounce it: [nasi]. Except, in this case, the [s] becomes [sh] according to the pronunciation rules in chapter 2. Likewise, setValue is [naji], and setValue is [nachi].

Wait a minute! Isn't setValue a consonant? You're absolutely right. But remember that at the beginning of a syllable it just acts as a placeholder. Because setValue has no sound value here, the [:value] consonant jumps over it and connects with the following vowel sound. In other words, the word setValue is pronounced the same as the word setValue. Does that make sense? Let's look at two more words where setValue is silent:

More importantly, when the third-position consonant occurs before the vowel  setValue, setValue, and setValue, the consonant is not pronounced. For example, when we write  setValue, setValue, or setValue, the consonant is pronounced as setValue, setValue, or setValue.
is pronounced like -navbar, because the [n] sound of -navbar jumps over the silent -navbar and connects with the vowel sound of -navbar. So, [eoneo]. -navbar means "language."

Similarly, ቨንወnavbar is pronounced like ቨንወnavbar. So, [hangugeo]. You know the meaning? No? Hey! What are you studying right now? "Korean language," right? Yes, that's ቨንወnavbar. (navbar means "Korea.")

Both words above share the ending Navbar. This syllable carries the meaning of "language," although it can't be used independently. Actually, the meaning of Navbar originated from a Chinese character. You certainly don't have to learn Chinese characters to learn Korean, but as you study more Korean words, you'll come to know that many of them are based on Chinese characters. In fact, around 70% of Korean vocabulary is related in some fashion to the Chinese language.

Okay, this is a lot to digest, so let's sum up with a short review. When a consonant in the third position is not followed by a vowel, you simply mouth the character without pronouncing it, and this sometimes creates a new sound (like the non-aspirated [t]). If there is a vowel following it, then the consonant retains its true sound, jumping over the ጮ to join with the vowel sound.

Don't worry! This will be very clear after some more practice. But that will have to wait till the next chapter.

Further Vocabulary: Country names

In Korean, the names of countries sometimes sound a lot different than they do in English. For example, the name for America is ፐፐ, made from two syllables of Chinese origin. ፐ means "country" and is used to form the Korean names of many of the world's nations, while ፐ means "beautiful." So Koreans refer to the U.S. as "beautiful country"—how sweet!

Likewise, as I mentioned at the end of the chapter, -navbar is a Chinese syllable meaning "language," so this is used to name the languages of different peoples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation Name</th>
<th>Language name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>ቨንወnavbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>እንወnavbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>እንወnavbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>እንወnavbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>ትወnavbar</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>ወወnavbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>ወወnavbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>ወወnavbar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some of the most difficult pronunciations to differentiate for Westerners learning Korean are "ńń" and "ńńńń." I already told you how a simple mistake between basic consonants and their doubles can turn "rice" into "flesh," and a "ring" into a "tail."

But those aren't the only pitfalls to watch out for. Take note: 

Do you like curry? 

What? You want to know if I like phlegm?

Why don't we eat some honey?

Sorry, I can't eat oysters.

This dish has beans in it.

What? There's a ball in this food?

I'm free this month.
So, we've learned about the Korean characters and how to pronounce them. Technically, you could now read a Korean book out loud and sound pretty good. But would you know what you were reading? No!

Now we must move on to the meaning of the language. And to understand the meaning of any language, you first have to understand its structure, right? So let's go over five important features of the structure of Korean.

Just remember, it belongs to an entirely different language family than English, so its structure is going to be very different, too. But maybe this will work to your advantage. You'll be able to learn these rules and features with a fresh mind.

1. Word order

The normal word order in a Korean sentence is: Subject – Object – Verb. So,

```
I love you.
```

Note: The “N” stands for “noun,” as Korean particles attach to nouns. Read on for details.

This sentence is translated into English as “I love you,” but if you look at the word order literally, it says “I you love.” Strange, isn’t it? The verb comes last! And it’ll always come last. However, the other two elements (the subject and object) can be switched around if you want:

```
I love you.
```

Koreans will understand what you mean by this, even though it’ll sound like you’re trying to emphasize instead of . It would be a little awkward in this case, but the general rule is that the subject can be placed anywhere in the sentence, except at the end.
2. Particles—noun endings

If the word order is so free, how do Koreans know which word is the subject and which is the object? Well, the answer is this: particles. These are very important grammatical components of Korean. Particles are attached to the end of nouns to indicate the function of those nouns, as well as to add meaning to nouns as prepositions do in English. For example, in the sentence we just looked at, ୾ means “I,” and ௴ is a particle letting us know that ୾ is the main topic of the sentence. Next, ஞ means “you,” so can you guess what the particle ൐ does? Right! It’s the object marker, letting us know that ஞ is the object in the sentence.

There are many particles in Korean, and learning them is essential to learning the language. But we don’t need to rush it. Let’s leave it at this for now, and then in the next chapter we’ll discuss these interesting little language elements in greater detail.

3. Conjugation—constant bases vs. variable endings

Korean verbs and adjectives are composed of bases and endings. The bases are constant, while the endings can change. This idea of variable endings attaching to the unchanging bases of verbs and adjectives is called conjugation. English verbs conjugate too, but they don’t change nearly as much as their Korean counterparts. The purpose of conjugation is to alter the tone of voice, tense, or grammatical function of verbs and adjectives. For example:

4.3 (ஞ൐) ཨ (Neoreul) Saranghae.
I love you. (plain/familiar)

4.4 (ఙཅၕ) ཨ (Tangshineul) Saranghaeyo.
I love you. (honorific/polite)

4.5 (ఙཅၕ) ཨ (Tangshineul) Saranghaesseoyo.
I loved you.

4.6 (ஞ௴) ཨ (Neoreul) Saranghago,…
I love you, and…

4.7 (ஞ௴) ཨ (Neoreul) Saranghamyeon,…
If I love you,…

4.8 (এজ) ཨ (Naega) Saranghaneun…
(My) Loving…

In all of these sentences and clauses, the verb base (ཨ) remains constant. (୾ and ཨ are shortened forms of ཨ and ཨ. Instead, the verb endings decide the precise meaning.

Even though conjugation occurs in English too, I bet reading about it in the context of a foreign language can be pretty overwhelming. But I assure you it’ll be crystal clear once you’ve gotten through chapters 6 and 7. That’s where I’ll tell you everything you ever wanted to know about conjugation!
4. Honorifics: levels of respect

Korean society is very hierarchical. Everyone has a special place in this hierarchy, which may be higher or lower than the place of someone else, and this cultural trait is reflected in the language. When speaking to someone who is higher up in the hierarchy, you must show the proper respect and politeness through the use of honorifics.

There are two basic levels of respect in Korean: plain and honorific. Some words have entirely different forms for use in the plain and the honorific, but the difference is most frequently seen in verb and adjective endings. Plain endings are used between friends or when speaking to a child, while honorifics are for those older than you or people you don’t know well.

So, in the sentences above, the first and second have the same meaning, but their objects and verb endings are different. 俐 is a plain word meaning “you,” while 俐 is the honorific form. And 俐 is the honorific form of 俐. Be careful here, because 俐 is in fact the word usually used between a couple. In general practice, you would use someone’s name to show respect rather than either of these versions of “you.”

The categories of plain and honorific are further subdivided, with more endings expressing more particular levels of respect for specific situations. But for a beginner, learning the difference between these two basic categories is more than enough! Are you curious about them? Well, don’t worry, because before you know it you’ll be turning the page to chapter 8, which is all about honorifics.

5. Omissions and plurals

If you’ve ever studied Spanish, you know it’s okay to omit the subject of a sentence in that language. For example, instead of saying “I went to the store,” you can just say “Went to the store,” and everyone will know what you mean. This is because the conjugation of the verb in the sentence tells who the subject is.

Well, Korean is very similar. Because the verb or adjective ending contains information like tense, tone, and level of respect, specifically identifying the subject of the sentence is sometimes repetitive and unnecessary, as demonstrated in the list of sentences on the previous page. Korean subjects, objects, and their attached particles are often omitted.

Omissions can be seen as an easy or difficult language aspect, depending on your point of view, but Korean plurals are nothing but simple. In Korean, you don’t have to worry about whether nouns are countable or uncountable, or whether you need to add “-s” or “-es” to make a word plural. Most nouns can be used to represent both singular and plural. That’s right—you don’t have to change them at all! For cases where you really want to emphasize that something is plural, all you need to do is add the syllable 俐 onto the end of the word. Not too shabby!
Further Vocabulary: Positive feelings

Aren't you happy that you now know so much about the structure of Korean? Repeat after me:

કીબુન [kibun] feelings, mood

કિપ્પુદા [kippeuda] glad, happy

ચીલ્ગેપદા [cheulgeopda] pleasant, happy

હંગ્બોકાદા [haengbokada] happy

પિયેણહાદા [pyeonhada] comfortable

શીનાદા [shinnada] to be excited

ઉઠા [utda] to laugh, to smile

ચાયમીટદા [chaemitiada] fun, funny

Korean Style: You must listen to Korean from the end.

Of course, it's important to listen to someone carefully when they speak to you. And if you interrupt them, they might get angry. But to Koreans, it's particularly important to listen to the end of a speaker's sentences. There's even a saying about it: “You must listen to Korean from the end.” Why is this? Think about what you just learned about the structure of the language. Korean verbs always come at the ends of sentences, and the verbs often contain key information.

Take a look at this example. No, wait… I should say listen to what your Korean friend is about to tell you.

ના એ જ ક્રીમન હાઇ... [Na eoje Cheonchihyunhago teiteuhaneun…]

I dated Jihyun Jeon yesterday...

યોજ [eoje] yesterday

તૈનાદા [teiteuhada] to date

હાગો [hago] particle meaning “with”

Surprised? You might say “What! You dated Jihyun Jeon? The cute star of the movie My Sassy Girl?” Unbelievable! But your friend wasn't finished! The end of his sentence was going to be,

કૂમ [kkum] dream

કુદા [kkuda] to dream

So all together:

ના એ જ ક્રીમન હાઇ... કૂમ કૂમ્પ્લીક્સ્સ્ કુદા. [Na eoje Cheonchihyunhago teiteuhaneun… kum kkumkkumkkuda.]

I had a dream I dated Jihyun Jeon yesterday.

Oops! But don't be too disappointed. You can date Jihyun Jeon too, if you want. WHEN PIGS FLY! Haha, I guess you have to listen to English from the end also. ^;^
My Mother Is Korean, and My Father Is American

어머니는 한국인이고, 아버지는 미국인이다.

All About Particles

I gave you a little taste of them in the last chapter, but now it's time to dig into the main course: particles.

Remember, particles are used in Korean to attach to the end of nouns in order to tell listeners what the functions of those nouns are, or to act as prepositions and add meaning to the nouns. Since this language element is completely foreign to speakers of English, I want to make sure to explain it clearly and with plenty of examples.

In this chapter, we'll go over a handful of particles that you're most likely to come across on a regular basis. Then, once you've mastered the basic concepts, I'll introduce you to other particles throughout the rest of the book. And, just to help you out a little more, I've included a list of all the particles you'll see in this book in the Further Vocabulary section at the end of the chapter, which you can refer to anytime. Hey...I aim to please!

Okay, let me describe one more important aspect about particles before we begin. If you've looked ahead at the list already (admit it—I know you have!), you probably noticed that some particles have two forms. Why?!

Sometimes it seems like Korean just wants to make learning the language as hard as possible, doesn’t it? But actually, there's a very sensible reason for the dual forms. One is attached to nouns that end in a _g_onsonant, and the other hooks onto nouns that end with a yowel. This ensures a smoother and easier pronunciation, which is something you can appreciate, right? In fact, you'll see this idea again and again in the next two chapters that cover conjugation, so it'll pay to get used to it here. I'll use the following abbreviations when explaining:

Nc = noun ending in a consonant

Nv = noun ending in a vowel

Are you ready? Yes, of course you are! Let's start with the most basic particles—those that define the grammatical functions and relationships between different nouns.

Particles that define grammatical functions and relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Subject particle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you've likely guessed, the job of this particle is to let you know which noun in the sentence is the subject. It doesn't get more straightforward than that, does it?
MY MOTHER IS KOREAN, AND MY FATHER IS AMERICAN.

Don't worry about understanding the new vocabulary or grammar points included in this chapter. There will be plenty of time for that later. Right now, just focus on the particles!

5.1 EX. 1: 

[\text{Kohyangi eodiyeyo?}]

Where is your hometown?

In this sentence, you can see that the noun \text{ધጎ}, which means "hometown," is the subject of the sentence. The speaker is asking you where your hometown is located. You're likely to hear this question frequently, as Koreans place a lot of importance on where people are from, both within Korea and abroad.

Also, you'll notice that \text{ધጎ} ends in a consonant, \text{Ή}, and that it takes the \text{ၦ} form of the subject particle.

Compare this to the next example:

5.2 EX. 2: 

[\text{Chejudoga che kohyangieyo.}]

Jeju Island is my hometown.

Here, the word \text{႞჎౅} ends in a vowel, and it takes the particle's \text{جزاء} form. Do you see the pattern?

\text{ၦ} attaches to nouns ending in a consonant because it starts with a vowel sound. Conversely, \text{جزاء} latches onto nouns ending in a vowel because it begins with a consonant sound. This is a fundamental and recurring rule in Korean, the pairing of consonants and vowels when adding endings. If you're taking notes, make sure to write that down!

\[-eul/-reul\]: Object particle

This is another simple particle to grasp. It signifies that a noun is acting as the object of the sentence. Take a look:

5.3 EX. 1: 

[\text{Chaegeul ikgo isseoyo.}]

I'm reading a book.

The word \text{ᅙ}, or "book," is the object of the sentence, because the action, "reading," is being done to it. Of course, objects can be people too, as in the next example:

5.4 EX. 2: 

[\text{Anaereul saranghaeyo.}]

I love my wife.

Of course I do! And notice the rules governing the use of the two different forms? It's the same as with the subject particle, isn't it? \text{ၔ} begins with a vowel sound, so it comes after nouns that end in a consonant. And, vice versa, because \text{௴} begins with a consonant, it follows nouns ending in a vowel. Starting to fit together?

\[-eun/-neun\]: Topic or contrast particle

So far, so good. Now, however, we come to a particle without a direct equivalent meaning in English. Subjects and objects sound pretty familiar, but what's a topic? How is that different from a sentence's subject? Rest assured, you're not alone in asking these questions. English speakers have a tough time learning to distinguish between

\[-eun/-neun\]: Topic or contrast particle

\[-eun/-neun\]: Topic or contrast particle

\[-eun/-neun\]: Topic or contrast particle
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subjects and topics. Basically, you use the topic particle when you want to add particular emphasis to a noun. Let's check it out, shall we?

5.5

EX. 1:
႞ၦ൑
ၔ
ၔዾၦ࿝ဠ

[Che ireumeun harieyo.]

My name is Hal.

This sentence can be directly translated as "When it comes to my name, it is Hal." Definitely awkward in English, but do you understand the meaning? While ᵝၦ൑, "name," would be considered the subject of this sentence in English, in Korean it occupies the role of the topic because it's being stressed more strongly.

Luckily, the second function of this particle is more intuitive. It can be used to emphasize contrast in a sentence where two different nouns are being listed. Check it out:

5.6

EX. 2:
࿌ alumno
௴
௴ዽ૑ຫ೥ၦધྤ෾hx
௴
௴ු૑ຫ೥ၦ࿝ဠ

[Eeomeonineun hanguk saramigo, abeojineun miguk saramieyo.]

My mother is Korean, and my father is American.

Here, the particle attaches to both ᵊ alumnos, "mother," and ḷ hx, "father," because these two nouns are being contrasted. One parent is defined as Korean, while the other is American.

 boasted: "too," "also," "as well"

Pattern: N + ᵅ

And now we move on to the opposite of contrast, which is agreement. It's best to think of this particle as occupying the reverse side of the coin from the particle ᵝၦၔၔ in its contrast function, so let's use the same example:

5.7

EX.:
࿌ alumno
ᵈ
ᵈዽ૑ຫ೥ၦધྤ෾hxᵈ
ᵈ…

[Eomeonido hanguk saramigo, abeojido…

My mother is Korean, and my father is…

You know what I'm going to say next, don't you? You can guess the last part thanks to the particle ᵅ, which provides us with the hint that the following information is going to match that which came before. So, the final product would be:

5.8

࿌ alumno
ᵈ
ᵈዽ૑ຫ೥ၦધྤ෾hxᵈ
ᵈ ᵅwin in mungdo

[Eomeonido hanguk saramigo, abeojido hanguk saramieyo.]

My mother is Korean, and my father is Korean, too.

Both nouns are being described as the same thing. The ᵅ particle is used to signify this, and again it's attached to both ᵊ alumnos and ḷ hx. Notice too that there's only one form of this particle. Hurray! So it makes no difference whether the noun ends in a consonant or vowel.

Overall, these particles are pretty handy, aren't they? It's like a little bird is whispering in your ear, telling you...
My mother is Korean, and my father is American. I also will help my mother today.

Because of the use of particles, this sentence implies that, on days other than today, someone else helped my mother while I hung around with my friends. Today, though, I suddenly felt very guilty and decided to be a better son, so I'm planning on helping her later. Can you see how this meaning can be understood due to the emphasis placed on the word "today," and the addition of "also"? If you can, then I rate your particle skills as impressive!

Particles comparable to English prepositions

Let's move on. There are many other particles that not only define the grammatical function of nouns but also add meaning to them—much like prepositions do in English. In a way, these particles are the Korean version of prepositions, which don't otherwise exist. In fact, in some Korean grammar texts, particles are given the English name "postpositions."

Why "post" instead of "pre"? Any guesses? Well, it's because Korean particles are located after their object nouns, whereas English prepositions come before them. If you ask me, mastering particles is a whole lot easier than mastering prepositions is for Korean learners of English. So you have a leg up here!

Okay, let's look at three more very common particles.

**[-e]: "at," "to," "in" (time, direction, location)**

**Pattern:** N + [-e]

This versatile little particle can be used to mean any of the three English prepositions listed above. The easiest way to explain this is to show it:

**EX. 1 (time):**

At what time do you usually wake up?

**EX. 2 (direction):**

I'm going to school now.

**EX. 3 (location):**

The money is in the purse.

So, with one little particle, we can cover three English words. And, lucky for you, there's only one form, so you don't have to worry about whether the noun ends in a consonant or vowel. Easy!

**[-eseo]: "at," "in," "on" (location), "from" (starting point)**

**Pattern:** N + [-eseo]

The particle [-eseo] has two basic functions: to describe location and to mark the starting point of something.

Hmm…so are you wondering what the difference is between [-eseo] and [-e] if they can both be used to denote
location? Well, unfortunately that's an easy question without an easy answer. The general rule is that, if you have a
sentence with a verb that's related to a specific movement or action,  is used more frequently than . Yet, there are many exceptions to this principle. So for now, let's just learn as another way to pinpoint location, sound good? And, of course, to designate a starting point. Have a look:

5.13 EX. 1 (location):


A child is playing on the playground.

5.14 EX. 2 (starting point):

Where are you from?

- to, into, with, by (direction, change, means)

Pattern: Nc +  + Nv +  

Note: An exception to this is that nouns ending with combine with , not 

Note: A Wow, here's another single particle with all kinds of different possible meanings. And what about "direction, change, means"…do you understand what these mean? No, I don't blame you. We'd better look at some examples, because that's the only way to explain.

5.15 EX. 1 (direction):

Let's go to Myeongdong.

Okay, obviously this is the second particle you've learned that can mean "to." In this sentence, it would be possible to use instead of . But, just as in the previous explanation, isn't frequently used with action verbs.

5.16 EX. 2 (change): 

Transfer to line 4.

Do you understand the idea of "change" here? You're switching from one thing to another. Of course, it doesn't have to be a subway line that you're changing to. This particle can be used to describe more symbolic changes as well, such as in moods and beliefs.

5.17 EX. 3 (means):

I go to work by bicycle.

Hey, cool! I'm jealous that you get to ride your bike to work. Seoul has some nice recreational bicycle paths, but riding in the street from home to the office can be a bit nerve-wracking.
So, how are you feeling about particles now? I know they can seem rather strange to English speakers but, at the same time, they're actually quite easy once you get accustomed to the basic principles of their use.

Of course, I've simplified the explanation just a bit here. For one thing, particles don't only attach to nouns, but also to other particles and adverbs. But if you've made it through this chapter, I'd wager you have just the right amount of particle expertise, and we'll continue to build on it as you learn about other characteristics of this unique language!

Further Vocabulary: More particles

Here it is, just as I promised at the beginning of the chapter: a full list of the Korean particles you'll see in this book!

- **ui**: “of” (possessive)
  
  Pattern: N1 (modifying noun) + ui + N2 (modified noun)
  
  EX.: [I chaegui kagyeogeun aju pissayo.]
  The price of this book is pretty high.

- **ege**: “to” (preferred in writing)
  
  Pattern: N (person, animal) + ege
  
  EX.: [Nuguege pyeonji sseugo isseoyo?]
  To whom are you writing a letter?

- **hante**: “to” (preferred in speech)
  
  Pattern: N (person, animal) + hante
  
  EX.: [Nuguhante pyeonji sseugo isseoyo?]
  To whom are you writing a letter?

- **gwa/-wa**: “and,” “with” (preferred in writing)
  
  Pattern: Nc + gwa/wa + Nv
  
  EX. 1: [Cheomshimeuro kimbapgwa ramyeoneul meogeosseoyo.]
  I ate kimbap and ramen for lunch.

  EX. 2: [Eoje chinguwa insadonge gasseoyo.]
  Yesterday I went to Insadong with my friend.

- **hago**: “and,” “with” (preferred in speech)
  
  Pattern: N + hago
  
  EX. 1: [Jeomshimeuro kimbapago ramyeoneul meogeosseoyo.]
  I ate kimbap and ramen for lunch.

  EX. 2: [Eeoje chinguhago insadonge gasseoyo.]
  Yesterday I went to Insadong with my friend.
EX.:

I'm a vegetarian, so I eat only vegetables.

I work from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

I drink milk or juice in the morning.

I drink only milk in the morning.

I'm taller than my husband.

I'm called Hal.

I'm called Jiu.
Korean Sign Particles:

Given the following sentence, which particles would you choose to put in the blanks?

 backButton

I (honorific form of my husband)

As you just learned, particles are very economical elements of Korean. These tiny little syllables can change the meaning of an entire sentence. Don’t believe me? Look at all the possibilities there are for this simple sentence, based only on what you already know:

A. 戒

I love my husband.

This would be your most basic option. 戒 is the particle marking the sentence topic, while 捌 signifies the object. So this sentence reads something like, “As far as I’m concerned, I love my husband.”

Remember how the topic particle adds emphasis to a noun? There’s no direct translation for this in English, but “as far as I’m concerned” is a close approximation of the meaning of 戒.

B. 戒

I love my husband, too.

By replacing 捌 with 叹, we add the meaning of “also” or “too.” So you love your husband as well as someone else. Yikes, does your husband know about this!?

C. 戒

I love my husband and not anyone else.

Ah, that’s sweet. The first 戒, the one that attaches to 戒, or “I,” indicates the sentence topic. The second one is used to denote contrast. (Remember, this particle has two functions.) The noun being implicated as the other half of the contrast is not shown, though, so in this case we can infer it means a general “anyone else.”

D. 戒

My husband loves me.

Wow, this is a totally different meaning! You might think this structure isn’t possible, but remember what I told you about Korean word order in chapter 4? It’s free, because particles let us know which is the subject and which the object. So by simply switching around the particles from example A, we can reverse the meaning of the sentence. Pretty cool, huh!?
Learn, Learned, Learning

Regular Conjugation Patterns

Are you ready to learn about conjugation? Maybe you learned about this concept in school. Well, regardless of what you already know, you’re going to be learning a lot about Korean conjugation in this chapter.

What can you tell me about the highlighted verbs in the previous sentences? That’s right! They’re three different forms of the same root verb: “to learn.” In both English and Korean, we call this root the infinitive. This provides the base stem for all the other different forms of the verb. And that’s conjugation—the rules governing the creation of different verb forms.

Now, you were pretty lucky as a kid, because English doesn’t have that many conjugation rules to memorize. Take a look:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>Past tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I/we</td>
<td>learn</td>
<td>learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>learn</td>
<td>learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He/she/it</td>
<td>learns</td>
<td>learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>learn</td>
<td>learned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See how there’s not very much variation at all among the different forms of “to learn”? In many other languages, conjugation is a lot trickier. And—you guessed it—Korean happens to be one of those languages.

For one thing, English verbs conjugate mainly to show differences in person (I, you, she, etc.) and tense (past, present, etc.). While Korean conjugation does perform these functions, it’s also capable of adding dozens upon dozens of different shades of meaning to verbs, as well as different levels of politeness.

Obviously, learning about Korean conjugation is going to be a very important part of your journey, and once you start to get it down, you’ll be well on your way to advancing out of the novice stage. But it won’t happen all at once. You’ll see the information from this chapter again and again throughout the book. After all, practice makes perfect!

Infinitives in Korean

In English, all infinitives have a similar form: they begin with “to.” “To go,” “to stop,” “to eat,” “to live.” A similar thing happens in Korean, only here the common component comes at the end instead of the beginning. And that common component is -고. Observe:
LEARN, LEARNED, LEARNING

See how they all end in ? That's how you can tell they're infinitives.

Great! Now, just as in English the "to" is removed when you want to conjugate the verb, the first step for conjugating a Korean verb is to take off the . This gives you the verb stem, which never changes no matter what type of conjugation you're doing. Instead, you add different endings onto it. You can think of verb stems as fresh clay in your hands. You can't use them alone, but with a little work you can mold them into whatever meanings you want.

But before we learn how to do that, there's something else you should know…

Adjectives also conjugate in Korean!

Whoa, really?! This is totally different than English, right? I mean, you can't say "it cheaps" or "I distanted," can you? Of course not! But in Korean, this is perfectly acceptable. And what's more, adjectives share the same infinitive and stem characteristics as verbs. Check it out:

They end in , just like verbs! Pretty strange, huh? If it helps, you can think of adjectives as containing the verb "to be" within their meaning. For instance, instead of just "cheap," consider as translating to "to be cheap." Therefore, the sentence ཞཛྭཎྭ སྲེགས་་ རིང་ does not mean "it cheap," but rather "it is cheap."

What's more, the same rule applies for removing the when you want to conjugate an adjective, and most of the conjugation patterns for verbs apply to adjectives as well. So it's not really so bad!

Examining stems

Before we talk about the actual conjugation patterns, let's take a look at some important features of verb and adjective stems. In many cases, it's going to be these features that determine the exact pattern of conjugation. Consider these four basic verbs and adjectives:

1. First, look for whether the stems of these words end in a consonant or a vowel. Remember, the stems are , , , . Okay, and they're evenly split, aren't they? and both end in a vowel, while and end in a consonant. Just like we learned with particles in the last chapter, consonant vs. vowel endings are going to play a major role in conjugation.

2. Next, regardless of what they end in, pay attention to what the final vowel sound is in each stem. Understand? For it's obviously , and for it's . But what about the other two? Well, the final vowel sound in is , and for it's . Does that make sense?

3. So far, so good. Now for another test. What do these four verbs and adjectives have in common: ("to live"), ("distant"), ("sweet"), and ("to push")? Any ideas? Well, as you can see, each of the stems here ends in the character ཞ.
4. And finally, one more. Tell me if you can spot the similarity between these words:

- ṣada ("to do")
- ḥôngbada ("to study")
- saenggakada ("to think")
- Ḥaengbokada ("happy").

Yes! Each one ends in ṣada ṣada!

What's the purpose of all this? Well, these four characteristics—consonant vs. vowel endings, final vowel sounds, verbs/adjectives whose stems end in ṣada (called ṣada verbs/adjectives), and verbs/adjectives ending in ṣada (called ṣada verbs/adjectives)—are foundations of some very important rules of Korean conjugation. Don’t believe me? Read on and I’ll show you!

Conjugation patterns

Finally, we're ready to start conjugating! I bet you're very excited. But remember earlier when I told you Korean conjugation is able to add various shades of meaning to verbs, unlike in English? What did I mean by that? Let's find out.

Let's look at the conjugation ending ṣ. Let's guess as to its meaning. Let's compare our ideas. And the meaning is…? That's right! It means "let's." When you add ṣ to the end of a verb stem, it creates the meaning of "let's do (verb)." So…pop quiz! How would you translate ṧוביל? If your answer is "let's eat," you're absolutely correct! Now, for bonus points, can you tell me how that verb form was created? It's pretty simple. We start with the infinitive ṣada, drop the ending ṣada, and in its place add ṣ. That, my friend, is Korean conjugation in a nutshell. Of course, it's not always going to be this simple. Conjugation patterns vary depending on what ending you're using, what stem you have, and how their various features relate to each other. Luckily, it's possible to categorize the patterns to make them easier to learn. The following five patterns are used with regular verbs and adjectives. (There are some irregulars, of course, but you don't have to worry about those until the next chapter.)

Okay, ṣada—let's go!

For these explanations,

S = stem
 ṣada = stem ending in ṣada
 ṣa = stem ending in a vowel
 ṣc = stem ending in a consonant
 ṣi = stem whose final vowel sound is a or i

For the ṣada

1. S + ending

This first pattern includes endings that can be stuck directly onto a verb or adjective stem, such as the following:

- ṣada [-go] (stem and)
- ṣa[-geona] (stem or)
- ṣc[-jiman] (stem but)
- ṣa[-ja] (let's stem)

Note: ṣa cannot be used with adjectives.

- ṣa[-gi] (stem -ing)
- ṣa[-ji] (adverbial form used in negations)
For a better idea of how these endings are used, let's attach them to the verb ឧ (“to go”) and the adjective shouldBe (“pretty”):

- ឃ ឃ (go and)
- ឃ ឃ (being pretty)
- ឃ ឃ (go or)
- ឃ ឃ (pretty or)
- ឃ ឃ (go but)
- ឃ ឃ (pretty but)
- ឃ (let’s go)
- ឃ (going)

Easy, but also very useful, right? Don’t get too cocky, though. After all, this was the first, and simplest, pattern.

Let’s move on to #2.

2. ឃ + ending, ឃ + ending

Endings belonging to this second pattern attach directly onto verb and adjective stems, except for stems that end in ឃ. In this case, the ឃ is dropped.

The most common ending from this pattern is ឃ, which turns verbs (and verbs only! ឃ doesn’t attach to adjective stems) into noun modifiers. When placed next to a noun, a modifier provides an element of description about the noun.

Let’s attach the ឃ ending to the verb ឃ, as we did above, and also to the verb ឃ (“to live”). Pay close attention to what happens to the ឃ in the stem of ឃ—this is what pattern 2 is all about.

- ឃ (something that goes)
- ឃ (something that lives)

EX.:
- ឃ [hakgyoe kaneun ai] a child who goes to school
- ឃ [cheulgeopge saneun saram] a person who lives happily

Still pretty easy, yeah? Just you wait. They get more complex as we go along.

3. ឃ + ending, ឃ + ending, ឃ + ending

Pattern 3 endings attach directly onto verbs and adjectives whose stems end in either a vowel or the character ឃ. Yet, for stems terminating in any other consonant, this pattern calls for the addition of ឃ between the stem and the ending. Why? To make the word easier to pronounce, of course!

The conjugative ending ឃ, lending the meaning of “if” to verbs and adjectives, follows this pattern and is a very handy one to know. To make sure you get a firm grasp of it, we’ll attach it to six example words: three verbs and three adjectives.
The first pair should be familiar: the verb झ� (“to go”) and the adjective ྲྀ� (“pretty”). These both have stems that end in a vowel, so you don't need the ກ part of the ending. The same goes for the second pair, ༭ (“to live”) and ས (“sweet”), because their stems end with ༑.

The verb and adjective in the third pair, however, have stems ending in other consonants. So with this pattern 3 ending, you'll have to add ກ for your conjugation of ར (“to eat”) and ཛ (“high”).

-sex + ending, ibbon + + ending, ས ending, མ (-s: verb and adjective) lose the final ཏ of their stems—which is more like pattern 2.

The conjugative ending ད, which turns verbs and adjectives into past-tense noun modifiers, is one of a few endings we'll be covering in this book that belong to pattern 4. Let's put it to use by attaching it to the same cast of verbs and adjectives we used last time.

Notice how in the first pair the ཡ form of the ending is stuck right onto the stem. In the second pair, the final ཏ of the stem is removed, and then ཡ is added. And in the third pair, which features stems ending in other consonants, this ending requires that we add ກ before the ཡ.

- ས ḿ (something that went)
- ས ས ཡ (something that was pretty)
- ཋ ཋ ཋ ཋ (something that lived)
- ཋ ཋ ཋ ཋ ཋ (something that was sweet)
- ཋ ཋ ཋ ཋ ཋ (something that ate)
- ཋ ཋ ཋ ཋ ཋ (something that was tall)

This is a Korean idiom meaning "someone who couldn't open their heart to another." In other words, they couldn't speak because they had a mouth full of honey.
Very nice! Only one more to go…

Conjugative endings that follow pattern 5 include ྤ࿌࿥, ྤဠ࿌_alignedUseProgram嘹 LDAP, ྤ໏࿌_UniversalPrototypektör, and ྮ࿘࿰. Huh? Come again? I can imagine your face right now twisted into a mask of horror. So many confusing, variable endings! But wait. Don't you notice how they all start with ྤ࿌࿥? Just take a second to break them down and they're not so bad, right? I hope…?

Okay, and with these endings, we're going to be concerned with identifying whether or not the final vowel in the stem is Α or Ι. Pay no attention to whether the stem ends in a consonant or not; we're just looking at what the last vowel in the stem is. If it's Α or Ι, the stem will take the set of endings that start with ྤဠ. If it's any other vowel, the࿌ endings will be used.

Hey, but what is the࿥ group of endings for, then? Well, remember earlier in the chapter (so long ago, I know!), when I told you aboutዻ� verbs and adjectives? I wasn't just filling your head with useless information! These form their own special group, and in the case of pattern 5 conjugations, they take the࿥ endings. Got it?

As for the meaning of these endings, you don't have to worry about them right now. (Phew!) But I'll tell you that the second one, ྤဠ࿌_alignedURIComponent嘹 LDAP, is the common honorific conjugative ending you'll see over, and over, and over in this book, especially in chapter 8. Better learn it!

So again, our examples are split into three verb/adjective pairs. As you can see, the first pair includes stems with a final vowel of Α or Ι, so they take the ending ྤဠ. In the second pair, the stems of໏ (“to stop”) and ᄒ (“black”) have a different final vowel. This means the ending࿌ลาด is used. And finally, the third pair contains ourዻ.Zip verbs and adjectives, ᄀ (“to study”) and ᄃ (“happy”). As I said, these take the third ending option,࿥ลาด.

_aspect_url (it goes)
_aspect_url (it is tall)
_aspect_url (it stops)
_aspect_url (it is black)
_aspect_url (it studies)
_aspect_url (it is happy)

Hmm…wait a minute. Why does_aspect_url + ྤลาด become_aspect_url + ྤลาด and not_aspect_url + ྤลาด? And, hold on, why is it໏ลาด instead of໏࿌ลาด, and ᄃfindBySubjectRadians instead of ᄃfindBySubjectRadians? What!? Is Korean just mean and out to get you? No! The answer is simple: vowel contraction. In all conjugation patterns, when you have a vowel that connects directly to another vowel, they usually contract into something new. Why? Yes, for ease of pronunciation! The same holds true for English contractions; think about how much easier it is to say “I'm” than “I am.” You certainly don't need to memorize these now. Just skim the list below quickly to familiarize yourself with the idea of vowel contraction. Then, when you meet them one by one later on in the book, you won't be taken by surprise.
That's it! You've learned the five patterns! I don't want to get all emotional here, but I'm really, really proud of you for sticking with it through this chapter. Conjugation's not easy… I know! But armed with this knowledge, you're nearly ready to step up to a new level of Korean apprenticeship and start making some real headway with the language.

Yet, my grasshopper, one or two challenges still block your path. And, don't look now, but one of them is waiting for you in the next chapter: irregular conjugations. Ahhh! Don't fear, though, because compared to what you just went through, this should be a breeze.

Further Vocabulary: Expressions using common endings, part 1

The following are common expressions you'll see later in this book that utilize endings you just learned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pattern</th>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>vọng</td>
<td>want to do/V-ing (progressive tense, chapter 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-navigation</td>
<td>hate doing/V-ing (chapter 27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>的愿望</td>
<td>because … A/V (chapter 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>不能</td>
<td>not A/V (chapter 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>不能</td>
<td>not be able to V (chapter 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>不能</td>
<td>Don’t V (chapter 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>不能</td>
<td>shouldn’t V (chapter 21)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Will you marry me?

(Korean Style: Will you marry with me?)

In English, there are two main types of verbs: transitive and intransitive. Transitive verbs act on objects (nouns), while intransitive verbs do not (see the examples and explanations below). Korean also has both transitive and intransitive verbs. “So what?” you may be asking. Well, when we’re talking about objects, we’re also talking about object particles. So, in other words, a sentence with a transitive verb is going to feature an object particle, whereas a sentence with an intransitive verb won’t. Is your head spinning yet? Don’t worry, here’s what I’m talking about:

I like bread.

He suddenly disappeared.

As you see above, in the first sentence (૗૫) (“to like”) is a transitive verb, and its object is (๕) (“bread”). So (๕) has the object particle attached to it. Conversely, the verb (ຫೡখఋ) (“to disappear”) doesn’t take an object because it’s intransitive—hence, no object particle in the sentence.

Apparently, verbs that are transitive in English are transitive in Korean, and intransitives are the same too, right? No, wait! Sometimes you’ll run across a verb that’s one type in English and the other in Korean. Look:

Will you marry me?

In English, “to marry” is a transitive verb, right? In this sentence, it takes the object “me.” But in Korean, the verb (છጯዻఋ) is actually intransitive! And instead of the object particle, the noun in the sentence is going to have the particle (઴ဉ) (“with”) attached to it. Because when you marry, you’re taking an action “with” someone else. Get it? So,

Will you marry me?

If you want to propose in Korean, please remember this. Generally, if you were to make a mistake between the particles (ၕ൐) (object) and (઴ဉ) (“with”), it would be overlooked. But in this case, you really want the person you’re proposing to to understand you, right!?
In the previous chapter, we went over the basics of Korean conjugation. I told you about five patterns for use with regular verbs and adjectives. It was confusing, but I gave you assurance that you would pick it up in time.

Hmm…has your friend and faithful guide through the world of Korean finally lost his mind? Well, that's always a possibility, but in this case I'm just trying to show you that there are no rules without exception. I'm sure you can pick out the mistakes in the sentences above: went, told, was, gave. But why? I mean, why don't verbs like "to go," "to tell," "to be," and "to give" follow regular conjugation patterns? Believe me, as someone who's studied English for years, I've asked this question many times. But I haven't found anyone yet who can give a definitive answer. That's just the way those verbs work, right? All I know is this: verbs that conjugate irregularly tend to be those used very frequently, and you just have to memorize their irregular conjugations one by one.

Like English, Korean contains plenty of verbs and adjectives that break the rules we learned in the last chapter. Let me tell you, I'd rather not have to burden you with explanations of these unruly words. In fact, it even makes me, a native speaker, dizzy! But I have a duty to instruct you in the ways of Korean; and, just like in English, the exceptions happen to be very common words that you'll hear and use most every day.

Hey, but like we've done before, we can divide these verbs and adjectives into groups to make them easier to learn. You see, there happen to be five main types of irregular conjugators. We're not going to learn any new endings here; I'll explain the five types using conjugative endings you already know, and then give you a couple examples of verbs and adjectives that are included in each type. Ready?

1. irregular verbs / adjectives

These are verbs and adjectives whose stems end with ·. What's irregular about them? Well, if you're attaching an ending that begins with a vowel, these stems will lose that final ·.

Let's look at the example of "to pour." Remember the ending (ၒඓ), from conjugation pattern 3? Since the stem (฽) ends with a consonant, we're going to choose the ၒඓ form of that ending. Ordinarily, this would give us ฽ၒඓ, right? But it's an irregular verb, so we need to drop the ·. The final product? ิၒඓ.

Go, Went, Going
Verb / Adjective Ending Example

฽ఋ ("to pour")

ឈ· 

BE لماذا

The following words look like irregular verbs/adjectives, but they're not. They follow regular conjugation rules:

ฆ้� ("to take off")

ူ้� ("to laugh")

ྡడఋ ("to wash")

Next, we have irregular verbs/adjectives, whose stems end with ˊ. Similar to what happened in the last group, they lose their final ˊ when attached to endings beginning with a vowel. Yet, something else happens with these irregulars. They're going to grow either an ྦ or ဨ to replace that ˊ.

For an example, we'll look at the verb ్้� ("to help"). Using that same ending, (ၒ)ඓ, we need the ၒඓ form because the stem ్ ends in a consonant. Under the normal rule, this would result in ్ၒඓ, but not here! The ˊ in ్ is dropped, and the ၒ from the ending turns into ဨ. ੅ဨඓ is the correct outcome.

 Verb / Adjective Ending Example ్้� ("to help")

ogh· 

The following words look like irregular verbs/adjectives, but they're not. They follow regular conjugation rules:

nız� ("to take")

ຐ้� ("to pull out")

ၮ้� ("to wear")

த้� ("large")

Ⴔ� ("narrow")
3. Irregular verbs

Irregular verbs have stems that end in…you guessed it— suffice. But I bet you can't guess what happens to the vowel when you combine the stem with an ending beginning with a vowel? Do you drop it? Nope, it becomes ͻ in this case, so what you get is ૃ. Take note: there are no irregular adjectives.

Here is an example:

Verb / Adjective Ending Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb / Adjective</th>
<th>Ending</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ૃ (to cut)</td>
<td>ྤ ག ཏ ས ཇ ཤ ཅ ལ ཙ (pattern 5)</td>
<td>ྤ ག ཏ ས ཇ ཤ ཅ ལ ཙ (pattern 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ૃ Σ ͻ (to different)</td>
<td>ྤ ག ཏ ས ཇ ཤ ཅ ལ ཙ (pattern 5)</td>
<td>ྤ ག ཏ ས ཇ ཤ ཅ ལ ཙ (pattern 5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Singleton Irregulars

Singleton irregulars are verbs/adjectives that end with ૃ, which makes them different than the other three types we've looked at. Why? Because their stems end with a vowel, which means they'll be taking conjugative endings that start with a consonant. Okay, so what's irregular about these guys? Well, the ૃ in the verb/adjective has to be cut when an ending beginning with a vowel is attached. Not only that, but you then have to add another ͻ before the ending!

Since there aren't too many instances where vowel-ending stems take vowel-beginning endings, our table is going to look a little different.
Okay, you're doing great! Our last group makes up the irregular adjectives, adjectives whose stems end with ኧ. That's right, there aren't any irregular verbs! For these, the ኧ is dropped from the stem when adding endings beginning with a vowel. But that's not all. If the ending begins with the vowel ከ or ኪ, this character will change to ቃ. The table will explain all…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective Ending</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ቅ ቬ</td>
<td>“black”</td>
<td>ኧ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ሰ ቲ</td>
<td>“many”</td>
<td>ኧ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ታ ቭ</td>
<td>“like this”</td>
<td>ኧ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following adjectives look like irregular adjectives, but they're not. They follow regular conjugation rules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ቔ ቻ</td>
<td>“good”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ቔ ቻ</td>
<td>“hateful”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ቔ ቻ</td>
<td>“many”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ቔ ቻ</td>
<td>“fine”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don't you feel a little weird after studying all these irregulars for so long? Hey, let's not give them a hard time. After all, they can't help being what they are, and the fact is that they're all very useful words! But I promise we'll go over something more normal in the next chapter. ^;^ And besides, you can now breathe a sigh of relief. Your conjugation studies are over! (For now…)

Further Vocabulary: Expressions using common endings part 2

- ቕ ቭ ቡ ቫ to do ቭ-ing for someone (chapter 24)
- ቕ ቭ ቡ ቫ to try ቭ-ing (chapter 24)
- ቕ ቭ ቡ ቫ to be allowed to ቭ (chapter 24)
- ታ ቭ ቯ to have ever/never done ቭ-ing (chapter 19)
- ታ ቭ ቯ to/not to be able to ቭ (chapter 19)
- ታ ቭ ቯ to be going to ቭ (chapter 18)
- ታ ቭ ቯ to guess it is going to ቭ (chapter 18)
- ታ ቭ ቯ to know/not to know how to ቭ (chapter 19)
42 CHAPTER 7

Korean Style: Can I bury something?

Hey, are you wondering what would happen if you didn't follow the irregular conjugation rules I told you about in this chapter? I bet it could lead to some funny misunderstandings, right? Let's see.

 JNIEnv Ça dàih siende? means "Can I ask something?" in Korean. Because 부르기 ("to ask") belongs to the category of keypress irregular verbs, what happens when it takes the ending 받기? That's right, it becomes 받기, not 부르기. Yet, what would I be talking about if I made a mistake and actually said JNIEnv Ça dàih siende?

Grammatically, there's nothing wrong with this sentence, because there in fact exists a verb 부르기 that follows regular conjugation rules. So, with the ending 받기, it would conjugate to 받기. But it means something completely different than "to ask." Yup, it's "to bury"! So you're asking your friend, "Can I bury something?" I bet his face turns pretty white when he hears that one!

As we learned, 닫기 ("to close"), 걸기 ("to get"), and 믿기 ("to believe") are regular verbs, despite the fact that their stems end with 부르기. But what happens if you treat them as irregulars?

Close the window.
Hang the window. (Huh?)
I heard you got a daughter-in-law.
I heard your daughter-in-law got frozen. (What happened? She didn't pay her heating bill?)
Please trust me.
Please push me. (Off a cliff, maybe?)

 mommy chom tada chuseyo.
 Mommy chom tara chuseyo.
 Myeoneuri eodeotdamyeonseoyo?
 Myeoneuri eoreotdamyeonseoyo?
 Cheoreul chebal mideo chuseyo.
 Cheoreul chebal mireo chuseyo.
If you know any Koreans, you probably also know that they study English with a passion. Pretty much every Korean has a dream to speak English fluently. Yet, despite all their hard work, most of them feel very embarrassed at their English ability and are terrified of making mistakes when they speak. They're always second guessing themselves: "Oh no, did I say that correctly?"

But hey, it's only natural to make mistakes when you're learning something as complex as a new language system. And this goes for you as well as for all those Koreans. Even though your knowledge of Korean is quite incomplete, don't be afraid to use it. No one's going to laugh at you. Well, maybe sometimes. But it won't be out of malice, but rather compassion and pride that you've decided to learn their language. They'll feel closer to you because of your adorable Korean and be more willing to offer a helping hand.

When I'm talking to my Korean friends in English, one peculiarity I notice is that they use the word "please" too often. Or they'll insert the words "Could you…?" in front of a sentence that doesn't need them. Why is this? Well, it comes from a habit of politeness they've inherited from their native tongue. Being polite and showing respect is very important to Koreans, remember?

Now, I want you to think back to chapter 4. Flip the pages if you have to…whatever it takes to recall what I told you about honorifics. Ah, yes! Korean society is hierarchical, right? And how you speak to people depends on your relative positions within the hierarchy. When talking to someone above you, you use the honorific form; for someone lower, the plain form is okay.

Like I said, there are more levels of respect than just these two—Korean has four in total, actually. Does that sound scary? Believe me, for little children learning proper speech etiquette it can be, but not for you! I'm going to briefly introduce you to the four levels here, but for the rest of the book we'll mainly focus on just one, semi-universal form—not too polite, but not too rude either.

Why just one? Hey, you don't have to draw your sword just to swat a mosquito, do you? ΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎΛΎLambda, that's a traditional Korean expression meaning, basically, don't overdo it if you don't have to. Our goal is to jumpstart your basic Korean, not train you as a linguistic scholar!

For examples of the four levels of respect, we'll use a verb you should recognize by now: ᑃongodb. Koreans LOVE this word, so you should too!
Plain form

A}i'J-ii�.
[Saranghae.
I love you.

For use in:
conversation among friends, or when speaking to children

Say this when you kiss your daughter goodnight before putting her to bed. Or, when you've had one too many
with your buddy and need to slap him/her on the back and confess, "I love you, man!"

Plain form

A}i'J-ii�.
[Saranghanda.
I love you.

For use in:
books, newspapers, websites, and other written media

In Korea, books talk to you in this plain form because they think they're better than you. Not this book,
though!

Honorific form

A}i'J-ii�.
[R. [Saranghaeyo.
I love you.

For use in:
regular conversation

Say this to that special someone you met three nights ago in a bar but can’t quite remember his or her name.

Honorific form

A}i'J-ii�.
[R. [Saranghamnida.
I love you.

For use in:
formal situations like job interviews, conference presentations, speeches from the president, or on
the news

Shout this one through your tears as you profess your undying love to someone who's way out of your league.
Or during a job interview to butter up your boss so you can then slack off for the next year.

As you can see, the plain forms are used between close friends or are directed to children, while honorifics need
to be pulled out for your elders, superiors, or people you don’t know that well.

But now that I’ve shown you the four levels, I’m happy to report that, as a beginner, you really only need to
learn one: Honorific form 1.

As I said, this form is like Goldilocks’ porridge—not too rude, not too polite, but juuuuust right.

Think about it: many circumstances in day-to-day life call for this form. Whether it’s asking someone the time
on the street, saying hello to your coworkers as you sit down to your desk, or chatting with the taxi driver on the
way home, this mildly honorific form carries a friendly politeness without sounding too stuffy. Plus, as a foreigner,
you won’t be expected to know the other forms anyway. So learn this one, and (for the most part) that’s that!
Great, you say, but how do I employ this honorific form? Well, see how the four different forms above rely on different endings added to the same verb stem? You guessed it—it's more conjugation! You should be a pro at this by now, right? The ending for this particular form is -0} Jl I -v Jl. It belongs to pattern 5, if you'll remember. So if the final vowel in the verb or adjective stem is either } or _1-, -0} Jl will be used. Stems with other final vowels take-\text{-6} q Jl. And, of course, -6} q verbs and adjectives require-\text{-6} q Jl. So we have: \text{-6} q Jl, \text{-6} q Jl, -6} q Jl, \text{-6} q Jl.

-(E-)Al:

Honorific suffix

You must be feeling pretty good at only having to remember one honorific form, huh? Well, I hate to throw a monkey wrench into the plans, but... there's another honorific element that's very frequently used by Koreans, and it's the honorific suffix -(E-)Al. Most other books on Korean don't address this important little guy. Instead, they'll teach you expressions that every Korean knows require -(E-)Al, but leave it out. That's not helpful! So I'm going to explain it to you right here, right now. Hey, what are friends for?

So, why do Koreans frequently use -(E-)Al? It's because it's a relatively simple way to show a little extra respect to someone. By adding -(E-)Al between the stem and conjugative ending of a verb or adjective, you're conferring respect on whoever the subject of your sentence is. Let me show you.

Using our favorite Korean verb again, \text{-6} q Jl, let's talk about how much our mothers love us. Because if we're going to show respect to anyone, it should be our mothers, right!? So in this case, you'd better add the -(E-)Al suffix to the original verb. The stem, \text{-6} q Jl, ends in a vowel, so we're only going to take the Al part of the suffix, creating the infinitive \text{-6} q Jl Al. And the sentence would go like this:

\text{\textit{ Ul"Y eomeonineun nareul saranghaseyo.}}

My mother loves me.

Since "mother" is the subject of the sentence, she's the recipient of your sincere respect. But wait a minute!? What happened to the verb \text{-6} q Jl ti-? We had to conjugate it, of course, so it changed a little bit. Shall we analyze?

To the honorific infinitive \text{-6} q Jl Al we added the ending we just learned about above, -0} Jl I -v Jl I -v Jl. This gives us \text{-6} q Jl Al 01 (we use the second ending option, -01 Jl, because the stem ends in the vowel l ). But what happens in this case? That's right, Al is contracted to All. So we wind up with \text{-6} q Jl. Get it? If you do, then you now understand why I spent so much time explaining conjugation rules in the previous chapters. If not... well, don't worry, it takes some time to pick these rules up. Feel free to go back and have another look at those chapters, especially chapter 6, but also know that we'll be reinforcing your knowledge of Korean conjugation throughout the rest of the book. Don't fret, I'm here to help!

Anyway, if you were to say\text{ Ul"Y eomeonineun nareul saranghas\text{-6} q Jl}, foregoing the honorific suffix, it would certainly make sense and you'd be understood. But using -(E-)Al properly will really impress people, because as I've told you again and again, showing respect is very important in this language! If you want to learn authentic Korean, don't overlook this aspect.
By the way, aren't you sick of using the verb 一般に、あなたは言葉をつかってますか？私でも困っています。新しい例をつくましょう。

- Let's create another example with the honorific suffix, only this time we’ll use the adjective 

- "beautiful" or "cute." All you guys out there, you can use this sentence when you meet a pretty girl for the first time:

- おまえ、彼女は美しい。

- "You're so beautiful." おまえ、彼女は美しい。

- You’re paying her a double compliment, right? First by talking up her looks and second by showing her respect with the honorific suffix!

- "Sorry, ladies, but Korean men won’t respond so positively to that one. They’ll take it as a critique of their manliness! Instead, you can say:

- おまえ、彼女はハンサム。

- "You’re so handsome." おまえ、彼女はハンサム。

- But actually, don’t say this, or you’ll turn him into a spoiled prince.

- Honorific words

- Oops, I almost forgot! I can’t give you the full points for composing the sentence おまえ、彼女はハンサム。

- "Hey! Why not? Well, the problem here has to do with おまえ。

- You see, there’s yet another way that Koreans show respect, and that’s by using entirely different word forms. This happens with pronouns a lot: there’s one version for plain use and a totally different one for situations where honorifics are required. For the word “me,” おまえ is the plain form, so in our sentence you’d be better off using おまえ、彼女はハンサム。

- the honorific おまえ。 This gives you a final product of:

- おまえ、彼女はハンサム。

- I know this is intimidating. Two different words for the same thing!? But there really aren’t that many for you to learn. I’ll show you a few of the most important ones in the Further Vocabulary section coming up next, and then we won’t worry too much more about them.

- Keep in mind that you’re not honoring yourself here by using the honorific form of “me.” With honorifics, the respect is always being paid to the person you’re talking to or about, not you!
When you want to show respect for someone (either talking to them directly or talking about them with someone else), you need to use the honorific forms of words. Compare the plain and honorific forms of some common terms below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plain Form</th>
<th>Honorific Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eat(s)</td>
<td>eat(s)</td>
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<td>exist(s)</td>
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<td>sleep(s)</td>
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<td>talk(s)</td>
<td>talk(s)</td>
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<td>age</td>
<td>age</td>
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<td>house, home</td>
<td>house, home</td>
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<tr>
<td>name</td>
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<td>speech</td>
<td>speech</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
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<td>we</td>
<td>we</td>
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<td>to ask</td>
<td>to ask</td>
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<tr>
<td>to meet, to see</td>
<td>to meet, to see</td>
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<tr>
<td>to give</td>
<td>to give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to talk</td>
<td>to talk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you talk to a child about yourself... (plain)

When your mother... (honorific)
Korean Style: Konglish (Korean English)

English is the most influential language in the world. It started in Europe but has spread around the globe, and it's still going! Each country it's entered has taken bits and pieces and adapted it to its own local language. This is true of Korean, which contains many newly introduced words you might recognize... or will you?

Koreans call this Konglish, which means KOrean eNGLISH. Here are some examples:

- Koreans live in APARTs. (어린, which means “apartment”)
- Koreans enjoy doing HEALTH in a gym. (건강, which means “fitness”)
- Koreans cheer on someone by shouting, “FIGHTING!” (함께, which means “Go!”)
- Koreans wear Y-SHIRTS under their business suits. (노량, which means “dress shirts”)
- Korean drivers look into the BACK MIRROR when they put their car in reverse. (바라, which means “rearview mirror”)
- Koreans turn the HANDLE when they drive. (바퀴, which means “steering wheel”)
- In Korean universities, CUNNING is a very serious offense. (계획, which means “cheating”)
- Koreans usually write with a BALL PEN. (볼, which means “ballpoint pen”)
- Koreans jot notes in a NOTE. (노트, which means “notebook”)
- In Korea, NOTEBOOKs are usually more expensive than desktops. (노트북, which means “laptop”)
- In Korea, you can find a DRIVER at the hardware store. (수정, which means “screwdriver”)
- In Korea, you insert an electrical plug into the CONSENT. (수저, which means “outlet,” or “socket”)
- In Korea, SUPERs are everywhere. (슈퍼, which means “supermarket”)
Hello? Are you still there?

Wow. I realize you've been studying some heavy, heavy stuff in the last few chapters. Why have I been torturing you with all these difficult concepts like particles, conjugation patterns, and honorifics? It's simple, really. These are the building blocks of the Korean language. While it would've been fun to teach you little Korean niceties back in chapter 4, it would've been like cheating, right? Because you wouldn't have understood how the words and sentences were formed or where they fit into the grand scheme of the language. This isn't just a phrasebook, after all. My goal is to take your hand and lead you through the jungle of Korean…deep into the heart of it!

And guess what. Now you're there. You've arrived! Your comprehension of the structure of the language is at a point where you can start learning more practical things. Yes! So let's take a nice, long break from the heavy stuff and get into something far less complex. How does that sound? Yeah, I thought you'd like that. ^^

So…no matter where you are or who you're talking to, you have to start off the same way, right? With a greeting!

English has lots of greetings, doesn't it? "Hi," "Hello," "Hey," "What's up"…and it even varies according to the time of day. "Good morning," "Good afternoon," etc.

Well, consider yourself lucky, because Korean has only one greeting, which can be used anytime, anywhere:

9.1 ᄒ_CHK
[Annyeonghaseyo?]
Hello. / How are you?

The Korean ᄒ_CHK is truly a universal greeting. When talking to close friends or children, it's okay to simply say ᄒ_CHK (a plain form). For people you don't know well, however, the polite thing to use is the full ᄒ_CHK, which you'll probably notice includes the honorific suffix we discussed last chapter. And there's one more element to this greeting: the bow. Koreans usually greet each other with a deep bow while saying ᄒ_CHK.

Okay, and another important expression to learn in any language is "thank you." For Korean people, saying "thank you" frequently in casual conversation facilitates the building of relationships. So pay attention to this one! (Or should I say two…?)

9.2 ᄒ_CHK
[Kamsahamnida.]
Thank you.

9.3 ᄒ_CHK
[Komapseumnida.]
Thank you.

Pay attention to the pronunciation of these. It's ᄒ_CHK and ᄒ_CHK, not ᄒ_CHK and ᄒ_CHK. Why? Sorry, but you'll have to wait till chapter 15 to find out!
As you can see, there are actually two ways to say “thank you.” Which one you use is up to you. Now, English speakers like to add “very much” or “really” when they say “thank you.” You can do this in Korean by putting the word 佷كهرباء before 妈咪 or 帅哥. But be careful! This isn’t a traditional Korean speech pattern, so it’ll make your Korean sound less authentic. Just saying 妈咪 or 帅哥 with a smile is enough for Koreans.

And now, what do you think would naturally follow “thank you”? Yes! In English, the proper response when someone thanks you is to say “you’re welcome,” right? Well, it’s possible to say this in Korean as well: 9.4 슬쟀. [Cheonmaneyo.] You’re welcome. But again, Koreans don’t typically use this phrase. Instead, they just smile or say this shyly: 9.5 스 Че. [Mweoryo.] (Lit. “It’s nothing.”)

So far, so good: one main greeting, two simple ways to express thanks, and no real need to say “you’re welcome.” What are we missing…? Ah! How about an apology? This could come in pretty handy, I think, because you might be nervous when you first arrive in Korea and feel the need to apologize a lot. Well, we’re only human, after all, and we all make mistakes. So even if you don’t suffer from an excess of nerves, it’s important to know how to apologize.

Just as there are two ways to express thanks, Koreans have two options for saying they’re sorry:

9.6 스 첥. [Choesonghamnida.] I’m sorry.
9.7 스 졂. [Mianhamnida.] I’m sorry.

Either is fine, but 스 첥 is more polite. So when talking to parents, teachers, or other elders, it’s better to use 스 첥.

And what do you do when someone apologizes to you? You can’t just stand there with a blank look on your face! If you say nothing, the person who apologized will feel even worse, thinking you’re angry with them. So you’d better learn this one: 9.8 스 쨐. [Kwaenchanayo.] It’s okay.

(if this pronunciation guide looks like nonsense to you, don’t worry. It will all be explained in chapter 15!)

Ah, it’s great to see that everything’s fine between you two again. Now we can move on to the last salutation of today’s journey.

When you part company with someone, you have to say goodbye. This is where Korean is more complex than English, but not by much. There are two ways to say goodbye, and which one you use depends on whether you’re the one staying or the one going. And, just like with “hello,” both of these contain the honorific suffix. I told you it was important to learn!
When you're staying and someone else is going, you say:

9.9  
[아녕히 가세요.]
Goodbye.

Conversely, when you're the one going and the person you're speaking to is staying, the correct phrase is:

9.10  
[아녕히 계세요.]
Goodbye.

Two ways of saying goodbye?! Do you think that's confusing? Well, if you look closely, there's only one syllable that's different between the two phrases: ͡ژ and ͡�. The direct translation of ͡ژ is "go peacefully," and ͡� translates to "stay peacefully." As you can see, the word ͡ژ is very often used in Korean salutations.

Actually, one funny thing that some English speakers encounter when they first visit Korea is that it can be hard to distinguish between "hello" and the two "goodbyes." All three are pretty similar, right? It can be particularly difficult when the Korean speaker is someone in the service industry who utters these words to customers all day long and has gotten used to saying them very fast. You might be headed for the door after buying some dried squid in a convenience store, only to hear what you think is ͡ژ from the clerk. "What? Hello? But I'm leaving!" Well, it's okay to be confused, but rest assured that the clerk actually just gave you a super quick ͡ژ.

So now that you know the secrets of Korean greetings and niceties, it's time for a short review as we say goodbye. See you in the next chapter!
Further Vocabulary: More greetings

"Hello" by itself can get a little bland, don't you think? Here are some alternatives for the phrases we learned in this chapter.

**攻击力**

- **Eoseo oseyo!**
  - Welcome! (This is often used when shopkeepers greet their customers.)

- **Oraenmanieyo.**
  - Long time no see.

- **Chukahaeyo.**
  - Congratulations! (For anyone who has something to celebrate!)

Korean Style: Can Koreans see things over the phone?

What's the first thing you say in English when you pick up the phone? I'm guessing it's probably "Hello?" Well, in this chapter we learned how to say "hello" in Korean, so can you guess what Koreans say on answering the phone?

- **Yeoboseyo.**
  - ?
  - Um…no, unfortunately. If you say this, the caller will think you're being way too friendly, and he or she will get all sheepish and embarrassed. Instead, there's a particular word of greeting that's used over the phone:

- **Yeoboseyo**
  - ["Look at this"]. In modern times, though, it's almost never used except as a phone greeting. And over the phone, there's no way for you to see what the other person would be pointing out, right? So really, this is just an idiom.

As long as we're on the subject of phone etiquette, there's one other thing that might trip you up when you talk on the phone with a Korean. Unlike in English-speaking cultures, Koreans often hang up without saying goodbye! But why? Well, it doesn't make any sense to say this means "Go peacefully." What? Go where? Likewise, wouldn't work. However, while there's no official way to say goodbye over the phone in Korean, people have made up their own methods for doing this. For example, some will give you the long "yes": "~~~. Others might say ["I'll hang up"]. But in my experience, the strangest telephone goodbye would have to be ["Enter"], which means "enter." Huh? What do you want me to enter? The phone? I've asked a lot of people what they think this means, but no one can give me a straight answer, even though it's pretty commonly used. Just another crazy idiom, I suppose!
I, You, We... Do I Know You?

Personal Pronouns and How to Address Strangers

Do you remember the first word you ever learned? Maybe it was “mama” or “dada”? Of course, it’s different for everybody, but one thing we all have to learn early on is how to refer to the people around us.

With this in mind, it’s time to take a look at personal pronouns in Korean. You’ve already been exposed to a few of them through the various example sentences I provided in previous chapters. After all, it’s hard to say much without personal pronouns! These simple little words allow us to reference people without directly stating their name, profession, or other descriptive features—very handy. Personal pronouns are divided by person (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) and by number (singular and plural).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st person</th>
<th>2nd person</th>
<th>3rd person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>Honorific</td>
<td>Honorific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Mr./Mrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>he/she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
<td>me</td>
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</table>

In English, the first-person singular pronoun is “I.” Well, in Korean there are two words that can be used for this pronoun. Can you guess why? Thinking back to chapter 8, you know that some Korean words vary depending on who you’re talking to and how much respect you’re supposed to show that person. There’s plain and honorific, remember? And your use of pronouns definitely needs to reflect this.

When you want to say “I,”-na is plain, and-cheo is honorific (used when you need to show respect to the person you’re talking to or about).

So, if you’re speaking to a child or your friend, you can say-na. With your seniors, you’d do better to use-cheo.

Next, we’ll move on to the second-person singular pronoun: “you.” Oh, wait, wait... We’re forgetting something, aren’t we? There’s another form related to the first-person pronoun: “me.” This is used when the pronoun is the object of the sentence. So can you guess how it’s created? That’s right, with a particle! Since “me” is a sentence object, you simply add the object particle,-g-nareul to-na or-cheo. This gives you-na and-cheo-nareul.

Remember this trick, because you can use it to create objects with all the other pronouns I’m going to show you, too.

Okay, where were we? Oh, right! The second-person pronoun, “you.” In Korean, it-neo. Well, actually-neo is the counterpart of-I; they’re both in the plain form. So what’s the counterpart of-Mr./Mrs., the “you” used to show
CHAPTER 10

respective? As it turns out, there's no single honorific form of "you." It's best just to say the person's name and add 

ssi

after it. For example, when talking toTf-

, you can address him as

Kyubyong ssi.

This is roughly equivalent to saying "Mr. Kyubyong."

Okay, and there's one point we need to note before moving on. When "Y-, /Zl,

and t.:1

are combined with the

subject particle -7}, they're going to transform to�, -A1l, and 1.:ll, respectively. (Interestingly, these are the exact same forms as the possessive pronouns we'll look at on the next page!) So that would make� 7}, -A1l7}, and 1.:ll7}.

What a coincidence!

But here's the thing. Neither of these third-person pronouns is used much in Korean conversation. They're mainly for written language. Instead, Koreans typically say

keu saram or

keu bun.

keu bun signifies "that" or "the," and keu saram means "person." What's\? You guessed it: the honorific form of A}�. You can use these regardless of the gender of the person you're talking about.

We're halfway done! Actually, more than halfway, because plural personal pronouns are even simpler. Shall we take a look?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st person</th>
<th>2nd person</th>
<th>3rd person</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain</td>
<td>Honorific</td>
<td>Honorific</td>
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<tr>
<td>-9-�</td>
<td>/Zl</td>
<td>/Zl</td>
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<tr>
<td>t.:1</td>
<td>O:i i?-l</td>
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Remember what I said back in chapter 4? Compared to English, Korean doesn't place as much emphasis on the difference between singular and plural. With many nouns, it's very simple to make a singular into a plural: just add-�

deu

Does this hold true with pronouns? Well, what is "we" in Korean? "Y-

Good guess ... but in this case, no.

We need a new word for the first-person plural pronoun, "we," and it's-9-�

uri.

Again, this is the plain form. To be respectful, you'd use

cheohui.

I'm sure you can see the similarity between /Zl, the honorific first-person singular pronoun, and /Zl cheohui.

Moving on to the second person, what's the plural of "you"? Well, the plain form is

t.:1 neohui,

and then you have the honorific

O:i i?-l yeoreobun.

If you take apart this honorific pronoun, O:i i?-l means "several," and \ is, as you know, the honorific form of the word "person." Put these together and O:i i?-l\i is one honorific word meaning "you all." Got it?

And at last, we come to the third-person plural pronouns, which correspond to the word "they" in English. Thankfully, these are pretty simple. Just add -� to

keu saram or

keu pundeul.

Remember, the first one is plain, the second honorific. Easy!
I, YOU, WE

DO I KNOW YOU? 55

Possessive Personal Pronouns

1st person (singular)

1st person (plural)

2nd person (singular)

Plain

L-} + L-} + ("my")

Honorific

Al + Al - Al ("my")

Al $1 + Al $1 ("our")

tl + tl + ("your")

We've covered the basic pronouns, and I also told you how to make them into the object of a sentence (remember, just use-

I - I, the object particle!). But there's one more form these pronouns can take, and that's the possessive.

You know what possessives are in English, right? The __ of somebody, or somebodys __. In Korean, the particle-� attaches to the end of the noun that's exercising the possession. As I've said, we'll slowly but surely be learning all about particles and their applications. How exciting!

So how does this relate to personal pronouns? Well, the first-person singular possessive pronoun (how's that for a name? /\ /\)

is "my" in English. How would you form this in Korean? Could it be as simple as adding the possessive particle to L-} and Al?

Yes! How easy! So this creates L-} [naui] and Al [cheoui]. Only, here we run into cases of vowel contraction here. This is because, when the character- is used as a particle, its pronunciation is allowed to be [e] instead of [ui]. Most people follow this alternate pronunciation. Then, the pronouns contract even further: L-} [nae] and Al [che]. It's all about making things easier to say—can't argue with that!

Following this, I bet you can guess how to create a possessive out of the second-person pronoun tl.

Yep, just tack on the possessive particle-� to create tl [ni]. For all the other pronouns we learned, the possessive particle attaches without any vowel contractions taking place. For example, --9-� ("we") becomes --9-� [uri hakgyo]. But in most cases, the possessive particle just disappears, leaving --9-� ("our") and tl §1 ("your," plural).

Remember, as I warned you in chapter 4, Koreans like to omit things!

For practice, here are some examples of phrases using possessive pronouns. Are you getting accustomed to the different contractions yet?

IQI [nae ton] my money

IGI Al [che shinbal] my shoes

IOI --9-� [uri hakgyo] our school

IQI tl §1 [ni chajeongeo] your bicycle

Technically, the contraction of tl [ni] is 1..l1 [ne]. But since there's really no discernible difference in sound between tl ("my") and 1..l1 ("your"), most people replace 1..l1 with 1--l [ni].
Addressing strangers

Okay, very good. We've gone over personal pronouns. Now, how would you address someone you happened to bump into on the street? This is a bit complicated to figure out in Korean. Why? Think back to the hierarchy. You can't be sure what level of respect you're supposed to show a stranger without first learning more about him or her (i.e., their position in the hierarchy relative to yours). Actually, due to this problem, Koreans simply tend not to address someone directly in such a situation. Instead, they use other expressions to attract the person's attention. It's not really too different from English. When you address a stranger on the street, what do you say?

This allows you to speak to someone without making a presumption about their status relative to yours. But, because it's still important to be polite, it's customary to use honorific form 2 in this expression. Recognize the ending? After saying "시리야마니다.", you can just continue with whatever comment or question you wanted to put to that person.

So, this is good for situations where you want to avoid using a title to address a stranger, but there are many other instances where it's okay to do so. Generally, you can call men you don't know "어르신", and women "숙이", "언니", or "이순생리인".

Originally, "어르신" meant "uncle" and "언니" meant "aunt." But nowadays, these words are used most often to address strangers, clerks, waiters and waitresses, taxi drivers, etc. That is, people you don't know and with whom you aren't establishing a personal relationship.

But be careful. Don't use "어르신" or "언니" for people who aren't married. Of course, there's no way of telling this about a stranger, so typically if you think he or she is fairly young, it's best to avoid these terms. For example, if you call a teenage girl "숙이", she'll probably get angry and shout this:

I'm not a married woman!

Further Vocabulary: Length, extent, size

Let's continue building your Korean vocabulary with these terms for describing how big or small something is.

- [kiri] length
- [chopda] narrow, small
- [kilda] long, lengthy
- [keugi] size, bulk
- [jjalda] short
- [keuda] big, large
- [neolbi] area, extent
- [chakda] small, little
- [neolda] large, extensive
Korean Style Differences between 결혼, 결부, and 혼인

Want to know a famous cultural joke in Korea? Allow me to explain. As I told you in this chapter, 결혼 literally refers to a man that is married. But by extension, it can be used humorously to mean a man who looks old for his age. So if a teenage girl addresses a guy in his mid-20s as 결혼, she’s letting him know that she thinks he looks old, that there seems to be a generation gap between him and her. Otherwise, she’d call him 혼인 (which means “elder brother”). Here are some sure-fire ways to tell a 결혼 from a 혼인:

• If you clip your cell phone to your belt, you’re a 결혼.
• If you keep your cell phone in your pocket, you’re a 혼인.
• If you go to a barbershop, you’re a 결혼.
• If you go to a stylist, you’re a 혼인.
• If you get happy when someone calls you 혼인, you’re a 결혼.
• If you don’t think anything of someone calling you 혼인, you’re a 혼인.

But wait, because this applies to women as well. Like we learned, married women are called 결부, while young women should be addressed as 혼인. Here’s how you can tell them apart:

• If you tell your beautician to give you a long-lasting perm, you’re a 결부.
• If you ask for a good-looking perm, you’re a 혼인.
• If you look around after taking a vacant seat on the subway, you’re a 결부.
• If you look around before taking a vacant seat on the subway, you’re a 혼인.
• If you wear white gloves while driving, you’re a 결부.
• If you wear sunglasses while driving, you’re a 혼인.

So…which are you?
When you go to a foreign country for the first time, you're almost like a baby, aren't you? You don't know the culture, the history, and, most importantly, the language! But don't worry—in Korea, babies are always welcome! When you pose questions to Korean people with your limited Korean, they'll be very pleased and answer you with a smile. And just like a curious infant, you'll probably want to ask many questions. But how do you do this in Korean? Well, after I'm done with you in this chapter, you'll know exactly what to say.

Asking questions with demonstrative pronouns

Let's begin with the most basic questions:

1. What's this? [Ige mwoyeyo?]
2. What's that (nearby)? [Keuge mwoyeyo?]
3. What's that (far away)? [Cheoge mwoyeyo?]

First, notice that to make a question sentence in Korean, all you have to do is change the ending of the verb or adjective and stick a question mark after it. Unlike in English, there's no fumbling with extra words like "do" or "does" or switching up the word order. How simple!
Next, pay close attention to the translations above. You’re not saying “what is” but “what’s.” That’s a contraction, right? As we’ve seen, Korean frequently allows for the use of contractions. But what’s actually being contracted here?

Well, the demonstrative pronouns (“this” and “that”) are, for one thing. In their unabbreviated forms, “this” is ၦกระจ[igeot], “that” (nearby) is ૯ضرورة[keugeot], and “that” (far away) is ႔ضرورة[cheogeot]. The contractions occur when the subject particle ၦ is added onto each of these demonstrative pronouns. So, for “this,” instead of saying ၦ.getInputStream(), Koreans shorten it to ၦင[igeo]. Likewise, ૯ضرورة + ၦ = ૯င[keugeot], and ႔ضرورة + ၦ = ႔င[cheogeo]. Understand?

And what about the rest of the sentence, the ශ࿵ဠ? Remember, the verb comes at the end of the sentence in Korean, so this is literally the “what’s” in the English translation. And it’s a contraction as well. The full form of the word “what” is ඳ࿵ဠ[mueot]. ࿵ﻶ[yeyo] is an alternate form of the verb ending ၦ࿵ﻵ[ieyo], which means “to be.”

When you put the two full forms together to create ඳ࿵ﻵ, they contract into ශ࿵ﻵ. See? And there you have a very complex explanation of three very simple question sentences. Great!

For more on the “to be” endings, you’ll just have to wait for the next chapter!

Okay, you may have noticed that we differentiated between two forms of the English word “that”—one that signifies something nearby, and the other something farther away. This is because in Korean, as in many other languages, demonstrative pronouns vary depending on the object’s distance from the speaker and listener. As you learned with the above questions, there are three categories: ၦ (close to the speaker / “this” in English), ૯ (closer to the listener, or relating to something from earlier in the conversation / “that” in English), and ႔ (distant from both speaker and listener / “that” in English).

For example, consider a situation where you’re talking to a salesperson in a clothing store. You point out a pair of jeans that’s next to you and ask, 11.4 ၆ငඳ࿵ﻵ’ [Ige mweoyeeyo?]

“What’s this?”

The salesperson answers, 11.5 ૯င@[keugeon cheongbajiyeyo.]

“That’s a pair of jeans.”

The contraction ૯င in this sentence results from ૯-lfs翟 + ၔ, where ၔ is the topic particle. Is that clear? Right. Let’s continue this enlightening conversation:

11.6 ૯ငඳ࿵ﻵ’ [Keuge mweoyeyo?]

“What’s that?” (pointing out an item close to the salesperson)

11.7 ၆ငඳ࿵ﻵ’ [Igeon haendeuponieyo.]

“This is a cell phone.”
11.8 ႒એශ࿵ဠ'

What's that? (pointing out an item distant from both of you)

11.9 ႒ઁ ጫ窎ቛၦ࿝ဠ

[Cheogeon hyujitongieyo.]

That's a wastebasket.

ائف

[haendeupon]
cell phone

ӛԽወ

[hyujitong]
wastebasket

Needless to say, ႒œ+႔, and ႒+=႔+ၔ.

Okay. So we've learned how to ask about objects using the word "what." Let's move on to asking questions about people, shall we? After all, you don't want to refer to a person as "what"! And which demonstrative pronoun do we use in this situation? That's right: "who." Look at the example below.

11.10 ႒ึၔ௛ૐ࿵ဠ'

[Cheo puneun nuguyeyo?]

Who's that?

I bet you can figure out this sentence's structure using things you've already learned. Want to try? Let's go.

First, what does ႒ mean? It should be fresh in your mind, because we just went over it. It's the demonstrative meaning "that" (far away). Okay, for the next word, you may have to think back to the previous chapter. Any guesses about the meaning of ႒? Excellent! It's the honorific form of the word "person." And now what's the function of ႔? Come on, I know you can do it. Right! It's the topic particle, signifying that the word "person" is the main topic of this sentence.

Okay, so far so good. Now for the part you haven't learned yet. Even though you don't know it, you can probably guess that ႔[ öğ] is the Korean word for "who," right? But unlike ႔, it doesn't contract when you add the ႔-ending to it. It simply becomes ႔[ öğ]. Got it?

So, how to answer ႒ึၔ௛ૐ࿵ဠ? Let's say the person in question is your teacher. You'd respond:

11.11 ႒ึၔ

ဨ൘໓ແआၦ࿝ဠ

[(Cheo puneun) Uri seonsaengnimieyo.]

That is my teacher.

໓ແ
teacher

 Aad[-nim] sir, dear (showing politeness or respect)

The ႒ึၔ is in parentheses here because you don't have to repeat it. It'll be understood because it was in the question. And of course you can see that ႔ is the word for "teacher," but you should always attach Aad after ႔, because teachers are highly respected in Korea. Me, on the other hand, I'm just your friend. So don't worry about it!

And finally, do you recognize the word ႔? We're getting back into the personal pronouns with this one, right? As you learned in the last chapter, ႔ means both "we" and "our." But wait—why is it used here, where the English translation says "my," not "our"? What's going on?

Well, we've uncovered another interesting feature of Korean. Koreans sometimes use "our" instead of "my." In the above sentence, the teacher being pointed out is not the teacher of both the speaker and listener, but only of the speaker. And yet, the speaker says ႔, not ႔. But, but why? Sorry, this is one of those times when you just have to take the language as it comes. And remembering this feature can be pretty important, as you'll see very shortly…
Korean Style: Our wife?

It definitely doesn't make sense in English to say “our home” or “our school” to someone that doesn’t have the same home or school as you. So you probably find it strange that Koreans routinely say ḅ.keyCode(1850,1119) and ḅ.keyCode(1850,1126) to mean “my home” and “my school.” Some scholars believe this linguistic characteristic is a result of Korean culture’s emphasis on the whole rather than the individual. There’s no real way to confirm this theory, so all that matters to you is that you remember this interesting custom of the Korean language.

There are many more examples in addition to the ones mentioned above. Perhaps the most famous (or infamous) are ḅ.keyCode(1940,1167) (“my wife”) and ḅ.keyCode(1940,1205) (“my husband”). If you translate these literally, you get “our wife” and “our husband.” But hey! Korea is a monogamous society, so don’t get the idea that Koreans share wives and husbands! That would certainly be frowned upon!
It's time to learn one of the most essential verb and adjective endings in Korean: [-ida]. This carries the meaning of “to be.” Have you ever thought about the verb “to be”? No? Not even a little? Of course, it’s one of the most basic constructions in any language. But many times it’s the simplest parts of a language that are the most important. So we’ll have to look at this ending very closely.

To Be

In English, the verb “to be” has two main functions. The first is to express that something exists, as in the sentence “There are two books.” The word “are” is a conjugation of the verb “to be,” and it’s telling us that two books exist. The second function is to turn nouns or adjectives into predicates so they describe something, as in the sentence “I am an author.” In this sentence, the noun “author” is acting as a predicate and is linked to the word “I” by the verb “to be.” This second example is comparable to the function of [-ida] in Korean, with one important difference: [-ida] is only attached to nouns or noun phrases—not adjectives—to make a predicate.

So, what can you tell me about the format of [-ida]? Notice what it ends with: [-ida]. Looks familiar, yeah? Is it coming back to you? Right! We learned in chapter 6 that [-ida] signifies an infinitive. And in this case, even though [-ida] isn’t an independent verb in its own right, that’s still what it’s telling us.

So to use this construction in a sentence, we’re going to need to take off the [-ida] and conjugate the stem. Its everyday, polite form winds up being [-ieyo/-yeyo]. Which of these two options you use depends on…anybody?…right—whether the noun you’re attaching it to ends with a consonant or a vowel.

Contrary to what it looks like, this ending isn’t formed by added the honorific form 1 ending, [-ieyo], to the stem. It’s simply a unique ending belonging to [-ida].

Contrary to what it looks like, this ending isn’t formed by added the honorific form 1 ending, [-ieyo], to the stem. It’s simply a unique ending belonging to [-ida].

Remember in the previous chapter when we discussed how [-ieyo] becomes [-ieyo]? This is a perfect example of the fact that nouns ending with a consonant take [-ieyo], while vowel-ending nouns get [-ieyo].

For example, the word [chigeum] ends with a consonant. So: 

12.1 [chigeum kyeourieyo.]

It’s winter.
And what about a word like ဗားဗား, which means "nurse"? It ends with အ, a vowel, so you would say:

12.2 ၦဗားဗား ၀လ် ၀လ် လွ် လွ် လွ်.

This person is a nurse.

ხ૵ [chigeum] now ખફ  [kyeoul] winter ဗားဗား [kanhosa] nurse

Didn't I tell you that consonant vs. vowel ending rule would come in handy? It's all over the place!

Okay. We've learned how to say what something is. What about what something isn't? Well, the negative form of the ၀လ် ending is the adjective ဝဳဝဳ [anida]. It isn't an ending, but rather a separate, stand-alone adjective, and its polite conjugation is ဝဳဝဳ လွ် လွ် လွ်.

Like we saw above, this conjugation isn't the result of adding the honorific form ၀ ending. It's just a unique ending belonging to ဝဳဝဳ.

Now, when you use this verb to say what something isn't, you also have to add the subject particle to the end of the noun you're talking about. So:

12.3 ၀လ် ၀လ် ဝဳဝဳ လွ် လွ် လွ် လွ် လွ်.

It's not winter. It's spring.

12.4 ဗားဗား ဗားဗား ၀လ် လွ် လွ် လွ် လွ် လွ်.

This person is not a nurse. This person is a teacher.

ร [pom] spring

Got it? Remember that in Korean, words can be omitted if the meaning is clear without them. In both pairs of sentences above, words have been left out of the second sentence. ხ૵ ၔ and ၀လ် ၔ are omitted because the listener already knows what's being referred to.
Now you've learned one function of "to be" in Korean. You use བོ and བོ to say what something is or is not in order to describe it. But what about the other function of "to be" I told you about at the beginning of the chapter? In English, we also use "to be" to express that something exists. Well, you can do this in Korean as well, but you have to use a different adjective: བོ བོ. This is another one you're going to see over, and over, and over again.

Imagine this scenario: At a library, you ask, "Where are the Korean books?" The librarian replies, བོ བོ བོ བོ. [Hangugeo chaegeun cheogie isseoyo.] The Korean books are over there. བོ book -e location particle—remember? བོ over there (distant from both speaker and listener)

The adjective བོ in this sentence is the honorific form བོ བོ བོ conjugation of བོ བོ. The last vowel in the stem is བོ, so it gets the བོ ending. Make sense?

Actually, བོ has two meanings in Korean: "to be" (exist), and "to have" (possess). So, an immigration official at the airport might say this to you:

"Yeogweoni isseuseyo?" [Yeogweon] [passport]

Be careful! It doesn't mean "Does your passport exist?" It means "Do you have your passport?" with the implied meaning of "Please show me your passport." Notice how the honorific suffix བོ is added to the adjective to create བོ. So if the meaning were "Does your passport exist?" the official would be expressing respect to your passport. That's nonsense! On the other hand, with the meaning of "Do you have your passport?" the respect is being shown to you, the listener, not the passport.

Um, you'd better answer the question. This guy's getting impatient! I expect you have your passport, right? So,

"Ne, isseoyo." [Ne] [yes] [ye] [yes]

And what about the opposite of བོ, an adjective meaning "to not be" and "to not have"? Well, this is བོ, and its usage is exactly the same as that of བོ. So if you need to say you don't have your passport, you'd say:

"Aniyo, eopsseoyo." [Aniyo] [no] [eop] [yes] [yes]
TO BE, OR NOT TO BE?

Further Vocabulary: Weather

If you want to master the art of chitchat, you have to know how to talk about the weather!

- warm
- hot
- the heat
- cold
- the cold
- cloudy
- clear, sunny
- rainy
- snowy
- partly cloudy

Korean Style: Yes, I can't?

Did you know that in some countries, nodding your head means "no" and shaking your head means "yes"? Fortunately, you don't have to worry about this confusion in Korea. Nodding is "yes" and shaking your head means "no," which is probably what you're used to. However, there's another area where English and Korean differ in the use of "yes" and "no."

Suppose you go to a Korean restaurant with your Korean friend. Kimchi, the most popular side dish in Korea, is served with your meal. Your friend asks you, "Can you eat kimchi?" You don't want to eat kimchi because it's too spicy, so you answer, "No, I can't." Your friend is surprised because she thought you could. So she asks again, "Can't you eat kimchi?" You want to say, "No, I can't. It's too spicy." But when you say this in Korean, you must use "yes" instead of "no."

In English, you can answer the questions, "Can you eat kimchi?" and "Can't you eat kimchi?" in the same way. You can just say "No." But in Korean, you have to pay attention to whether the question is worded in the positive or negative. If it's negative, your answer will be the opposite of what you're used to. Because the Korean words contain the meaning "what you said is correct/incorrect." So, "yes," really means "It's true that I can't eat kimchi." Mixing up the "yes" and "no" when answering a negative question is one of the most frequent mistakes when Koreans learn English, and vice versa.
In chapter 9, we studied greetings in Korean. Do you remember? Please repeat after me,

13.1

Annyeonghaseyo?
Hello.

But what comes next? You can't just say “hello” and expect that to be the extent of your conversation, right?

Maybe you'd like to say “Nice to meet you” and introduce yourself. There are two common ways to do this in Korean:

13.2

Cheoeum poepgetseumnida.
Lit. This is the first time I've met/seen you.

13.3

(Mannaseo) Pangapseumnida.
Nice (to meet you).

The first expression may sound a bit odd in English, but the important part is the verb poepda, conjugated here according to honorific form 2. It's the respectful form of poda. Therefore, you're implying that it's a double honor to see, or meet, the listener for the first time, as you're using both the honorific verb form and the most honorific ending. How nice of you!

As for the second expression, Pangapseumnida also utilizes honorific form 2 and means “I'm glad.” Translates to “meeting you” or “to meet you,” so you're actually saying “I'm glad that I've met you.” But this expression has become so common that it's entirely okay to omit poepda.

Great! What's the next step? Well, you might want to tell the person your name with one of these expressions:

13.4

Che ireumeun harimnida.
My name is Hal.

13.5

Cheoneun harimnida.
I am Hal.

13.6

Cheoneun harirago hamnida.
I am called Hal.

Introducing Yourself and Holding Simple Conversations
In English, you’d probably choose one of the first two rather than the third one. But in Korean, it’s the opposite. Koreans usually use the last one. That said, whichever expression you use, it’s okay!

What wouldn’t be okay is if you were to use ஏ or ೾௴ instead of ႞ or ႔௴ in this situation. Remember, ᳾ is the plain form for “I,” whereas ႔ is the honorific. Because you want to make a good impression on this person you’re meeting for the first time, you should be polite and use the honorific form. That’s also why each of these expressions includes the most honorific conjugation form.

So, now the listener has met you and knows your name. How do you ask for his or her name? If you can do this well, the listener will think your Korean is quite sophisticated. In English you’d say, “What’s your name?” This can be translated to ႞௑௑௒࿵ဠ?

But in Korean this is rude, because ႞ is a plain word. Again, you must be mindful of the difference between plain and honorific words.

Of course, because you’re a foreigner, your mistakes will be forgiven. But why not use the proper words when greeting someone and make a great impression? It’s the only first impression you’ll ever make, after all, and it’ll determine how that person sees you. So, instead of ႞௑௑௒࿵ဠ?, say:

᠜ጀၦ࿌಩઎౗ໞဠ’

What’s your name?

インターミ디エート (intermediate)
What? Excuse me?

Have you ever pretended to understand what someone said even though you didn’t really? If you don’t know how to say “What? What did you say? Excuse me?” in Korean, you may have to pretend a lot, right? Well, there’s good news! It’s very simple to ask someone to repeat themselves in Korean. Just say,

- Ne?
- Ye?

As you know, Ne? and Ye? mean “yes.” But if you pronounce either of them with a rising intonation, it means “Can you say that again?”

Are you ready to move on to the next chapter and work hard to learn about Korean nouns?

Further Vocabulary: Parts of the body

- mom
- mok
- pibu
- meori
- eolgul
- kaseum
- nun
- teung
- ko
- heori
- kwi
- tari
- ip
- pal
- i

Further Vocabulary: Parts of the body


Further Vocabulary: Parts of the body

- hand
- foot
- tooth

Further Vocabulary: Parts of the body

- head
- hair
- face
- back
- waist
- ear
- leg
- mouth
- foot
- tooth
Korean Style: Korean family names and given names

A full Korean name consists of both a family name and a given name. Family names are usually one syllable, given names two. (Rarely, though occasionally, the family name could be two syllables and the given name one or three syllables.) In English, the given name precedes the family name, but in Korean, the order is the opposite. This probably has something to do with traditional Korean culture, which emphasizes family and society over the individual.

Originally, a Korean's family name represented a close tie to a specific group, so if a Korean met somebody with the same family name, he or she would feel very close to that person. These days, this aspect of Korean culture is disappearing, mostly because you'll meet people with the same family name all the time. There are millions of Koreans, but not even 300 family names!

Among the already short list of names, just a handful account for a considerable percentage. The most frequent is 김, around one in five! Do you know who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000? It was Korea's former president 김대중. He's one of many with the family name of 김.

The second most frequent is 이 (often romanized as "Lee" or "Yi"), and after that it's 박 (often romanized as "Park").

Koreans usually don't put a space between their surnames and given names.

Let me tell you about a strange coincidence related to the surname 박. It seems many Korean sports stars have that family name. There's the Korean MLB pitcher 박찬호, woman golfer 박세리, Manchester United soccer player 박지성, and famous swimmer 박태환. Is there a 박 conspiracy going on here? Probably not, but with the small number of family names in Korea, it's easy to see patterns like this.
Person, language, school, notebook, idea, excellence…what are these? Nouns, of course! In many languages, nouns are perhaps the most fundamental components. In the Korean language, nouns differ from those in English in two key areas.

1. Any modifiers of a noun (e.g., adjectives) must come before the noun.
2. Nouns don't have articles ("a," "an," "the").

In English, noun modifiers sometimes are placed before the noun and sometimes after it. But in Korean, they can only come before! (Rest assured, we'll study noun modifiers in greater detail later, in chapter 19.) And you've probably already noticed that there aren't any words for "a" or "the." These are the two main rules you need to know about Korean nouns. They're pretty easy in comparison to other languages…no changes according to case, gender, etc.

Let's take a look at some basic Korean nouns, shall we? How about "man" and "woman"? These would be 

 KD (najja(bun))

 KD (yeoja(bun))

 Those are two pretty fundamental nouns, right? Let's move on to some others: terms for family members.

What do you call your father? Father? Dad? Daddy? Papa? There are several ways to refer to a father in English. But in Korean, there are just two:

 KD (appa)

 KD (abeoji)

 Father, Mother, Brother, Sister…

 KD (abeoji, eomeoni, hyeongje, chamae…)

Korean Nouns and Terms for Family Members

CHAPTER 14
Okay, let's keep going!

14.5  
Okay, well... We've covered the basics of family members.

14.6  
Mom

14.7  
Grandfather

14.8  
Grandmother

14.9  
Son

14.10  
Daughter

14.11  
Parents

Do you see how ᅅ is added to ᅝ to mean "grand-"? But be careful. There's no ᅞ. The shorter ᅞ is the correct term for "grandmother." And in the word for "parents," ᅞ signifies father and ᅣ signifies mother (these come from Chinese characters), with the respectful ending ᅤ that we learned about in chapter 11.

Moving on. What about your siblings? Well, I hate to say it, but in Korean this topic is kind of confusing. In English, there are just two words, "brother" and "sister," right? But Koreans use different terms depending on the relationship between the speaker and his or her sibling. If an older sibling is the speaker, he or she will simply call the sibling by name. However, for a younger sibling, this isn't looked highly upon. Instead, younger siblings use these terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elder Sister</td>
<td>Nuna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Brother</td>
<td>Hyeong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Sister</td>
<td>Eonni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Brother</td>
<td>Oppa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phew! Maybe at first you'll think this is too complicated and wonder why it's even necessary to follow these rules. But it's a perfect example of the cultural characteristics of Korea. I don't have to explain again that Koreans feel showing the proper respect for someone is very important, and they believe such respect begins with what you call that person. Using the words above to address your elder siblings indicates your respect for them and the value you place on your relationship with them. And it's rules like these that facilitate smooth and comfortable social relationships among Koreans.

Okay, like I said above, if you're the elder sibling, you can just call your younger brother or sister by name. But if you want to refer to them when talking to someone else, you use these terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Younger Brother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Sister</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But please remember that the relationship between the speaker and the sibling is very important. The same respect and formality must be shown even if you call them by name.
CHAPTER 14

Recognize these syllables? These syllables appear in the words for "man" and "woman" too. Obviously, they're closely related to gender. Yet, you don't have to specify the gender of your younger sibling if you don't want to. Instead, just say:

14.18 [tongsaeng] younger sibling

And here's how to do it if you want to refer to a sibling without specifying an age relationship:

14.19 [hyeongje] brother/sibling (no gender)

14.20 [chamae] sister

All right! That's a lot of new vocabulary to take in, so let's practice using it in a conversational context, which will help it stick in your brain. Ready?

14.21 [Kajogi eotteoke toeseyo?] What is your family like?

14.22 [Harabeoji, halmeonihago pumonim, nuna, chega isseoyo.] There's my grandfather and grandmother, my parents, my elder sister, and I.

14.23 [Hyeongjega eotteoke toeseyo?] Do you have any siblings?

14.24 [Eonnirang namdongsaengi isseoyo.] I have an elder sister and a younger brother.

Very nice! What a lot of simple but useful words and expressions you've learned over the last few chapters, don't you think? If you ask me, you're no longer a Korean novice! I think you're ready for something more, and I have faith that you can conquer it. So, for the second half of this book, I'm going to lead you to the uppermost extent of the beginner category. Sound good?

First, though, we need to go back and cover something I oversimplified in the early chapters. What is it? Well, you'll just have to wait and see…
Futher Vocabulary: The In-laws

Your mother-in-law would be so mad…

挥舞 your wife
 florida or
 滑冰 your wife's father
 削你的 or
 選舉 your wife's mother
 理发 your wife's older sister
 理发 your wife's younger sister
 理发 your wife's brother
 挥舞 your husband
 过渡 your husband's father
 选择 your husband's mother
 包括 your husband's older brother
 包括 or
 包括 your husband's younger brother
 包括 your husband's older sister
 包括 your husband's younger sister
Korean Style: My father enters the room??

In Korean text, the spacing of words is a little tricky. Even Koreans are confused by it sometimes. If you're not careful and make mistakes with your word spacing, you can wind up writing something very different than what you intended.

The rule is that each word should stand alone, but that particles should be attached to whatever words they're related to. Remember what I've told you about particles? Because word order in Korean is somewhat free, particles tell us whether a noun is the subject, object, etc. of a sentence. And a particle should always hook onto the end of its noun.

So what happens if you make a mistake in the spacing of a particle? Let's find out:

My father enters the room.

You can identify the particles in this sentence, right?  denotes the subject, and  in this case means "to" or "into." So the sentence translates to "My father enters the room."

But look what happens if you attach  to the beginning of the second word instead of the end of the first, like this:

My father enters his bag.

means "bag." So the sentence now says "My father enters his bag." Funny? Okay. How about this one?

My father eats soup.

What are the particles here? Yes, we have the subject particle just like last time, and then there's the object particle,. So our sentence says "My father eats soup." But transfer the subject particle again and you get this:

My father eats leather.

means "leather." Your father eats leather? How odd!
I know what you’re thinking—we already learned pronunciation rules! Don’t worry, I remember, even though it was ages ago in chapters 2 and 3. And, rest assured, with what I taught you back then, you can probably pronounce about 80% of Korean words correctly. Why 80% instead of 100? Well, the thing is, I didn’t want to burden you by getting into the exceptions to those rules. As we’ve seen so often throughout this book, every rule has its exception, right? But now, you’ve come so far and done so well that I feel you’re ready to take on these pesky exceptions. It just so happens that each of the special rules we’re going to look at deals with a sound change caused by consonants. You remember what are, don’t you? Yes, of course, they’re consonants that appear in the third position in a syllable. So let’s see what happens to consonants in certain situations.

Remember what happens to a consonant that’s followed by a syllable beginning with a vowel? Right, the sound of the consonant jumps to the next syllable and connects with that vowel sound. The does this as any other would, but something special happens when the vowel starting the next syllable is . The changes its pronunciation to , giving us instead of . For example,

15.1 ဨ௘၀၆

"Urakachi kongbuhaeyo." Let’s study together.

What’s the reason for this sound change? Well, as usual, it makes for smoother pronunciation during fast speech. Let’s look at another example:

15.2 ୵ၦ࿝ဠ

"Kkeuchieyo?" Are we finished?

No, we’re not finished. We just started! So let’s keep going.

I Don’t Want to Eat

Advanced Pronunciation Rules

CHAPTER 15
Behold, the syllable following a consonant doesn't have to start with a vowel to bring about a change in pronunciation. Take the case of the syllable Ͷ: when it comes before a syllable beginning with Ͷ, ͻ, or ΃, it's pronounced as Ή[ng], not ͳ[k]:

Does this seem like a strange, arbitrary pronunciation rule? If so, spend some time thinking about it, because it provides one of the clearest examples of why these kinds of changes take place. Try saying ൾ three times fast, keeping the true pronunciation of ͳ. See how your mouth just wants to turn it into Ή[ng]? I think that's pretty neat.

So far, so good. Let's move on to the Ͷ. When this syllable is followed by the consonant ͻ, it creates a pronunciation that is very hard for Koreans. So, for example, if your name is Henry and you want to write it in Hangeul as Ṭ, get ready to have a lot of people calling you "Halley." That's because Koreans change the sound of Ͷ[n] into ͻ[l] in this case.

Even if you're not named Henry, you'll run into this rule when you take the green line of the Seoul subway. There's a stop you're likely to pass: Ṭ[Seolreung]. Take my advice—if you're lost and are looking for this station, don't ask for "Seonreung." All you'll get is a blank stare!

The last consonant that's worth mentioning is ɭ. In fact, this is the only aspirated consonant (pop quiz—what are the other four??) that frequently appears as ɭ. Hmm…it must be pretty lonely then, don't you think?

Maybe that explains the effect it has on consonants that follow it. You see, when a ɭ comes right before the consonants ͳ, ͹, or ɭ, they become aspirated from the influence of the ɭ, changing to ɭ, ɭ, and ɭ. See how the ɭ makes itself some new aspirated friends?

What are you called?

My grandmother's hair is white.

I don't feel good.
I DON'T WANT TO EAT...

There's one more thing to remember about the character ṇ, but it's easy... almost common sense, in fact. When it's followed by the character ṇ, it becomes silent. Watch:

There are 13 of these in total. And we already know two of them. That's because two of the five double consonants we learned—ʹ and ᴾ—can be used as double ṇ. (Pop quiz—what are the other three double consonants??) So that leaves 11 more:

1. Double ṇ? What's the need? 

Good question! Lucky for you, the answer is quite straightforward. Simply put, employing double ṇ allows the Korean language to contain more words. Think about it: You have a limited number of character combinations available to use in the syllable pattern C + V + C. However, by increasing the number of third-position consonant possibilities, the amount of potential syllables increases as well, as does the number of possible words. The more words, the greater the expressive potential of the language. Got it?

2. How many double ṇ are there? Can any consonant combine with any other to form a double ṇ?

No. There are only 13 of these in total. And we already know two of them. That's because two of the five double consonants we learned—ʹ and ᴾ—can be used as double ṇ. (Pop quiz—what are the other three double consonants??) So that leaves 11 more:

3. How do I write double ṇ?

As you can see in the list above, you have to write both consonants directly beside each other and half the size of a regular consonant.

4. Okay, so how do I pronounce double ṇ, wise guy? Does each one have its own new, unique pronunciation?

Guess what... no! You don't have to learn any new pronunciations for double ṇ. Remember the basic pronunciation rule for ṇ consonants, that when they encounter a syllable starting with a vowel, they hop over the ṇ and join with the vowel sound? This rule still holds true with double ṇ, but it's only the second
When the final consonant is identical to the final sound of the next syllable, it takes on an [e] sound after it jumps to the next syllable. Observe:

15.9

[Chaeok ilgeo chuseyo.]
Read this book for me.

15.10

[Uri chibeun madangi neoldaeyo.]
My house has a wide yard.

15.11

[Amu munje eopsseoyo.]
No problem.

15.12

[Kongbureul chogeum bakke mot hae.]
I couldn’t study so much.

Great—not so tough, is it? But what happens when the following syllable begins with a consonant? Or, better yet, when there is no following syllable? These are certainly valid questions. The answer is that one of the consonants in the double ٠١ will be voiced and the other will be silent. Unfortunately, there’s no simple rule to tell you which will happen to which 100% of the time. But don’t worry. As I told you, these are rare elements of the language and are confusing even for Koreans. My advice: don’t sweat it. Instead, just learn the pronunciations of some of the more common double ٠١ words, case by case. Like these:

15.13

[Yeodeol]
eight

15.14

[Kap]
price

15.15

[Sam]
life
Let's close out this discussion with a look at two somewhat common double consonants. We've already gone over the IfExists and how it turns consonants into aspirated friends, and both of these pairs have IfExists as their second consonant: IfExists and IfExists. The good news here is that the pronunciation of these two double consonants is relatively simple, because it's based on what you already know about the IfExists. IfExistsor IfExists before IfExists, IfExists, or IfExists, the IfExists is going to convince the IfExists, IfExists, or IfExists to go aspirated: IfExists, IfExists, or IfExists. Remember, IfExists is lonely! Okay, but then what happens to the IfExists part of the pair? Well, it just stays put at the end of the first syllable. For examples of this rule, let's take the words IfExists("plenty") and IfExists("hateful") and see what occurs when we add the endings IfExists, IfExists, and IfExists onto their stems: IfExists[IfExists][manko]IfExists[IfExists][shilko]IfExists[IfExists][manta]IfExists[IfExists][shilta]IfExists[IfExists][manchiman]IfExists[IfExists][shilchiman]Great! And now, what about when these two double IfExists encounter a syllable starting with a vowel? According to the rules we've learned, the second consonant in the pair jumps into the second syllable, while the first consonant stays put. And that's what happens here. But, as we learned before, the consonant IfExists goes silent when it hits IfExists. So actually, these two characters cancel each other out into silence, leaving room for the remaining IfExists or IfExists to hop over to the second syllable. Sounds complicated, but let's simplify with some examples:

It's okay.

I don't want to eat.

Congratulations! You now know how to pronounce 100% of Korean words! Oh, you don't believe me? Okay, okay…I guess it's more like 98%. But come on, that's incredible!

Further Vocabulary: Negative feelings

Ahh…don't feel so down. The confusing pronunciation lesson is over!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>seulpeuda</td>
<td>sad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koeropda</td>
<td>pained, distressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uulhada</td>
<td>gloomy, depressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hwanada</td>
<td>to get angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jjajeungseureopda</td>
<td>irritated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kwichanta</td>
<td>troublesome, tiresome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ulda</td>
<td>to cry, to weep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chaemieopda</td>
<td>boring, dull</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Korean Style: Tongue Twisters

I'm sure you know some tongue twisters in English, right? For example, "Shall she sell seashells by the seashore?" And, "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." We all learn these when we're kids, don't you remember? I don't know why exactly… maybe just because they're fun to say. And maybe because it's nice to remind ourselves that, even though we may speak a language fluently, it can still trip us up sometimes.

Korean also has many well-known tongue twisters, and they're really funny. Sometimes, Koreans compete to see who can pronounce the sentences quickest and most accurately. Also, professional announcers practice these sentences to warm up their mouths before an event.

Here's one famous Korean tongue twister: 

"The chief of the soy sauce factory is Mr. Kang and the chief of the soybean paste factory is Mr. Kong". The meaning is nonsensical, of course, which adds to the humor. Can you say it?

How about this one: 

"The picture that I painted is of a long giraffe and the picture that you painted is of a not-long giraffe." Funny but difficult, aren't they?

Like I said, tongue twisters show us that even native speakers have trouble speaking their mother tongues. Keep that in mind as you continue learning Korean, and remember that even if you're talking to native Korean speakers, they won't laugh at your mistakes. In fact, Koreans are always eager to instruct learners in the pronunciation of Korean.
Are you ready to continue a discussion we had back in chapter 11? You remember, don’t you? We talked a bit about interrogatives, focusing on two main question words: “what” and “who.” Now I’m going to introduce you to two more: “when” and “where.”

When?

When you travel abroad, one of the things you want to make sure to do is investigate the country’s medical system. Nothing can spoil a trip like getting sick in an unfamiliar place and realizing you can’t make a doctor’s appointment because you don’t speak the language!

Lucky for you, Korea has an excellent healthcare system. There are clinics everywhere, and they’re consistently staffed with helpful, friendly personnel. You can even find facilities where they speak English! But hey, you don’t need that, do you? With what I’m going to teach you right now, you’ll be able to do it like a real Korean.

So, what’s the first thing you’ll need to do? Make an appointment to see the doctor, of course. When you call, they’ll probably ask you:

16.1 [Eeonjega pyeonhaseyo?]
When is good for you?

When

Maybe you’re hoping to get in tomorrow, so let’s tell them that.

16.2 [Cheoneun naeiri kwaenchanayo.]
Tomorrow will be good for me.

And just like that, you’ve got yourself a doctor’s appointment! You’ll be able to kick that cold in no time.

Okay, let’s practice some more with the interrogative. Say you’ve made a new Korean friend, and you’re curious about when her birthday is. Birthdays are always a good topic of conversation, aren’t they? In this case, you’d say:

16.3 [Saengiri eonjeyeyo?]
When is your birthday?

Excuse Me, Where’s the Restroom?

[Cheogiyo, hwajangshiri eodiyeyo?]
Interrogatives: When and Where

CHAPTER 16

Excuse Me, Where’s the Restroom?
Or maybe you want to ask your friend about the weather in Korea, another nice conversational tool. You could say something like this:

16.4

When is the rainy season in Korea?

Actually, Korea typically has a short but intense rainy season that's called and occurs throughout the month of July. It rains almost every day. Ask your new friend about it—I'm sure she'll be more than happy to have someone to complain to about .

Anyhow, you've arrived at Incheon International Airport, Korea's main hub and one that's frequently been rated as a top world airport. It's not actually in Seoul, but rather about an hour west on the coast. Seoul is a crowded city, remember? We can't have big planes flying this way and that all day as 10+ million people go about their business. That would be distracting. So the main airport is in Incheon.

Anyway, you've arrived at the airport, and now what do you do? Is a friend meeting you there to help guide you? Of course, I wish I could be there to meet you, but I've been so busy working on this book. ^^ So perhaps you're all alone in a big airport in a strange new country. Don't worry. Korea's transportation system is well organized, and you have many options for getting to Seoul, or wherever you want to go.

But before you can arrange where to go, you have to know where you are, right? Well, do you? If not, don't hesitate to ask:

Where is this?

Of course, a person might think you're a bit odd for asking such a question at the airport. Didn't the flight attendants tell you where you were landing!? But remember, Koreans are very helpful, so I bet you'll get a straight answer.

Now that you know where you are, it's time to arrange transport to where you want to be. Many people catch a taxi from the airport. It's a little pricier, but the convenience and comfort can't be beat. After you've thrown your bags in the trunk and hopped into the back seat, the driver will ask you:

Where are you going?
What do you think is missing in this sentence? Anything? If you were constructing this question, wouldn’t you put a particle (such as ༡, or ૄ) on the end of ག? Well, you wouldn’t be wrong to do so. Your cabbie is simply omitting it because, in this situation, the meaning of ག is understood without it.

Congratulations! You’ve successfully taken a taxi and arrived at your destination. Don’t you feel great that you’ve accomplished this all in a foreign language? Well, you should.

Uh-oh, wait a minute. It was a long ride from the airport to downtown Seoul, and you didn’t use the restroom before you left. Now you’ve really got to go! What do you do!? First of all, relax. You’re in a land of nice restrooms, and unlike in many countries of the world, you don’t have to pay to use them! So all you have to do is pop into a café and ask:

16.7 ག (Shilryejiman) Hwajangshiri eodiyeyo? (Excuse me,) Where’s the restroom?

It’s okay to just say ག? But in order to draw the employee’s attention, you’ll want to begin your question with ག, which is another way to say “excuse me.” Surprised and pleased by your fluent Korean, the barista will no doubt inform you of the location of the restroom with a smile.

To understand his response, however, you’re going to need to think back again to chapter 11 and the demonstrative pronouns “this” and “that.” Hmm…I can tell by the look on your face you’d appreciate a review. Shall we?

Remember that in English these are only two words, but in Korean we have three. The demonstrative ག translates as “this,” referring to something close to the speaker. The other two both signify the English “that,” but differ depending on the specific location of what exactly it is you’re talking about. ག is used for something close to the listener, while ག is for an object distant from both speaker and listener.

It’s all coming back to you now, right? Well, the barista’s directions will probably include one or more of these pronouns, but there will be another element as well: ག. ག actually has a number of different uses, but when you add it to the end of demonstrative pronouns, it creates the meaning of “this/that direction.” I bet you can figure out these translations:

16.8 ག ག ག (i jjok) this way
16.9 ག ག ག (keu jjok) that way (closer)
16.10 ག ག ག (cheo jjok) that way (more distant)

And lastly, we’ll need a particle…but which one? Of course, the particle indicating “in the direction of” is called for, which is ག. So finally we have the barista’s answer:

16.11 ག ག ག ག ག ག. Go this way.
16.12 ག ག ག ག ག ག. Go that way. (closer by)
Go that way. (more distant)

But wait, what if the restroom is on a totally different floor? Oh no! Oftentimes in Korea's multi-story buildings, the restrooms for multiple businesses will be located on a separate floor, or the men's and women's will be in different places. So your barista may need to direct you to an upper or lower floor, like this:

The men's room is on the next floor up.

The women's room is on the next floor down.

Notice these sentences are a little different than the three listed above. Here, the barista isn't telling you to go a certain way, but rather is relating where the restrooms are. So, in place of the directional particle (チャー), you need the particle of location, න. Make sense?

I bet you really have to go to the restroom now, don't you!? But there's still one more way the barista could respond to your question, and we should cover all the bases, right? Any ideas what else he might say? Well, he could tell you to go straight or to turn left or right:

Go straight this way and then turn left.

Ahhhhhh…you found the restroom! Well, I won’t keep you, then, but I just want to mention something about and its opposite, ම. These are related to “left” and “right,” respectively, but you can’t use them alone. They always have to be paired with a second word to create meaning. This could be (チャー), which you’ve already learned, or perhaps (던) (“hand”), or (남) (“foot”), which would give you the following:

(チャー) (“left”), (රි) (“right”), (ද්‍රෙ) (“left hand”), (රිද්‍රෙ) (“right hand”), (ද්‍රේ) (“left foot”), (රිද්‍රේ) (“right foot”).

Okay, you must be bursting now, so I’ll leave you to it!
Further Vocabulary: Location and direction

Here are some Korean terms for location and direction:

- **기지도 (gijido)**: ground
- **조끼 (gokji)**: face
- **앞쪽 (apjok)**: front (direction)
- **뒤쪽 (reojjok)**: back, rear (direction)
- **측면 (steomyeon)**: side
- **수면 (suumeon)**: inside
- **가족 (gakjok)**: outside
- **동쪽 (dangchok)**: east
- **서쪽 (seochok)**: west
- **남쪽 (namchok)**: south
- **북쪽 (pukchok)**: north

(In Korean, you always list the cardinal directions in the order east, west, south, north.)

Korean Style: Snow water, or eye water?

Oops! You forgot to check the weather forecast this morning. Don't worry, just ask your Korean friend, ? (“Will it rain today?”). But don't be confused if your friend puts on a mischievous grin and replies, , (.”No, Rain is in the U.S. right now.”). This is a common joke in Korean, playing on the double meaning of  to mean both the precipitation rain and the Korean singer Rain.

Words like this are called homonyms—they sound the same and are spelled the same but have different meanings. English has them too, of course, lots of them. Consider the words “fly,” “matter,” and “bear,” for starters. In Korean, homonyms are used to make some great puns, like this one:

The word  has two meanings. The first is “snow,” and the other is “eye.” So can you guess what the sentence above means? It says, “When snow gets in your eye and melts, is the water eye water or snow water?”

Here are some more good ones:

Tariga neomu apaseo tarieseo shieosseoyo.
Meorireul tachyeoseo meoriga ppajyeoyo.
Paeeseo paereul meogeotdeoni paega apayo.

Answers? I rested on a bridge, for my legs hurt. My hair has been falling out since I hurt my head. I developed a stomach ache after I ate a pear on the ship.
Now that you're back from the restroom, are you ready to learn how to ask more questions? Asking questions is good, right? As the saying goes, you'll never know if you don't ask. Well, I want you to know! So I'm going to show you how to ask questions using two more useful question words: "how" and "why."

**How?**

Do you have any foreign friends? If so, I bet you've asked them what they think of your country. You'll run into the same thing when you come to Korea and talk to your new Korean friends. They'll always want to know: "How's Korea?"

Here, the word " האח" is an adjective, so when you're curious about someone's feelings or opinion on a subject, you can say "How's...?" Remember, " האח" is a regular adjective, so when you conjugate it with the pattern "How's...?" you drop the final " Cách". That's how you get " How's...?" right?

Great. Let's practice.

- "How's the restaurant's atmosphere?"
- "How're you feeling today?"

Pretty easy, right? But wait, because there's more we can do with the adjective " האח". For example, we can make an adverb out of it: " האח". As I'm sure you know, adverbs modify verbs or adjectives, so using this adverb, we can come up with a different way to say "How's...?" Check it out:

- "What do you think of Korea?"

" perror" is a regular adverb, so under certain circumstances, you'll want to add "эффективно" to make it expressive. As you can see, sometimes we have a saying: "Effort plus "эффективно" (to think) = "Effort plus effectiveness..."

Interrogatives: How and Why, Reasons and Causes

CHAPTER 17
Notice that the literal translation is "How do you think…," but of course in English we would say "what" instead. Anyway, the adverb ࿌಩ඎ is modifying the verb "think" in this sentence, isn't it? This just gives us a somewhat more long-winded way of saying "How's Korea?"

The ࿌಩ඎ adverb can be really useful in other circumstances—especially if it's your first time in Korea, because you're likely to get lost a few times. Don't lose your cool! Just remember ࿌಩ඎ, and you can find help.

Say you're trying to find your way to Insadong, Seoul's famous traditional district that's full of atmospheric teashops and handicraft stores. Oh no, you forgot your map at home! What do you do? Well, just flag down a friendly pedestrian and ask:

*How can I get to Insadong?*

The passerby will kindly inform you that you can get there on the subway:

*Take the subway.*

So make sure to take note of the handy ࿌಩ඎ adverb. It just might save your day!

But we're still not done exploring the usefulness of the adjective ࿌ಠ, because there's yet another form:

࿌ಠ is a noun modifier—it modifies whatever noun is written directly after it. Now, its meaning is a little different from that of ࿌ಠ and ࿌಩ඎ, but we're going to learn it anyway because it's a great word to know. Instead of "how," ࿌ಠ translates into "what (kind of)," or "which."

Need some context? I think so. Let's say you're on a blind date in Korea, and your date wants to know your preferences for dinner. He might ask you:

*What kind of food do you like?*

By the way, do you know much about Korean food? I'm sure you've heard of kimchi, at least from me, but you can't use this as an answer to the question. Kimchi is a side dish, not a main dish. So what else? Do you know bulgogi? It's Korean barbeque—sliced meat marinated in a special mixture of sauces and spices and grilled over charcoal. It's terrific; I bet you'll love it! So why don't you tell your date this:

*I love bulgogi.*
Oops! He's starting to laugh at you! Why? Well, I admit, I played a little trick on you. The Korean verb for “to love” is definitely ṭ👂ዻఋ, but typically it's only used to talk about people you love, not food or other inanimate objects. In these cases, use ṭྤዻఋ instead. So let's revise your statement:

**17.9** ṭ౔௴ுధ౺൐ౢྤ𝐣アジア

[Cheoneun pulgogireul choahaeyo.]

I like bulgogi.

Hey, this is pretty good. You've made your date laugh, the tension has been eased, and everything's looking up. So, come on, keep the mood going. Make some conversation. Um…how about the weather? The weather? Are you sure? Well, here goes:

**17.10** ṭ౵裃ఋకళﺍ

[Oneul nalssi eottaeyo?]

How's the weather today?

 القطاع

weather

Oh boy! What does he look like, the weatherman? I don't know if any date has ever been successful following a conversation about the weather. Good luck!

Why?

Why? Why did you act so foolishly last night? Hey, I'm just kidding, I'm sure your date understood that your conversational skills were simply a result of your beginner Korean, not your personality. Is there anything they said that you didn't understand? Maybe they asked you why you came to Korea. Or, better yet, they probably asked why you're learning Korean.

In Korea, learning English is taken very seriously and viewed as a necessary, yet incredibly difficult, task. Koreans look at native English speakers like you and think you're very lucky to have learned the language as a child. On the other hand, since Korean is not a major international language like English, they wonder why English speakers would choose to study it. So they might ask you:

**17.11** ṭ૑࿌൐DataURL

[Hangugeoreul wae paeuseyo?]

Why do you learn Korean?

_verify

why

_to learn

As you can see, the Korean word for “why” is ṭ౑. Of course, in English “why” always appears at the beginning of the sentence, but in Korean ṭ౑ should be placed in front of the sentence's verb. Why? Because it's an adverb in Korean, so it technically modifies the verb. However, if you really want to put ṭ౑ at the beginning of the sentence (e.g., ṭ౑౵裃ఋకళﺍ), it doesn't matter. Remember? In Korean, the word order is relatively free.

By the way, why are you learning Korean? For some people, they study the language for romantic reasons. So they might answer:

**17.12** ṭుၴᆵૐჯ਼ዽ౑ຫ౥ၦ࿌໏ዽ౑෰ෲဠ

[Yeoja chinguga hanguk saramieoseo hangungmareul paeweoyo.]

I'm learning Korean because my girlfriend is Korean.

Ah, the power of love! It's as great a reason as any for learning a second language, don't you think!
How's Korea?    89

Reasons and causes

What about the conjugative ending ྤ໏ ࿌໏ ࿥໏ in the sentence above? If you recall, in the last chapter we used it to mean "and then," but here, it's signifying the reason for a certain action. Both meanings are possible with this ending. (You'll have to wait till chapter 22 for a more thorough explanation.)

Another way to say this sentence would be:

17.13 ࿥ၴၽ ṽା女人ธွၣ ṽ၀၂၇ဲဠ
[Yeoja chingu ttaemune hangungmareul paeweoyo.]

I'm learning Korean because of my girlfriend.

<kब> བ[kab] because of (reason for an action or state of being)

Similar to the ending ྤ໏ ࿌ึก ࿥໏, the word བ[kab] is used to express the reason or cause for an action or state of being. It's placed after the noun that's being identified as the reason. See how that works?

Great! And do you want to learn one more way to say this? If so, then it's time to introduce you to the wonderful trick for transforming verbs and adjectives into nouns. Koreans do this all the time. In English it's like adding "-ing" onto a verb (e.g., changing "to learn" into "learning," for use in the sentence "Learning is fun.").

It's simple. All you have to do as add the ending ṽၺ onto the verb or adjective stem. I introduced this briefly back in chapter 6, do you remember? It's a pattern 1 ending…the easiest!

So, for the special verb ending ṽၦဲ, which means "to be," what's the noun form? Yes, ṽၦဲ! We can then say:

17.14 ࿥ၴၽ ṽ၀၂၇ဲဠ
[Yeoja chinguga hanguk saramigi ttaemune hangungmareul paeweoyo.]

I'm learning Korean because of my girlfriend being Korean.

It's rather clunky in English, I know, but in Korean it's perfectly natural! So there you have three different ways of explaining the reason for something.

And now, what about you? What's your reason for learning Korean?
Further Vocabulary: Questions

Ask away!

Questions using ೆ(QtGui)</span>'

- [Tangshin saenggageun eottaeyo?]
  What do you think?

- [Che meori moyang eottaeyo?]
  How do you like my hairdo?

- [Keopi taeshin chareul mashineun ke eottaeyo?]
  Why don't you have tea instead of coffee?

Thought

Questions using ೆ(QtGui)</span>'

- [Yojeum eotteoke chinaeseyo?]
  How are you doing these days?

- [Pulgogineun eotteoke meogeoyo?]
  How do you eat bulgogi?

Questions using ೆ(QtGui)</span>'

- [Keu sarameun eotteon saramieyo?]
  What is he like?

- [Eotteon ireul haseyo?]
  What's your job?

Questions using ೆ(QtGui)</span>'

- [Wae useyo?]
  Why are you crying?

- [Wae keureoke saenggakaeyo?]
  Why do you think so?
Korean Style: Korean Blind Dates

Korean parents often engage in arranged marriages, which are typically arranged by the parents of the son or daughter. Traditionally, these marriages would be arranged in a meeting where the parents would set up a meeting for their son or daughter who had reached a certain age. If both parties agreed to it, they would get married. Of course, sometimes they married even though they didn’t want to, because they were raised to obey their parents. Nowadays, parents can’t force their children to marry, but these kinds of meetings still take place.

What about more casual meetups? There are two types of these: "meeting" and "introduction." "Meeting" is a direct adoption of the English word "meeting," but it has a more specific meaning. It refers to meetings between young men and women who are searching for a partner, and they occur especially in college.

And then there’s the "introduction." This is close to the concept of a blind date in the West. The word is related to "meeting," as "introduction" means "introduction," and "meeting" is taken straight from "meeting." So obviously, it means meeting someone through a third party’s introduction.

Will you have a chance to go on a "introduction" or "meeting" in Korea? Who can say? It’s highly possible, if that’s what you’re looking for. But if you’re a guy, you have to remember two things. First, you need to pay. And second, you have to drop her off at her home (or at least offer to). Otherwise, don’t expect a second date!
If you had to guess, how many foreigners would you say are living in South Korea right now? Actually, the best anyone can do is guess, because the number isn't known exactly, but estimates suggest that as much as 2% of the population is made up of non-nationals. That's a pretty big number in a country of 50 million.

But still, Koreans will see you, a person from a faraway land who's studying hard to learn their language, with curious eyes. And, as I think I've mentioned before, one of the first things they'll want to know is where exactly you're from. So prepare to hear this a lot:

Where do you come from?

These words should be familiar to you. Because, let's see…we learned about in chapter 16, right? And , that means “from,” remember? And finally there's the verb , which is “to come.” This is all review for you! But what's not review is the conjugation of the verb in this sentence—particularly, this component:

To understand, it's necessary to tell you that, translated literally, the above sentence in English would be “Where did you come from?” not “Where do you come from?” Koreans see this as logical because you've already arrived in Korea, so the action of coming is in the past, right? Obviously, what I want to tell you about in this chapter is verb tenses.

In English, you signify the past tense by adding “-d” or “-ed” onto the end of verbs. Well, surprise, surprise—Korean follows the same principle! There's a special conjugative verb and adjective ending to indicate past tense, and it's this: . This ending follows conjugation pattern 5, which we learned back in chapter 6 (I told you that chapter was important!). In other words, if the final vowel in the stem is Α or Ι, is used; for any other final vowel, you'll need ; and verbs and adjectives take the ending no matter what.

Let's take a look at how we arrived at တ࿌ဠ for “came,” shall we? What's the stem of the verb ? That's right, . Its final vowel is Ι, so it's going to take the ending, giving us . But, in this case, contracts to something shorter and easier to say. Speak fast and what comes out? Yes, ! Now, we need to add the honorific form 1 ending (don't forget your manners!). And this is important—in the case of past-tense verb stems, they always take the Ὄ Nazis ending, never the ད忤 or ཐ忤. And that's how we get တ࿌ဠ.

A long explanation for a simple question, no?

Now, what if the Korean asking you this question is polite and wants to pay respect to you? To do this, she'd add the honorific suffix ( tua) to the verb stem, right? That gives us a stem of . This changes the rest of our conjugation, because now we have a stem with a final vowel of Υ, not Ι. So what happens? Uh-huh, we apply I'm from the U.S.
I'M FROM THE U.S.

Okay, now that you understand the question inside and out, it's time to answer!

Where do you come from?

I'm from the U.S.

I'm from Singapore.

I'm from Hong Kong.

Great! So that's a really practical use of the past tense. Want to learn another? We already studied how to say hello to someone in chapter 9:

But there's an alternate expression of greeting that can go along with that. It's

Did you eat something?

Obviously, the stem ൾ of the verb ൾఋ ("to eat") has a final vowel of ๭, so it takes the ๭ past-tense ending. Literally, this translates to "Did you eat (cooked) rice?" But this is just an expression; your new acquaintance doesn't really care to know whether you ate cooked rice, uncooked rice, ramen, or anything else. He just wants to greet you. So instead of screwing up your face and saying "Why do you want to know whether I've eaten cooked rice?", just say:

Yes. Did you (Kyubyong) have lunch?

Oh, perfect! Your response is going to make ଫ look at you with admiration, because you used the honorific ଫ instead of the plain ଋ for "to eat". So you showed respect for ଫ. (Remember, saying ଫ after someone's given name is another very common way of being respectful when addressing them.)

This is a good habit to get into, so why don't you memorize this for a greeting to use with new acquaintances?

Hi, did you have breakfast (lunch, dinner)?

No, you're not a crazy person obsessed with people's diets, you're just being polite!
Chapter 18

What are you doing?

Wow, did you know you just learned the past tense in Korean? In other languages, it can take years to master this element, but I've actually told you nearly all you need to know to speak about the past in Korean. So let's move on to another tense: the **progressive**.

The progressive tense is what you use to describe an action that's currently in progress. For example, I am explaining Korean tenses to you, and you are understanding me, right!? Well, I think you'll understand this one pretty easily, because it utilizes an ending from conjugation pattern 1, the simplest! To form the progressive tense in Korean, simply add \( \text{_growth} \) to any verb stem. Yup, that's it! So, let's ask your friend what they're doing right now:

18.9 \( \text{What are you doing?} \)

See how that works? You just stick \( \text{growth} \) onto the stem of the verb \( \text{to do} \), and then conjugate the adjective accordingly. Of course, if you're addressing a person you don't know well, or someone you need to impress, it's better to use the honorific verb \( \text{to do} \) instead of \( \text{growth} \):

18.10 \( \text{What are you doing?} \)

Okay, and your friend will answer with the progressive tense, so you may hear:

18.11 \( \text{I'm reading a book.} \)

18.12 \( \text{I'm watching TV.} \)

18.13 \( \text{I'm listening to music.} \)

18.14 \( \text{I'm surfing the Internet.} \)

18.15 \( \text{I was thinking about you…} \)
I'M FROM THE U.S.    95

Oh! It sounds like you guys might be more than just friends, eh? I sense the spark of romance in the air! ^^ But seriously, that last sentence is a little different, isn't it? I think you can figure it out, though. That's right, it's using the past progressive. And how does that work? Well, if the present progressive conjugation is V杳ໄ၉, then it makes sense that the past progressive will be V杳ໍCambodia V杳ໍCambodia — just use the past tense of V杳ໍCambodia, and you've got it!

What will you do?

So, what's left in our discussion of Korean tenses? I am going to let you guess what tense this will be. Okay, enough riddles—I know you know it's the future tense!

In English, you express future actions and conditions in two ways: by adding "will" or "shall" in front of a verb, and by saying "going to do." Well, it's only fair that in Korean there are also two ways: using the ending Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل, and using the construction Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل, both of which belong to conjugation pattern 4. However, just as "will," "shall," and "going to do" are not exactly the same, neither are these two endings. Allow me to explain:

18.16
1. Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل. [Ittaga sukjereul halgeyo.]
   I promise I'll do my homework later (and if I don't, you can punish me).

2. Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل. [Ittaga sukjereul hal keoyeyo.]
   I'm going to do my homework later (but if I don't, I'm not taking any responsibility for my behavior).

As you can see, Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل expresses a strong will or intention to do something. In fact, it's as if you're making a promise to the listener. For this reason, we often use the adverb Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل, meaning "surely" or "at any cost," with this future-tense ending.

On the other hand, Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل simply adds the meaning of "in the future" to whatever verb or adjective you're using, without expressing your dedication to living up to your word. This ending is often paired with the adverb Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل, meaning "definitely," or Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل, "probably."

Let's continue examining the distinctions between the two:

18.18
1. Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل. [Taeumbuteo ireul kkok takkeulgeyo.]
   I promise I'll brush my teeth from next time on.

2. Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل. [Taeumbuteo ireul kkok takkeul keoyeyo.]
   I'll brush my teeth from next time on.

18.20
1. Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل. [Naeireun punmyeonghi piga ol keoyeyo.]
   I'm sure it'll rain tomorrow.

2. Ṡفاعل Ṡفاعل. [Naeireun ama piga ol keoyeyo.]
   It'll probably rain tomorrow.
Okay, let me explain one more useful future-tense expression, which you can employ when you need to avoid making a promise to someone. Of course, you could simply use the *ending, but this still implies that you're in agreement with whatever the person wants you to do. Instead, to approximate English hedging phrases like "Um… I think… I guess… well… I mean… I'm afraid…," you can utilize the ending *.* Like the others, this belongs to pattern 4. Watch:

18.22 ႔Ⴓၕ੿੪ྤဠ.

*[Cheo chom neujeul keo katayo.]*

I'm afraid I'm going to be a little late.

18.23 ๗ጌૺ൐௉唶੿੪ྤဠ.

*[Pihaenggireul nochil keo katayo.]*

It's possible that I'll miss the plane.

Hey, You don't want to miss your flight to the next chapter!

Further Vocabulary: Movement

When I say "jump," you say…

*To stand, to stop*

EX.:

ዽḃᶜ໏჎ໞဠ.

*[Han chulro seo chuseyo.]*

Stand in line.

*To sit*

EX.:

ꦏ౞ྦྷྤ჎ໞアジア.

*[Modu anja chuseyo.]*

Please everybody sit down.

*To lie*

EX.:

ዳ઩ዻඓᆹఝ࿝௛ဨໞアジア.

*[Pigonhamyeon chimdaee nuuseyo.]*

If you're tired, lie on the bed.

*To walk*

EX.:

ఐ௴౗ఃႹྤዻໞアジア.

*[Keonneun keol choahaseyo?]*

Do you like to walk?

*To run, to jump*

EX.:

ేԽ௠ໞアジア.

*[Ttwiji maseyo.]*

Don't run. (Don't jump.)

*To run*

EX.:

࿥ૺ࿝໏௴ఐ൘ඓྦౕアジア.

*[Yeogieseoneun talrimyeon an twaeyo.]*

You shouldn't run here.

*To hold*

EX.:

ائهم㇇.vm.”

*[Nae son kkwak chabeuseyo.]*

Hold my hand tightly.

*To push*

EX.:

ෘໞアジア.

*[Miseyo!]*

Push!

*To pull*

EX.:

ఙ౺ໞアジア.

*[Tanggiseyo!]*

Pull!
Korean Style: How to multiply your Korean vocabulary

Surely you'll have a basic grasp of Korean and all its different colors and flavors after you finish this book. But why stop there? You're such a dedicated student, I'm sure you'll want to continue learning—more grammar, more culture, more words!

Memorizing vocabulary is a big part of learning any language, but what's the best way to do this? Imagine a Korean friend asks you what the word “extraterrestrial” means. Of course, you might answer, “Oh, you don’t need to learn that.” Or “Haven’t you seen the movie E.T.? That’s an extraterrestrial!” But there’s a more helpful way of explaining this complicated-looking word, isn’t there? You have the prefix “extra-,” which means “out, outside.” And then the root “terr-” is related to the earth. So put it together and you have something that means “life that exists outside the earth.” Perfect! I’m sure your friend will be so happy to have your help, and you’ll be able to teach her all kinds of words like “territory” extraordinarily.

Can’t this method be applied to Korean as well? Yes! I told you at the beginning of the book that more than two thirds of Korean words are derived from Chinese, remember? There was ૑ (뷜), which is used in the names of many countries, and ulty (뀩), which appears in the names of languages. As you can see, by learning a handful of Chinese characters, you can substantially increase your Korean vocabulary!

Let’s look at one very useful Chinese character: บอก (BOOL), which means “outside,” just like the English “extra-.” You don’t have to memorize the shape itself. Just focus on the meanings that it creates in Korean.

บอก (BOOL) — outside

บอก กรด — outside the house — going out, outing

บอก วัน — outside one’s country across the sea — foreign country, overseas

บอก ภูมิ — outside of the city — countryside, outskirts

See how the characters fit together to create meaning? Even though Korean doesn’t use characters in this exact way, much of its vocabulary is based on the same principle.
Have You Ever Seen a Korean Movie?

R? Hanguk yeonghwa pon cheok isseoyo?

Turning Verbs and Adjectives into Noun Modifiers

One of the great things about studying a new language is that it can give you insight into your native tongue. So let's think about English for a second. In English, when you have an adjective modifying a noun, it usually comes in front of the noun. In other words, you say "a beautiful woman," not "a woman beautiful," right? But, on the other hand, consider what happens when you have a clause modifying a noun. Where does it go? In front? No! It comes after the noun, as in "a woman who has a beautiful face." How confusing! I mean, for students learning English, this discrepancy can cause some major trouble, as it's difficult to remember when a modifier comes first and when it comes second. Well, it's my distinct privilege to inform you that you will not be facing the same problem when learning Korean. Why? Because in Korean, modifiers of all types always appear in the same place—in front of the noun. So while Koreans say "a beautiful woman," they also say "who has a beautiful face woman." Haha! Does that look awkward? I bet, but you'll get accustomed to it quickly.

"Wait!" you may be thinking. "Don't Korean adjectives function like verbs? How then can they also work like English adjectives to modify nouns?" Good question! And the answer, as usual, is conjugative endings. By applying a special ending, you can turn an adjective into a modifier and then use it to describe a noun. What's nice about this is that, because adjectives and verbs are so similar, the ending for transforming an adjective into a modifier is very close to the one for changing a verb into a modifier. And unlike in English, where you have to use all kinds of different pronouns ("who," "which," "what," "that") to form a modifying clause, in Korean it's just the ending and nothing else. Simple!

Verb and Adjective Modifier Endings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Adjectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>V-2</td>
<td>A-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>V-L</td>
<td>A-L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can clearly see, the only difference between verb and adjective modifier endings comes in the present tense. Those for past and future are exactly the same.

Ready for a little practice? Now, I could come up with new examples to demonstrate these principles, but instead why don't we use the same ones we went over in chapter 6, when we learned about conjugation? No, it's not because I'm lazy! Rather, I want you to review.

Okay, when you want to turn a verb into a present modifier, simply add the ending "-2" onto the stem. Just remember that this is a pattern 2 ending, so for 2. verbs you have to drop the final 2.
Have you ever seen a Korean movie? Yes, I'm sure you have. But now it's my turn to ask you. Ready?
This question is asking about your past experience, isn't it? That's why you use the past modifier ending, 꼬ၔ, with the verb ꏢၔ. As a whole, the expression V 꼬ၔ႕(ၦ)ၰఋ(࿖)means you have had (have not had) the experience of doing something. So, although there's no way for me to know for sure whether or not you've ever seen a Korean movie, I'm going to make the assumption that if you have, it was probably the famous film Old Boy, recipient of the Grand Prix at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival.

19.10 ၫ،Ⴎ૵ပၧၐ၌ ᫑ၔ၀၏ (Ne, oldeuboireul pwasseoyo.)
Yes, I watched Old Boy.

Actually, Korea produces a lot of excellent movies, and watching them is a great way to learn both the language and culture of the country. Next time you're at the video store, bypass all the formulaic Hollywood blockbusters and find the foreign section, where, if you're lucky, you can pick up a Korean masterpiece like Old Boy.

Can / can't, I know / I don't know

In English, the verb "can" is used to signify the ability to do something, and of course you can also word this as "to know how to do something." Well, Korean has two ways of saying this as well. And which modifier ending do you think they employ? Hmm…these expressions aren't talking about something you're doing right now, or something you've already done. Rather, they're referring to something you could do in the future. So, that's right, we use the future modifier, 꼬ၕ. Here are a couple pertinent questions for you:

19.11 ၫ،Ⴎ૵လောၐ (Hangungmal hal su isseuseyo?)
Can you speak Korean?

19.12 ၫ،Ⴎ૵လီၗ၀၏၉ (Hangungmal hal chul aseyo?)
Do you know how to speak Korean?

The two expressions are these: 꼬ၕ်ၐ (to have the ability to do something) and 꼬ၕ််ၐ (to know how to do something), respectively. And just like in English, they both have more or less the same meaning.

And so how would you answer these questions? Of course, you're a Korean superstar, right? But let's be modest. Modesty is very important in Korea.

19.13 ၫ،Ⴎ૵၀ၐ (Ne, chogeumyo.)
Yes, a little bit.

Or maybe you're not really in the mood to engage in a lengthy Korean conversation, so you want to say you can't speak Korean. How would you express this? Well, the antonym of the adjective ꏢၔ is ꏢၔ႐, and ꏢၔ႐'s antonym is ꏢၔကၐ. So simply insert these new words into the expressions above to make ၫၗ႐ (I don't speak Korean) and ၫၗｃၐ (I don't know how to speak Korean).
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A KOREAN MOVIE? Yes, these expressions are pretty good. But, in fact, there's an even easier way to change a sentence from positive to negative, and it's more frequently used than these two. What is it? Hey, if you ask me, I say it's time to rest. You've learned enough expressions for one day, don't you think? I promise I'll share with you the secret of making negative sentences in Korean in the next chapter. So go take a quick catnap, and I'll see you there!

Further Vocabulary: Dedicated noun modifiers
As we've seen, Korean adjectives function like verbs, and if we want them to modify a noun like English adjectives do, we have to conjugate them with a modifier ending. However, there are a handful of Korean adjectives that were born with the singular fate of modifying nouns. They don't look like ordinary adjectives, and they don't function as verbs like all their brothers and sisters do. How sad.

- **'R** (sae) new
  
  **Example:**
  
  "*G* - G new clothes"

- **'R** (heon) old, used
  
  **Example:**
  
  "*G* - G old (used) wallet"

- **'R** (yet) old
  
  **Example:**
  
  "*G* - G an old friend"

- **'R** (modeun) all, every
  
  **Example:**
  
  "*G* - G everyone"

- **'R** (kwahakjeok) scientific
  
  **Example:**
  
  "*G* - G scientific concept"

- **'R** (sahoejeok) social
  
  **Example:**
  
  "*G* - G human being is a social animal."
Korean Style: The disaster of misunderstanding the word 

One day, a foreigner living in Korea went into a bathhouse. While sitting in the steaming waters, he overheard a man remark, 

а, shiwonhada, which means "Ah, it's cool!" The foreigner found this very odd, as it was quite hot in the spa. He was almost sure was the adjective for "cold," but he figured he must be mistaken.

After finishing his bath, the foreigner went to a barbershop. The barber leaned his head back into the sink to wash it. But the water was way too hot, so the foreigner said.

а, The barber, puzzled, turned the hot water higher. The foreigner's head was now scalding under the flow of steaming water. So he shouted

а, а, а. Shrugging his shoulders, the barber switched off the cold tap completely and turned up the hot water as high as it would go. The foreigner's hair was almost burned off!

The word is a little weird, even to Koreans. It means "cool, cold." So to describe the feeling of having your head under a stream of steaming water with is definitely incorrect. But think about this. When you're exhausted from a hard day of work on a cold winter's day, and you go home and take a nice, hot shower, it makes you feel happy and refreshed, right? Well, has this meaning as well, which is how the man in the spa was using it.

Be careful in those bathhouses!
How are you? Full of energy and ready to learn new things? Excellent! But first, I gave you my word in the last chapter that we'd look more in depth at how to make negations in Korean. Remember? And yes, I always keep my word (except when I don't ^^).

I know you already know some ways of making negations. First of all, there's the negative form of the verb ending  Tensor "to be." Wow, yeah, I'm reaching pretty far back for this one, but we went over it in chapter 12, right? That negative form is the independent adjective  Tensor. And then, in the same chapter, you learned the negative form of Tensor (also meaning "to be"), which is  Tensor. Now, that brings us back to the end of the last chapter, when I showed you the expression  Tensor, for "I can't." And we also looked at  Tensor, meaning "I don't know how to." Remember, the verb  Tensor is the opposite of  Tensor ("to know").

Okay, but those are set negative phrases, with set meanings. Isn't there a way to turn any phrase from a positive to a negative, you might ask? Well, lucky you—there is! And, even better, it's really easy to learn and use, because it's not a conjugative ending. All you have to do is add the word  Tensor or  Tensor before the verb (  Tensor can also be used with adjectives, but  Tensor can't). That's it!

But why are there two different words you can use? Well, there's actually a difference in meaning between  Tensor and  Tensor. Allow me to show by example. Say you had been invited to attend your friend's birthday party that took place yesterday, but you didn't go:

20.1  Tensor,  Tensor.
[Did you go to Kyubyong's birthday party yesterday?]

20.2  Tensor,  Tensor.
[No, I didn't go (because I hate him and chose not to).]

20.3  Tensor,  Tensor.
[No, I couldn't go (because there was an earthquake, but I really wanted to go).]
Don’t worry. Earthquakes seldom occur in Korea. Anyway, as you can see, applies more to the speaker’s intention or conscious choice, while is related to ability. So, now you can answer our question from the last chapter using or .

Can you speak Korean?

No, I can’t (I don’t have the ability).

Hey, you’re going to make me cry! I know you can speak Korean!

In Korean, there’s a widely known expression: It translates literally as “Sleep comes to me” / “Sleep doesn’t come to me.” But nobody says for the negative version, because no one’s actually preventing the Sandman from coming to you. He just chooses not to come. He’s a busy guy, I guess. And so you’re stuck with no sleep.

On the other hand, is also correct, meaning “I couldn’t (didn’t have the ability to) sleep.” If you use in this expression, saying, it implies that you didn’t sleep because you just don’t like to sleep. But who doesn’t like sleep!?

There are three possible kinds of answers to this question. Pay close attention as I explain them, but don’t worry—there won’t be an exam at the end…or will there?

1. 

Yes, I did as many as two hours. (This answer is expressing pride, as if usually you don’t study at all! But I’m sure that’s not true, is it?)

There can be multiple answers to this question. Pay close attention to the options, but don’t worry—there won’t be an exam at the end…or will there?
I COULDN'T STUDY SO MUCH

2. [Aniyo, cheonhyeo an haesseoyo.]
No, I didn't study at all.

20.10
(Oh, now you're just trying to show off, pretending as if you knew it all already and didn't need to study! Ha! But I bet you actually studied a lot.)

3. [Aniyo, pakkachi shikkeureoweoseo chogeumbakke mot haesseoyo.]
No, I couldn't study much because it was really noisy outside.

20.11
(Okay, this is your most strategic answer. Now, if you fail, you have an excuse—you couldn't study! But actually, I bet this is another little white lie and you actually did study a lot. You just don't want to admit it. In fact, I happen to know you live in a very quiet neighborhood!)
But, um, why would you ever want to use this long form when the short-form negations are so much easier (admit it though, both are pretty simple!)? Well, the long form is more formal, and it's used a lot in written language. Here's a quick comparison of the short and long forms negating an adjective (remember, adjectives can't be negated with \( \dddot{\text{ㆁ}} \) in either short or long forms):

- \( \dddot{\text{_venta}} \) difficult
- \( \dddot{\text{Venta}} \) difficult
- \( \dddot{\text{mom\_cho\_ant\_a}} \) to not feel good
- \( \dddot{\text{ho\_esa}} \) office, company

And here are two sentences that utilize both the \( \dddot{\text{s}} \) and \( \dddot{\text{_venta}} \) negations, the first in the short form, and the second in the long form:

- \( \dddot{\text{mom\_an\_cho\_ase\_o\_one\_u\_h\_o\_sa\_e\_m\_o\_t\_k\_a\_s\_e\_y\_o\_o.}} \) I was sick so I couldn't go to the office today.
- \( \dddot{\text{mom\_cho\_a\_an\_a\_se\_o\_o\_n\_e\_u\_h\_o\_sa\_e\_k\_a\_j\_i\_m\_o\_t\_k\_a\_s\_e\_y\_o\_o.}} \) I was sick so I couldn't go to the office today.

Note that in English when you feel sick, you say you don't feel good. In Korean, though, your body is not good.

Hmm…what's wrong? You have a bad headache and are running a fever? Wow, I feel really bad for you. I suggest that you get some rest now. And then, when you feel better, I suggest that you read the next chapter. Any guesses what we'll be talking about?

Further Vocabulary: Health

- \( \dddot{\text{ke\_o\_a\_h\_a}} \) healthy
- \( \dddot{\text{pye\_o\_n}} \) disease, illness
- \( \dddot{\text{ape\_u\_a}} \) sick, painful
- \( \dddot{\text{kam\_g\_i}} \) cold, flu
- \( \dddot{\text{nah\_d\_a}} \) to be cured, to recover from
- \( \dddot{\text{ye\_o\_l}} \) fever
- \( \dddot{\text{ke\_o\_l\_r\_i\_d\_a}} \) to get sick
- \( \dddot{\text{kich\_i\_m}} \) cough
- \( \dddot{\text{pigo\_n\_h\_a\_d\_a}} \) tired, fatigued
- \( \dddot{\text{momsa\_l}} \) illness from fatigue
- \( \dddot{\text{tach\_i\_d\_a}} \) to hurt, to be wounded
Korean Style: Word relay

Have you ever played this game? You choose a certain category—say, celebrities. And then you and a friend or friends go back and forth naming celebrities. But each name has to start with the same letter that the previous name ended with. For example, Tom Cruise → Eddie Murphy → Yasmine Bleeth → …

There's a similar game in Korean called [kkeunmaritgi]. The difference is that instead of relaying the last letter, it's the final syllable of a word that gets carried over. This game is too difficult if you limit it to only one category, so usually you can use any word you want. For example, "man" → "nature" → "practice" → "habit" → "tour" → …

One way to change the game would be to limit it to only three-syllable words, or even by relaying the middle syllable of a three-syllable word, like this: "telephone" → "tissue" → "toy" → …

It's pretty simple, but Koreans like this game a lot. And if you play it, I bet you'll learn lots of new words very quickly. If you do ever have the opportunity to join in, let me tell you the key to victory. There aren't any words in Korean that begin with the syllable "reum". Because of this, if you can find a word ending with "reum", you'll definitely win. Let's see, there's "diameter", "pimple", "icicle", "summer", "oil"…
Ah, I'm glad you've heeded my suggestion and continued on to chapter 21! The themes for today are propositive and imperative sentences. Hmm, and what do these mean? Well, we've already learned a lot about declarative sentences, which simply state information about something. And we've covered many different ways to make interrogative sentences, which ask about something. So what's left? Stop. Put the book down. Think about my question. (Any ideas? ^^)

That's right, imperative sentences are what you use to give commands to people. And, just like in English, you can form these without stating the subject of the sentence. For example, simply say "Stop" instead of "You, stop" (the subject is always understood as "you," or "you all").

So those are imperatives, which we'll get to later. But what about propositives? What are those?

Let us think about that… Shall we pool our ideas…? Right! Propositive sentences propose something. Now, we briefly went over one of these forms long ago back in chapter 6, didn't we? It was the pattern ၴ, which adds the meaning of "let's" to a verb. But you can't use this ending to make a suggestion to a person you're not close to; in other words, it's a plain ending. But don't worry, because there are other, even easier ways of doing this, and one is to simply add ဨ "{we/us}" at the beginning of the sentence, like so:

Let's go hiking next week. (Lit: Let us go to the mountains next week.)

Let's study together. (Lit: Let's work together.)

Using Ⴊ in addition to ဨ makes the proposition even stronger, so whoever you're talking to will have a hard time turning you down! So, I see you've proposed that we study together more. Okay, I can't help but accept! Let's keep studying as you proposed.

We don't even need to study that one anymore—it's too easy! Actually, it's so easy I feel guilty. I'm supposed to be challenging you to learn new things, right? So now I feel like scaring you with a more complicated propositive form. ^;^ And that would be the verb ending ᄺ, which looks like an interrogative ending. It ends with a question mark after all, right? But wait. Shall we think about this? Shall we figure it out? Yes, these are questions, but they're also propositions! In fact, forming your propositive sentences in this way is a softer, more respectful way of doing it. And you know how Koreans appreciate respect!
I SHOULD TALK TO MY WIFE FIRST

Okay, if you look closely at this ending, you might notice something familiar. It includes the future ending, doesn't it? We've learned about that one recently. And it makes sense that the future ending would be included in this propositive form, because in English we translate it into "Shall we…?" "Shall" is the future tense form of "should," so there you have it! As you can see, we're still going to use ဨ (na), and sometimes Ⴀ (na), in these sentences as well. Now, shall we practice?

21.3 [Uri taeum chue sane kalkkayo?]
Shall we go hiking next week?

21.4 [Uri kachi kongbuhalkkayo?]
Shall we study together?

21.5 [Uri kachi yeonghwa polkkayo?]
Shall we watch a movie together?

21.6 [Uri kyeolhonhalkkayo?]
Shall we get married?

Oops, I'm sorry…but I'm already married. I can't accept your proposal. But if I hadn't gotten married, I'd consider it. (Uh-oh, where's my wife? Please don't show this page of the book to her. ^^)

If I hadn't gotten married…

The word "if" is a useful one. Let's think about a scenario. A friend of yours asks you to lend him a large sum of money, but you don't have it. So you might respond, "Of course I'll lend you the money, if you lend it to me first." If it weren't for the word "if," you'd have no choice but to lend your money! And nobody wants that. So let's learn how to express the meaning of "if." Of course, this is done through another conjugative tool, in this case the conditional or suppositive ending:

If I hadn't gotten married…

belongs to conjugation pattern 3, remember? I know you've seen it before. If the stem of the verb or adjective ends with a consonant, you need to add Ⴀ before ဨ for the convenience of pronunciation. In the sentence above, you can see this happen when the ending is added to the past-tense stem of Ⴀ Manit:

Oh, I bet you're still wondering how to say that bit about the money lending, right? Ha, I knew it! Let's look:

21.7 [Naega kyeolhoneul an haesseumyeon…]
If I hadn't gotten married…

belongs to conjugation pattern 3, remember? I know you've seen it before. If the stem of the verb or adjective ends with a consonant, you need to add Ⴀ before ဨ for the convenience of pronunciation. In the sentence above, you can see this happen when the ending is added to the past-tense stem of Ⴀ Manit:

In these two sentences, we can see two uses of the conditional ending: Ⴀ and Ⴀ. The first is Ⴀ + Ⴀ, while the second is Ⴀ + Ⴀ. I can't stress it enough: remember to always pay attention to whether the stem ends in a consonant or a vowel.

Anyway, in my case, before I lend you any money, I really should get permission from my banker…my wife.
CHAPTER 21
Should, should not

So how would I express obligation to you in Korean, that I "should" or "have to" do something? For those of us who are married or in a serious relationship, this is an important one, right? And, just like relationships can be quite complicated at times, the ending for this one isn't too simple. It follows the rules of pattern 5, the most difficult, and here it is:

You conjugate the principal verb using this ending, and then add the verb after it. So the full expression is.

Check it out:

I should talk to my wife first.

Remember the rules of vowel contraction? That's why, when we add the ending to the verb stem, we get. Likewise, the honorific form 1 ending attached to the verb stem gives us.

Okay, and what's the only thing more important than knowing what you should do? Right—what you should not do! This is an expression of prohibition, and actually it's a form of negation. Sound familiar? Of course, following what you learned in the last chapter, you might be tempted to simply turn the verb into a negative by saying. And you'd be correct! But in this case, you don't use the ending for the main verb, but rather the conditional. So the final product for the prohibitive expression is.

Hmm…what do you tell people not to do?

Don't work too hard. (All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.)

Don't quit smoking. (Think of all those poor employees of tobacco companies who will lose their jobs. ^^)

As you can see, I have a problem with being late! But the people in my life have always managed to keep me under control. Of course, sometimes they use "don't" instead of "you should not" when they tell me these things: "Don't be late for school." "Don't be late for work." These are negative commands (imperatives). Again, this relates back to what we studied in the previous chapter. Remember the endings ("do not") and ("cannot")? Similarly, the formation of a negative imperative is going to employ the ending. It's. We'll usually conjugate the verb using the honorific suffix. After all, you're telling someone what not to do, so you need to soften it up as much as you can. This gives us a set expression of.
I SHOULD TALK TO MY WIFE FIRST

Don’t reduce your drinking. (It will deprive your significant other of the pleasure of nagging you!)

Hmm…I’m unsure of the quality of advice I’m giving you, but at least you’ll remember this expression now. ^^

Phew! That’s a lot of propositives and imperatives we just learned! Shall we review quickly?

1. In Korean, to make a proposal, you can simply add and to your sentence, or use the propositive ending.

2. To express the idea of “if,” use the conditional ending (and).

3. By conjugating a verb with the ending and then adding the verb, you can tell someone what they “should” do.

4. Conversely, to say “should not,” you use the expression (and).

5. And lastly, to create the meaning of “don’t,” use the expression.

Look at all the versatility you’ve just added to your repertoire. Slowly but surely, you’re building up quite the bag of Korean tricks!

Further Vocabulary: Interjections

What! Have I not taught you interjections yet!? Holy…

[EO] ah…

[KEULSSE] well…

[EUM] um…

[CHEO] well…, um…

[AA] oh, ah!

[AIGO] oh!, oops!, my goodness!

[WA] wow!

[AHA] aha!

[SESANGE] boy!
Korean Style: Korean proverbs

The more Korean you learn, the more interesting it gets, right? One thing I can teach now that you've progressed so far is Korean proverbs. Because proverbs are supposed to be allegorical, they can be confusing for beginners. Lucky for you, I'm here to explain everything to you. And once you learn how to use these proverbs correctly, your Korean will be considered excellent! Here are a few of the simpler Korean proverbs:

\[ \text{kaneun mari kowaya oneun maldo kopda} \]

Lit. Talk to others nicely and they will talk to you nicely, too. This one's easy, right? It's the equivalent of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

\[ \text{kajaeneun ke pyeonida} \]

Lit. Crawfish are on the side of the crab. Do you know what crawfish and crabs look like? I'm not sure what exact species this proverb is referring to, but the point is they have a similar appearance. So this one means, "People stick up for their own kind."

\[ \text{nanmareun saega teutgo pammareun chwiga teunneunda} \]

Lit. Birds may hear you during the day and rats at night. Yes. These days animals are quite smart, and they can understand your spoken language, even Korean! Be careful of what you say out loud, because "The walls have ears."

\[ \text{ttwineun nom wie naneun nomi itda} \]

Lit. When you are running, someone is flying. This one seems strange to me. After all, humans can't fly, can they? Maybe it's talking about people in a plane. Anyway, the meaning is, "There is always someone one step ahead of you."

\[ \text{paeboda paekkobi teo keuda} \]

Lit. The belly button is bigger than the belly. What? This one's funny, right? How can your belly button be bigger than your belly? But hey, stranger things have happened! In this case, we're talking about a case in which "the tail is wagging the dog." In other words, something of an otherwise minor importance has taken over the situation.
As we’ve discussed before, it’s often the little words in a language that are most important. Just think about how many times a day you use the words “the” and “a” in English conversation. Oops, and there’s another one too: “and”! That’s an essential one, isn’t it? Yes, it is, which is why we’re going to start out this chapter by covering this and similar words—known in English as conjunctions, or conjunctive adverbs.

**Conjunctive adverbs**

But what exactly are conjunctive adverbs? You know, it’s funny how sometimes native speakers don’t know much about the structure of their language. They just speak it! That’s one great thing about learning another language: you get to find out things about your own.

There are different kinds of conjunctive adverbs in English, but the simplest are little words like “and,” “but,” and “so” that connect two clauses or two complete sentences. For example, the conjunction “and” lets you turn this:

> I ate two pizzas for lunch. I’ll eat one more for dinner.

into this:

> I ate two pizzas for lunch, and I’ll eat one more for dinner.

Similarly, we have “but,” which combines these two:

> I usually eat two servings of spaghetti for breakfast. Today I only ate one.

into a single sentence:

> I usually eat two servings of spaghetti for breakfast, but today I only ate one.

And finally, “so” lets us take this:

> I only had ten candy bars today. Now I’m really hungry.

and change it to this:

> I only had ten candy bars today, so now I’m really hungry.

Hmm…these sentences are pretty strange, but for some reason I’m really hungry all of a sudden!

Anyway, my point is that in English these words can be inserted between two clauses or sentences to connect the ideas and form a new complete sentence. But in Korean it’s different. Now, I’m not saying Korean doesn’t have conjunctive adverbs—that would make for a pretty short chapter, wouldn’t it!? Actually, there do exist individual...
words for these conjunctions, but when you use them to connect two ideas, they're expressed through…your favorite…

Hey, come on, don't roll your eyes! After all, you should be familiar with this idea, because we've already learned one example, the ending:

\[ \text{-ending: }  \text{ jsonObject chuk kaseo oenjjogeuro toseyo.} \]

And, as I'm sure you recall, this ending has two meanings: "and then" and "so/therefore." Hmm…are you doubting that you've studied this before? I think you're just in denial. Allow me to refresh your memory with the example sentences we used in chapters 16 and 20.

22.1

\[ \text{Go straight this way and then turn left.} \]

22.2

\[ \text{I was sick so I couldn't go to the office today.} \]

Okay, the conjunctive adverbs used here ("and then" and "so/therefore") are expressed by conjugating the verb of the first clause with the ending

\[ \text{ending: } \text{ jsonObject chuk kaseo oenjjogeuro toseyo.} \]

Of course, it's possible to divide each of these sentences into two clauses, in which case the adverbs would be rendered instead as full, independent words. This makes for a pretty simplistic way of speaking, but let's check it out anyway.

For "and then," you can say

\[ \text{and: } \text{ jsonObject chuk kaseo oenjjogeuro toseyo.} \]

while "so/therefore" becomes

\[ \text{therefore: } \text{ jsonObject chuk kaseo oenjjogeuro toseyo.} \]

Giving us:

22.3

\[ \text{Go straight this way. And then turn left.} \]

22.4

\[ \text{I was sick. So I couldn't go to the office today.} \]

Does that make sense? Obviously, it sounds smoother to use the conjugative ending, but either way works. So let's go on to look at two extremely common conjunctive adverbs: "and" and "but." Conjugating verbs and adjectives to add these meanings is quite easy, because both endings follow pattern 1. The ending for "and" is

\[ \text{and: } \text{ jsonObject chuk kaseo oenjjogeuro toseyo.} \]

whereas the one for "but" is

\[ \text{but: } \text{ jsonObject chuk kaseo oenjjogeuro toseyo.} \]

And then, the stand-alone conjunctions are

\[ \text{and: } \text{ jsonObject chuk kaseo oenjjogeuro toseyo.} \]

respectively. Here they are in context:

22.5

\[ \text{I sleep during the day and wake up at night.} \]

22.6

\[ \text{I sleep during the day. And I wake up at night.} \]

22.7

\[ \text{I was busy last month, but I'm free this month.} \]

22.8

\[ \text{I was busy last month. But I'm free this month.} \]
Let's sum this all up with a handy table, shall we?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Conjugative ending</th>
<th>Independent conjunctive adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>and then</td>
<td>ྷ ད ཥ ཧ ལ ཇ ར ཨ ས ཉ འ ཨ ས ཊ ཕ ཤ ས ཡ ཚ ཤ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར</td>
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<td>so, therefore</td>
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<td>and</td>
<td>ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར</td>
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<td>but</td>
<td>ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Maybe you’re wondering why all of the independent conjunctive adverb words begin with ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར . This is because they’re all derived from the verb ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར | (“to do so”), or the adjective ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར | (“like so”). So, literally, ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར | means “after doing so,” ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར | means “because of doing so,” and ར ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར ས འ ཨ ས ཊ ཙ ལ ར ལ ར | means “despite doing so.”

Interesting, huh?

Frequency adverbs

There are tons of adverbs in Korean, just like there are in English. But I’m a nice guy, right? So of course I’m not going to introduce all of them in this book. Instead, we’re just looking at some of the most special. Keeping that in mind, let me usher in the second type: frequency adverbs.

Frequency adverbs are used to describe how often (or, um, frequently ^;^) an action takes place. Can you think of some examples of these? Sure you can! There’s “usually,” “sometimes,” “(not) at all,” “often,” “always”… And then, can you arrange them in order from the lowest to the highest frequency? I believe you can. Using this order, I’ll create some examples for you:

22.9 旄ඟ ຂඟ (Cheoneun ibeon chue cheonhyeo ssitji anasseoyo.)

I didn’t wash myself this week at all.

22.10 旄ඟ ຂඟ ຂ/org (Cheoneun kakkeum shyaweoreul haeyo.)

I sometimes take a shower.

22.11 旄ඟ ຂඟ ᐽඟ (Cheoneun potong soneul an ssitgo pabeul meogeoyo.)

I usually eat without washing my hands.

22.12 旄ඟ ᐽඟ ຂඟ (Cheoneun i tangneun ireul chaju ijeoyo.)

I often forget to brush my teeth.

22.13 旄ඟ ᐽඟ ຂඟ (Cheoneun meorieseo hangsang naemsaega nayo.)

My hair always smells.
Stop! Please stop this! Oh, why? Please improve your hygiene, if not for your own health, then for mine! Phew. Sorry, I’m a little finicky when it comes to cleanliness. Anyway, you get the idea of frequency adverbs, right? Rather than belaboring the point, let’s move on to another important category: comparatives and superlatives.

More, Most

When I was little, I’d often hear this question: “Who do you like more, your mommy or your daddy?” This isn’t a very common question in the Western world, but in Korea children are asked this a lot. I always thought it was silly, because it was so easy to answer: “Whoever pays my allowance!” I doubt you’ll get asked this question in Korea, but there are others that follow the same principle. For example, maybe you’ll hear this:

.Column

Between the U.S. and Canada, which is larger?

Hmm…let me see. Actually, I don’t know the answer to this one. But frankly, it’s not really that important to me. I’m a lot more interested in which is larger, my house or my neighbor’s. So instead of paying attention to the particular meaning of the question, let’s focus on the adverb, which has the meaning of “more.” In English, it can be quite confusing to know whether to make a comparative by saying “more” or adding the comparative suffix “-er” to the end of the word. I mean, think about “fun.” Is it “more fun,” or “funner,” I still don’t know! In Korean, though, you don’t have to worry about that. Just add before any adjective…it even works for verbs, too!

And what about the element in the sentence? When two choices are being discussed, you put the word after them to mean “between” or “among.” means “middle,” but its meaning changes with the particle.

Okay… I’ve had a little time for some research, so I’ll ask again: which one is larger? No idea? Here’s the answer:

Canada is larger than the U.S.

Interesting, huh? It’s tempting to say that the U.S. is bigger, but actually it’s Canada that has more land area by just a bit. But what’s that particle stuck on the end of the first noun? What could that mean? That’s right, it’s the equivalent of “than”! The particle goes on the end of the first object being compared, the one that corresponds to the “less” portion of the comparison. And then the word goes directly before the verb or adjective. So remember, …

So now you know “more,” but what about “most”—the superlative? Just as before, you never have to worry about whether you need to include the separate word “most” or tack on “-est” to the end of the word. In Korean, all you need to do is put before the verb or adjective. So we can say:

What color do you like most?

I like white most.
CANADA IS LARGER THAN THE U.S.  

Just like ฤ is the equivalent of the comparative "more" in English, 昶ၢ is the superlative "most." See how that works? Easy!

Well, we've spent a lot of time together now…22 chapters' worth, right!? And I can honestly say that I like you more than any other language study partner. I'm having the most fun guiding you through the world of Korean!

Further Vocabulary: More conjunctive adverbs

Don't stop now! Here are some more handy adverbs to help you put your sentences together.

- _assoc [keureona] but, however (used more in writing than in conversation)
- _assoc [hajiman] but, however (used in both writing and in conversation)
- _assoc [keureonikka] so
- _assoc [ttoneun] or
- _assoc [keureomeuro] therefore, accordingly
- _assoc [hanpyeon] meanwhile
- _assoc [keureonde] by the way, however
- _assoc [eojjaetdeun] anyway

Korean Style: He's an owl.

An owl!? Is there a legend of some sort of owl man in Korea, like the American Batman or Spiderman? Well, anything's possible. There certainly could be a man who was bitten by a strange owl and was given super powers. But not in this case!

If someone says _assoc [cheongmalro], they're saying that the person doesn't sleep at night, but during the day instead.

_assoc [cheongmalro] really
_assoc [olppaemi] owl
_assoc [olppaemi] means "owl," and of course you know owls are nocturnal. There's a similar expression in English, isn't there? You can describe someone as a "night owl." But it doesn't stop there, because Koreans frequently use lots of other animal comparisons to describe people. Check out the list:

- _assoc [Keu saram cheongmalro olppaemiyeyo.]
  He/she's a real owl. (He/she is awake at night and asleep during the day.)
- _assoc [Keu yeojaneun yeouyeyo.]
  She's a fox. (She's sly.) (Careful—this doesn't refer to looks like it does in English!)
- _assoc [Namjadeureun ta neukdaeyeyo.]
  All men are wolves. (Men are no good.)
- _assoc [Che nampyeoneun komieyo.]
  My husband is a bear. (My husband is slow-moving.) or, (My husband is insensitive.)
- _assoc [Keureoke mani meogeumyeon twaejiga toel keoyeyo.]
  If you eat so much, you'll become a pig. (If you eat so much, you'll get fat.) (Be careful! This can be quite offensive.)
- _assoc [Keu sarameun mul aneseoneun wanjeonhi mulgaeyeyo.]
  He/she is a perfect seal in water. (He/she swims very well.)

Which animal are you?
Remember learning the multiplication tables in elementary school? We all thought it was pretty tough at first, but our teachers made us practice, practice, and practice some more, and eventually we made it! Well, most of us, anyway. ^^ But don’t worry if you still have trouble remembering what 9 times 7 is. What I want to talk about in this chapter is much easier—we’re going to learn to count!

We’ve been focused on words so much throughout the book that we’ve nearly overlooked numbers. But numbers are essential parts of a language, right? After all, if you don’t know your numbers, how are you going to ask for the proper change back when you buy a soda, or what will you do when a new friend wants to give you their cell number? Phew—good thing we’re learning this now!

But hold on…I have a little bit of bad news first. You know how Korean is simpler than English in some ways but more complex in others? Well, guess which one applies here. That’s right, we have some complexity. In Korean, there are actually two number systems. Two!? That’s right, two. But why!? The answer is simple: one system is pure Korean, created by Koreans and used since the beginning of the language. The second one comes from Chinese. Remember that both Korean language and society have been strongly influenced by China, so it’s really no surprise this other number system was adopted, too.

Unfortunately, the two number systems are not interchangeable. One is used for some things, the other for others. So not only do you have to memorize two different words for each number, but you also have to learn the proper circumstances for using each system! Tough, I know. But hey, I’m here to help, so don’t despair! Mastery of these number systems will come quicker than you think, just as your multiplication tables did.

Sino-Korean
As it turns out, the Chinese-influenced (or Sino-Korean) numbers are a little easier and more systematic. So let’s tackle those first. Ready? 3, 2, 1…begin!

23.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Sino-Korean</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>일 (il)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>이 (ii)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>삼 (sam)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>사 (sa)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>오 (o)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>여섯 (yuk)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>칠 (chil)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>팔 (pal)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>구 (ku)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>십 (ship)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One, Two, Three…
Longrightarrow

Counting: Numbers and Counting Units
CHAPTER 23
If you've studied other East Asian languages, like Japanese, you might notice these are quite similar to the counting systems in those languages. Why's that? Well, Korea isn't the only culture China has affected! But, hmm... did you notice something strange in this list? Yeah, why are there two different ways to say 0?

Actually, in almost all cases ༱ is the correct form to use. But for some reason, when people are giving out their telephone number, they prefer to say ༴ instead. Here, let me give you an example using my cell number. Just... uh... don't try to call me. ^;^

010-1234-5678

How would you say this number? That's right: ༴ၦ, ၬင, ༱༠. Notice that for telephone numbers you say each number individually. I know in English you like to get fancy and say "twelve" or "fifty-six, seventy-eight," but in Korea we don't do that. Just keep it simple! The same goes for numbers that are repeated, like this: 007. How do you say that? Yes, it's ༴လ[konggongchil]. There's no "double-oh" here, got it?!

Okay, so far so good. Are you ready for more? How about 11 through 20? This is where that simplicity I promised comes in. Notice that 11 through 19 are exactly the same as 1 through 9, only they have ༱, the word for 10, in front of them. Even though this is the opposite of English—we say "seven-teen," not "ten-seven"—it's still quite logical and makes learning Sino-Korean numbers a breeze. Actually, I like this better than the English system, but of course, I'm biased. ^^
I don't even need to explain what's going on here, do I? So let's keep going:

No, don't stop there!

Wow! "Why would I ever need to count so high?" you may be asking. But remember, it takes about 1,000 units of the Korean currency, the won, to equal 1 U.S. dollar. So, when money's involved, things can add up fast.

Now, you may have noticed above that Sino-Korean has a totally separate name for the number 10,000. It's not just 10 (うちに) + 1,000 (으리), but rather (아리). In English counting, you place a comma after every three digits, right? But Sino-Korean numbers were originally broken up into units of four digits instead of just three. This can create some confusion in modern times, as the three-digit units have come to be commonly used. There are some in Korea who advocate switching back to four-digit increments, but this isn't likely to happen. However, for the purpose of our understanding, let's see what that would look like:

The number names make a bit more sense when you look at them this way, don't they?

I want to mention one more thing about Sino-Korean numbers. In English, we always pronounce 100 as "one hundred," never simply "hundred." But with Sino-Korean numbers, it's more common to omit the "one" when it comes in front of 100 (하백), 1,000 (하천), or 10,000 (하만).

So 132 is not 一百三十, but 삼십여. 1,567 is not 五百六十, but 육백여. And 13,982 is not 一万三千九百八十二, but rather 一万三千九百八十二. For 100,000,000 (一億), though, you need the 一.
Pure Korean

Great! Halfway done. It's time to take on the pure Korean numbers, which aren't quite as easy as the Sino-Korean, but still relatively simple. There's no pure-Korean word for 0, so we'll start with 1 through 10:

1: Ⴑአ [hana]
2: Ⴁ [tul]
3: Ⴉ [set]
4: Ⴃ [net]
5: Ⴏ�Prefab [taseot]
6: ཽPrefab [yeoseot]
7: ႯPrefab [ilgop]
8: ལPrefab [yeodeol]
9: ཊPrefab [ahop]
10: ལPrefab [yeol]

Nope, these shouldn't remind you of any other language. They're pure Korean!

Lucky for you, 11 through 19 are formed using the same pattern as the Sino-Korean numbers (e.g., 10 + 1). So we have:

11: ႱአPrefab [yeolhana]
12: ႱPrefab [yeoldul]
13: ႱPrefab [yeolset]
14: ႱPrefab [yeolnet]
15: ႱPrefab [yeoldaseot]
16: ႱPrefab [yeolyeoseot]
17: ႱPrefab [yeolilgop]
18: ႱPrefab [yeolyeodeol]
19: ႱPrefab [yeolahop]

And now, what about 20? Will it be ႡPrefab? Oh, I wish it were that easy, but that's wrong! Koreans have another unique name for 20:

Prefab. Likewise, 30 is not ႨPrefab, but ႛPrefab. Check it out:

20:Prefab [seumul]
21:Prefab [seumulhana]
22:Prefab [seumuldul]
...
30:Prefab [seoreun]
40:Prefab [maheun]
50:Prefab [shwin]
60:Prefab [yesun]
70:Prefab [ilheun]
80:Prefab [yeodeun]
90:Prefab [aheun]

That's it! Just as there's no pure-Korean word for 0, there aren't any for anything higher than 99. Instead, the Sino-Korean terms are always used for these.

Want to hear something funny? Koreans have these two counting systems, but the truth is many of them find it awkward to learn so many different number names, especially those in the younger generation. What you'll find is that the majority of people only use pure-Korean numbers up to 19 and then switch over to Sino-Korean because...
they're easier, even in cases when the pure-Korean is called for! So, even if you only feel like learning the first 19 pure-Korean numbers, chances are you'll be just fine.

Counting units

Okay, we can't end our discussion of numbers and counting without an explanation of counting units. And what are these? Well, in English, when you want to tell someone how much money you have in your pocket, you don't just say "I have 32." You have to specify what you're talking about: "I have 32 dollars." This is a counting unit, and Korean is full of special words that function as counting units for different things. And, as you could probably guess, some are used only with Sino-Korean numbers and others only with pure-Korean.

Sino-Korean counting units mainly deal with time, and here are some important ones:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Korean Counting Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>նշ (nyeon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.10</td>
<td>影音 (weol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.11</td>
<td>Ulus (il)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.12</td>
<td>ัส (pun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.13</td>
<td>Accordion (cho)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don't worry about these now, because you'll get very familiar with them in chapters 25 and 26.

Pure-Korean counting units, on the other hand, are numerous and varied. What's more, when you use a counting unit with pure-Korean numbers 1 through 4, the number names contract a little bit. Confusing? Here's what I mean:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Original Name</th>
<th>With a Counting Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>պատ (han)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ջն (tu)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ե (se)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ե (ne)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Naturally, this applies for 11 through 14 as well:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Original Name</th>
<th>With a Counting Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>ե (yeolhan)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>ջն (yeoldu)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>ե (yeolse)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ե (yeolne)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There's no need to learn all the counting units right this instant, but let me just show you some of the most common so you can get an idea of what I'm talking about.

When you count people, you put սար (saram) or միու (myeong) after the number. This would give you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Counting Unit</th>
<th>With a Counting Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ե (se)</td>
<td>սար (saram)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ե (ne)</td>
<td>միու (myeong)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Of course, to be respectful you should use the honorific form of "person" instead, which is ึ. This creates:

23.15 ุ, 4 ึ, …

For counting generic items, the unit ੭[kae] is used. With ੭, however, you need to specify what it is you're counting. So:

23.16 ຫሱ 10 ੭ ("ten candies")
23.17 ၡၴ 11 ੭ ("eleven chairs")

That's it! Have a look at the Further Vocabulary section for more information on pure-Korean counting units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Further Vocabulary: Counting units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counting unit Type of item Example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૔ [mari] animals ૯ય(&quot;three bears&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૟ [keuru] trees ੫ඳ(&quot;four pines&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ೝ [tae] cars ૮〔(&quot;ten cars&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ૠ [peol] pairs, sets ૧〔(&quot;two pairs of jeans&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૝ [kweon] volumes, books ੨〔(&quot;seven books&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ૣ [peon] times ૪〔(&quot;eleven times&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૥ [pyeong] bottles ૦〔(&quot;one bottle of beer&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૧ [chan] glasses, cups ૫〔(&quot;five cups of water&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૤ [sal] years of age ૩〔(&quot;twelve years old&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૨ [shigan] hours ૬〔(&quot;six hours&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૩ [shi] o'clock ૦〔(&quot;nine o'clock&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૷ [chang] sheets ૭〔(&quot;fifteen sheets of paper&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>૤〔[kyeolre] pairs of shoes ૮〔(&quot;eight pairs of shoes&quot;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When I count to 3, you'll be finished with this chapter.
Korean Style: The Three-Six-Nine Game

Chapter 23

Everyone likes a good, fun group game, right? This one's particularly popular in orientation sessions and team-building seminars, as well as at most local bars on a weekend night. If you spend more than a couple weeks in Korea, I'm almost positive you'll play this at least once. So you'd better practice now! And, as it turns out, this game is perfect for learning your numbers. It's called the 3-6-9 game.

Okay, first get yourself a group of people—size doesn't matter, but the more the merrier—and circle round. The basic principle of the game is actually quite simple. Going in a circle and taking turns, each person says a Sino-Korean number in order starting from 1. Only, when you get to a number that contains a 3, 6, or 9, you have to clap your hands instead of speaking the number. If you clap your hands when you're not supposed to, or you say the number when you're supposed to clap, you get a penalty. Let's look at how the game starts off:

1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54

Pretty easy, right? But what happens when you get to 30!? Ah! All the numbers have 3s in them!

33, 36, and 39 are the worst, because you have to clap twice! Yikes!

The second crisis comes when you hit the 60s.

What do you think? Does it still seem a little too easy to be fun? Just remember—a lot of times you'll be playing this after knocking back a pint or two of Cass or OB. And also, if you make a mistake, the rest of your group gets to decide your punishment! One thing's for sure: after a few rounds of the 3-6-9 game, you'll know your numbers!
Korean cities like Seoul and Busan are bustling metropolises where you can find all kinds of people doing and selling all kinds of things. 

In Seoul’s upscale shopping district, and its largest traditional market, are two popular spots for foreigners to visit, both to shop and simply to watch the action.

If your sole purpose for going is the latter, well then you can just skip this chapter! But if you’re ever planning on buying something here or elsewhere in the country, you’re going to need to learn some key shopping expressions, right? Right. We’ll start out with something easy. How do you say “shopping” in Korean? Hey, guess what? It’s just!

So, you’ve been around, and you’ve finally found something you want to buy. Most likely, the store clerk has already spotted you and will come over to say:

**May I help with anything?**

I’m sure you recognize the propositive ending, right?

---

**How Much Is This?**

**How to Shop**

---

Korean cities like Seoul and Busan are bustling metropolises where you can find all kinds of people doing and selling all kinds of things. This resource offers essential phrases and insights into Korean culture, providing a comprehensive guide for visitors and travelers. Whether you're interested in exploring the vibrant markets, engaging with locals, or understanding the local customs, this chapter offers valuable information. By the end of this chapter, you’ll have a solid foundation for navigating the complexities of shopping in Korean-speaking territories, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience.
Likewise, this form can make a command sound nicer. So if you do in fact need the clerk's help, don't say *
Nobody's going to want to help you if that's what they hear. Instead, you should say *, looking as helpless as possible.

By the way, what are you hoping to buy? A (*"cell phone")? A (*"watch")? Or are you just window shopping? In Korean, people use the term (*"eye shopping") when they're simply looking around without anything specific in mind. Don't think they're actually shopping for eyes! But if that's what you're doing, then how would you tell the clerk, "I'm just looking around so I don't need your help. If you'll only leave me alone I might buy all the things in this shop!"? Basically, like this:

24.2 *

I'm okay. I'm just looking around.

Very nice! Upon hearing this, the clerk will retreat to wherever he was sitting before, defeated by your expert Korean. But, oops…wait! You've just found some clothes you love and you really want to try them on. Hurry, catch him before he sits down and ask:

24.3 *

May I try on these clothes?

Ordinarily, the verb * means "to see." But just as we learned above, conjugating a verb with the ending * changes its meaning. It now signifies "to give something a try." But there's actually a second expression being used in the sentence above: *

is the verb for "to become," remember? And guess what? That's right, in this case it has nothing to do with "becoming," but rather it's how you ask permission to do something. (Incidentally, the expressions *

( for obligation) and *

( for prohibition), which we learned in chapter 21, use the verb * as well.)

So, using a combination of the two expressions we just covered, the final product is *

is the contracted form of *, and *

is the contracted form of *.

This is a very polite expression, and it's important to use it while shopping. The customer is king, of course, but you still need to ask permission nicely to try something on. After all, they're not your clothes yet; they're still the shop owner's! But once you honor him with your polite speech, he's sure to respond:

24.4 *

Sure. Try them on.

Next, you'll be ushered into a tiny room where you can put on the clothes and…poof! You'll be transformed into a different person. Your clerk will no doubt have some flattering things to say about your new look, eyeing that money burning a hole in your pocket. But remember, there's no hurry. We have time for some serious negotiation here. First, ask the price:

24.5 *

How much is this?

The "eolmayeyo?" is a shortened form of * (for obligation) and * (for prohibition), which we learned in chapter 21.
"How much is this?"

When you inquire about a price, the key is the noun ࿑ൠ, meaning "how much" or "what."

Right, and now the moment of truth:

24.6

[Man weonieyo.]

You remember པ, right? It's the Korean currency. Good. And then how much is ཭'? No? Can't remember?

Okay, I give you permission to flip back to the previous chapter and find out. Or, better yet, let's figure it out here.

Keep in mind, the origin of Sino-Korean number names is based on four digits separated by commas, not just three. So 10 is ཊ, 100 is ັ, 1,000 is ཤ, and 10,000 is ཊMontserrat. But 10,000 has its own name, rather than being a combination of 10 + 1,000. And that name is ཧ, of course.

Now, you've been given a price of ཧ, but how much is that really? If you're not familiar with the value of the Korean currency, it might sound like a lot, right? Well, here's a good guideline for remembering the worth of the won. As of 2009, a Big Mac costs about 3,300 ལ. In that case, ཧ is just enough to give yourself a heart attack by eating three burgers! Wow!

So, do you think those jeans you just tried on are worth three Big Macs? If not, then you're in luck, because Korea is by and large a haggling society. You can't do this in a department store, where the salespeople will look down their noses at you if you try to ask for a discount, but in traditional markets, it's quite appropriate to put your bargaining skills to use.

Your clerk has suggested ཧ for this pair of designer jeans. Even if you think this is already the best deal in the world, you can still try to whittle it down by saying:

24.7

[Neomu pissayo.]

It's too expensive.

෋expensive

[Pissada] expensive

Ah, let the haggling begin. Don't let up now! You have to continue your attack. Instead of just saying "it's too expensive," you have to ask him to discount the price for you:

24.8

[Kkakka chuseyo.]

Please give me a discount.

The verb ཧ, in a general sense, means "to cut" (as in a carrot, or one's hair), but it's also used for "to discount." And, as you can see, you're using the expression ཧ that we learned above, both politely and desperately asking the favor of a lower price.

And what happens next? Who can say? Whether or not you'll get a discount depends on the clerk, as well as how expertly you can use your Korean. But if you succeed and he asks you afterwards, "Where the heck did you learn this practical, cut-throat Korean?" don't forget to say, "Why, from Korean for Beginners, of course!"
Further Vocabulary: Shopping

Ah, the joys of the Korean market. Here are some more words to help you make your visit there a worthwhile one.

- [sada] to buy
- [ssada] cheap, inexpensive
- [palda] to sell
- [pissada] expensive, costly
- [don] money
- [ipda] to put on, wear
- [naeda] to pay, give
- [peotda] to take off, undress
- [kap] price

Korean Style: Korean euphemisms

My wife has an interesting habit. Maybe you know someone who's the same way. When she goes shopping for clothes, she likes to try on practically everything in the store, but she hardly ever finds something she likes enough to buy. As she's leaving, the clerk will ask her if there's anything she'd like to purchase, but she just says (I'll buy something next time.). Of course, she won't. But she doesn't want to hurt the shopkeeper's feelings by telling him I don't like your clothes.

In English, we call this a white lie, right? White lies are little untruths we tell people in order to spare them unnecessary pain. For instance, you tell your sister she has a nice singing voice even though she sounds like a dying cat. Or you might reassure your friend that his new haircut doesn't look that bad, when all you really want to do is point and laugh. Another term for a white lie is a euphemism.

Euphemisms and other indirect, polite forms of speech have developed in Korean, too. And, unlike the Korean proverbs we learned a little while back, these are pretty easy to understand. See for yourself:

Lit. My father went away to heaven when I was three.

Lit. My father returned when I was three.

Lit. My father died when I was three.

Time

Return

Sky, heaven

To die

Country, nation

Just like in English, Koreans sometimes use softer speech like this when they're talking about death, as saying the word directly can be taken as harsh or insensitive in some instances. Here's another example:

Let me go to restroom.

In English, we say "restroom" in place of "toilet" to be polite, even though it's not actually a room for resting. Similarly, Koreans say, which literally means a place where people put on makeup, despite the fact that men (well, most men ^^) don't use it for that purpose.
And finally, compare these sentences:

1. Lit. I slipped the driver's license test.
2. Lit. I seaweed soup-ed the driver's license test.
3. I failed the driver's license test.

Wow, these are pretty strange, aren't they? I mean, using "to slip" in place of "to fail" makes a little bit of sense, but what's with the seaweed soup? Well, if you've ever had the pleasure of eating this dish, you'll know that the seaweed is quite slippery. Hence, it's sometimes used as a euphemism for "to fail" in the same way "to slip" is!
"Excuse me, do you have the time?"

What a useful question this is, especially if you’re like me and don’t typically wear a watch. We should probably learn how to ask for this information before the book comes to an end, wouldn’t you agree?

So, to ask “what” time it is, you need a word for “what,” don’t you? We’ve looked at this issue a little bit already…waaaaaaay back in chapter 11. There was the basic form of the word, ັཛ ක ັ, and then its contracted spoken form, ັ.

In this case, though, we need a modifier version of “what,” because it’s going to be interacting with the word “time.” Usually, when you want to use ັ as a modifier, you’ll say ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ ັ Lily is the name of the girl I love.
WHAT TIME IS IT?    131

Very good! Oh, but wait…how does the listener know if it's a.m. or p.m.? Well, they could just stick their head out the window, for one thing. ^;^ But, if you're someone who's obsessed with identifying the time exactly, just add ("a.m."), ("p.m."), ("in the morning"), ("in the evening"), or ("at night") before the time, depending on what meaning you want. So,

25.3 ("Ohu yeoseot shiyeyo.") It's six o'clock p.m.
25.4 ("Achim yeoseot shiyeyo.") It's six o'clock in the morning.
25.5 ("Cheonyeok yeoseot shiyeyo.") It's six o'clock in the evening.

Hmm…that took a few minutes to explain. Now it's ten past six, so how would you say this? Hey, I told you, banish the thought of "past" from your mind. All you have to say is "six ten":

25.6 ("Yeoseot shi ship punieyo.")

And remember, this is the only tricky part: don't say ("past"), or ("to"). It's pure Korean for ("past"), Sino-Korean for ("to").

Okay, pop quiz: it's 10:15 at night.

25.7 ("Pam yeol shi shibo punieyo.")

As I said, there's no word for "quarter" in Korean. (15) is all you need.

Half, to

Okay, so maybe I've simplified the idea of telling time just a bit. It's true that there's no word for "quarter," but there does happen to be one for "half," and it's ("pan"). In fact, it's pretty commonly used in place of 30. Only, when you say it, you don't need to attach ("to"). So it's ("pan") or ("pan"). Oops, how the time is flying! It's already 7:30:

25.8 or 25.9 ("Yeone shi ship punieyo.")

And finally, there's an expression for "to," as in "five to eleven." However, you still follow the order of hour-minute when you say this, and you use a word not for "to," but for "before":

25.10 ("Yeolhan shi o pun cheonieyo.")

It's five to eleven.

Great! That's all you need to know about telling time. Naturally, you should be able to give me all these times in Korean:

3:10 p.m.
5:30 a.m.
12:45
8:55
25.11 3:10 p.m.:

25.12 5:30 a.m.:

25.13 12:45:

25.14 8:55:

Now you are the master of the clock!

I realize it's late, but before we go I want to show you another use for the modifier .Fail. It's good for asking other things besides the time, such as "how many" of something there are. To do this, you insert .Fail between a noun and its counting unit. Hey, this is the perfect opportunity to show off what you studied in chapter 23, right?

25.15 [Eoje chaek myeot kweon sasseoyo?] How many books did you buy yesterday?

25.16 [Sagwa myeot kae meogeosseoyo?] How many apples did you eat?

25.17 [Seoureseo pusankkaji KTX(keitiekseu)ro myeot shigan keolryeoyo?] How many hours is it from Seoul to Busan by KTX?

If you run into a situation where for some reason you can't remember which counting unit to use, don't despair. Instead, you can substitute the word .Fail. This should look familiar, right? In the last chapter, we learned the noun .Fail, which is used for asking the price of something. .Fail is an adverb form of .Fail, and you can whip it out when asking the number of something. So, if in our previous sentence you somehow couldn't remember that .Fail was the counting unit for "hour," you could say this instead:

25.18 KTX ( prevState ) 朝鲜, how long is it from Seoul to Busan by KTX?

KTX is the Korea Train Express, which opened in 2004. Before the KTX, the fastest train available was called .Fail, and it took around four and a half hours to travel from Seoul to Busan. So what about the KTX?
It takes about three hours.

Notice how you still use the pure-Korean numbers with ཟགྷ, just like you did with ཟག. And if you wanted to tack on minutes to this time, you’d need to express them with the Sino-Korean system.

Wow, three hours, huh? So if you brought your portable DVD player on the train and started watching Gone with the Wind as it pulled out of Seoul, you’d arrive in Busan before catching the famous closing line of Scarlett O’Hara: “Tomorrow is another day.”

Tomorrow is another day.

Further Vocabulary: Approximations

Sometimes, we can’t be exactly sure of what we’re talking about. Even I suffer from this! When I do, I use these words.

 vow

about, approximately

at least

roughly, approximately

about, approximately

EX.: I usually have lunch at about twelve o’clock.
One thing foreigners are always taken aback by when they first arrive in Korea is how often they hear this question:

How old are you?

Even people you've just met will ask you this, but remember that in Korean society this isn't rude at all. Koreans consider age to be another part of basic personal information along with your name, hometown, astrological sign, etc. Instead of being offended, take their interest in your age as an expression of friendship.

But answering the question could be more complicated than you think. A typical response might go something like this:

I'm ten in Korean age and nine in Western age.

Huh? Korean age and Western age? What's the difference? How can a person have any other age than the one that counts years from the day they were born? Well, in Korea, we begin to calculate a person's age while they're still inside their mother's womb. Then, the day after a Korean is born, he or she is automatically promoted to 1 year old!

After that, we all add on a year at the beginning of each new year, not on our particular birthdays. So obviously, a person's Korean age is always going to be at least a year more than their Western age. But sometimes, it's nearly two years more! For example, if a baby is born on December 31, it will magically turn 2 years old on January 1—one year for being born, and one for the passing of the new year! Strange, huh?

Another common way of answering the age question is to say something like this:

I was born in early '79.

Hmm…why would someone need to emphasize that they were born early in the year? Well, this distinction is made because of Korea's school system. In Korea, the school year begins in March, and any child who has turned 7 (in Western age) by this time is eligible to enter the system. So, someone born on February 28 can begin school this year, while her friend who was born on March 2 has to stay home and play with his mother for another year, because in Western years he's still 6, not 7. Even though according to Korean age both children are 8, these school system rules separate them into different grades.

This is why when Koreans tell you how old they are, they might add the word 'in front of the year they were born. ' means they were born in January or February of that year, signifying that they're a grade ahead of everyone else who was born in the same year.

Wow, and you thought age was a relatively simple subject. Not in Korea!
In Korea, as in most Western countries, people with office jobs work Monday through Friday and have Saturday and Sunday off. So for many people, Friday evening is a happy time. If you're hoping to ask someone out on a date in Korea, plan a Friday night engagement and you're likely to hear "yes." But before you can do that, you need a firm grasp on how Koreans refer to the days of the week.

First we have the relative terms used to indicate days: (oneul) ("today"), (eoje) ("yesterday"), and (naeil) ("tomorrow"). Not too hard. And then what about going a little further into the past and future? We do this in English by saying "the day before yesterday" and "the day after tomorrow," but Korean has original words for each of these: (keujeokke) and (more) respectively. So a five-day timeline looks like this:

- Day before yesterday
- Yesterday
- Today
- Tomorrow
- Day after tomorrow

So let's say, for you fellows out there, that you meet a beautiful Korean girl at a cafe. You're so blown away by her beauty that you can't even remember what day of the week it is! Wow! You'd better ask her. Let's see. Well, the Korean word (yoil) has the meaning of "day of the week." So what word do you use to ask "what" day of the week it is?

No, remember is only used to ask about things that are number-related. Come on, I mentioned the correct answer briefly last chapter. Hurry! She's losing interest…yes!

is the one.
Monday: ဵဠၢ
Tuesday: ጷဠၢ
Wednesday: ৕ဠၢ
Thursday: ���ဠၢ
Friday: ૵ဠၢ
Saturday: ቔဠၢ
Sunday: ၩဠၢ

Notice how all these names include a unique first syllable followed by the word for “day of the week.” Very simple and practical, don’t you think? But don’t let me interrupt—she’s answering:

ඛဠၢ ဦိဠ

It’s Thursday.

Okay, this is great, but you don’t want to stand around practicing saying the days of the week in Korean with this girl, do you? Come on. Go ahead and ask her if she’s busy Friday night:

ඛ利亚ၩ႔ဝဠ

Do you have any time tomorrow night?

removeAttr

Nice job! I hope you get to hang out and talk world peace and interpret each other’s dreams through a psychoanalytical perspective. ^^ Or, of course, she could say this:

ඛ利亚ၩၐၣဠ

I have a prior engagement tomorrow.

Bummer.

yaksok

appointment, engagement

Spring, summer, fall, winter

Different places in the world experience different seasons. I mean, if you live somewhere along the equator in Ecuador or Kenya or Indonesia, you might just have one: hot! But Korea has four distinct seasons: (spring), (summer), (fall), and (winter). If you ask me, spring and fall in Korea are absolutely perfect! They’re so lovely. Traditionally, spring lasts from April through June, and fall comes in October and November. But there’s always some confusion regarding the exact dates, because year after year the seasons seem to change slightly, maybe because of global warming. And unfortunately, the seasons that get shortened are (spring) and (winter).

Anyway, I’ll stop talking about my favorite seasons so you can practice using what we just learned about the modifier ང ར་ to ask what season it is in Korea:
TODAY IS AUGUST 15

What season is it now in Korea?

This question shouldn't be too hard to answer. Unless you're in the Southern Hemisphere (or along the equator, as I said), the season in Korea should be roughly the same as where you are. But, even if you're sitting in the heat of summer or the freezing cold of winter, let's imagine we're in Korea enjoying the beautiful spring and fall.

It's spring.

It's fall.

Days, months, years

In English, you list dates in something of a strange order, I think. It’s often month, day, then year. For many other parts of the world, it goes from smallest to largest: day, month, year. Well forget all that, because Korean is totally different. It gives dates from the largest unit to the smallest one: year, month, day. Just like we learned with time (hour, minute, second) in the last chapter, right?

This might be a little tricky to remember for English speakers, but I have great news. Korean has no long and strange month names to memorize like English does! All you have to do is put a Sino-Korean number in front of the word weol (“month”). Wow, how easy! And the same goes for years and days. Just use the proper Sino-Korean number and follow it with nyeon (“year”) or il (“day of the month”). This is so simple, I bet you can do it right now:

Oneureun icheonship nyeon, o weol shipsam irieyo.

Today is May 13, 2010.

Oh, it’s the 13th of the month? I wonder what day of the week it is.

What day of the week is it?

Keumyoirieyo.

It’s Friday.

Yikes! Today is Friday the 13th! But wait, before you start knocking on wood and throwing salt over your shoulder, consider this: 13 isn’t an unlucky number in Korea. No, the number to watch out for in Korea is even worse, because it’s so much more common. It’s 4! But why would the number 4 be considered unlucky? Well, it’s because the pronunciation of four, biển, is the same as the pronunciation of the Chinese character meaning “death.” Pretty scary, huh?
Okay, enough about that. Let's move on to talk about a happier day:

26.23
[Oneureun parweol shibo irieyo.]

Today is August 15.

What, you don't think August 15th is special? Well, to Koreans it's very important, because August 15, 1945, is the day we regained our independence from Japan. Remember, as I told you at the very beginning of this book, Korea's history is very important to understanding the culture of the modern country.

How about this one:

26.24
[Oneureun kuweol ishippal irieyo.]

Today is September 28.

September 28th…another national holiday? Not really, but it should be. It's my birthday! So, as I'm fond of reminding people:

26.25
[Keunareun che saengirieyo.]

That day is my birthday.

[nal] day

Do you want to congratulate me? If so, you can say:

26.26
[Chukahaeyo!]

Congratulations!

shall we celebrate? I think so, because once we get to the next chapter, there will be real cause for a party—your graduation party!

Further Vocabulary: Daily words

A few more words on the theme of days and dates:

\[ \text{iljuil} \] a week, one week

\[ \text{konghyuil} \] national holiday

\[ \text{chumal} \] weekend

\[ \text{pyeongil} \] weekday

\[ \text{hyuil} \] holiday
Korean Style: Which receives deliveries first: floor 2 or basement level 2?

Because the number 4 is considered unlucky in Korea, in many buildings the fourth floor will be symbolized with an “F” standing for the English “four” instead of the actual number. But actually, what you consider to be the fourth floor in your country might not be the same level as the one in Korea. I mean, different countries have different ways of counting floors. Some count starting with the ground level as #1, while others consider the floor directly above ground level to be the first one. Korea follows the first rule. So is ground level, 2 is the next one up, and so on.

Here’s a riddle for thinking about the structure of Korean buildings:

Two Koreans who live in the same building call a Chinese restaurant at exactly the same time to order some noodles for delivery. One of them is on the 2nd floor, while the other is on the 2nd basement level. Who will get their delivery first?

Consider what’s going through the mind of the Chinese deliveryperson. She’s standing on the ground level, floor 1. To get to floor 2, she has to go up one flight of stairs. But to get to basement level 2, she’ll need to go down two flights of stairs. So, who’s going to get their food first?
Well, it's almost time to head back to your country now. I mean metaphorically—the book's almost over! Of course, you can physically stay in Korea as long as you want. ^^ So, what would you want to do if you were really leaving Korea? You'd probably want to head to ကပ်ပြင် to pick up some last-minute traditional souvenirs. Or you might wish for one last night on the town with your friends. Oh, and you'll probably want to pack your luggage. So…what do you want to do? Yes, I agree. Let's learn how to express what you want.

Want to…

It's pretty easy to say what you want in English, isn't it? I mean, you just use the verb "want" and then add the infinitive of whatever action you want to do. Well, this must be a universal thing, because expressing wants in Korean is really easy, too!

In this case, the word for "want" is မပြင်[shipda]. (Don't be fooled—it's not a verb as in English, but actually an adjective!) Okay, then we have to connect this to the action verb we want to do. That's done with the ending ൯, which belongs to good ole pattern 1. So, what you get is Vဆဖာပြင်. The only important thing to remember here is that this construction only works when what you want is a verb. You can't use the word မပြင် with a noun, as in the English sentence "I want candy." Instead, in Korean this would have to be "I want to eat candy (ငါ့လည်းသူမျှော်စွာစီမံပေးပါယ်.)"

So let's start with a very general but important question:

27.1 ကပ်ပြင်[Mweo hago shipeuseyo?]

And now, let's answer:

27.2 မပြင်[Urinara chingudeulhante chul seonmureul sago shipeoyo.]

I want to buy gifts to give my friends in my country.

27.3 မပြင်[Aneun bundeulhante chakbyeol insareul hago shipeoyo.]

I want to say goodbye to people I know.

27.4 မပြင်[Chimeul ssago shipeoyo.]

I want to pack my luggage.

I Wish You Would Come Back to Korea Someday မပြင်[Hal ssiga eonjenga hanguge tashi wasseumyeon chokesseoyo.]

Wanting and Wishing ကပ်ပြင်[CHAPTER 27]
I wish you would come back to Korea someday. Yes, you'd better start packing. Don't forget to take your Korean book and notes with you!

Don't want to, hate doing…

Are you happy to finally be heading home? Of course you are. But at the same time, you don't want to have to say goodbye to all your friends, do you? Goodbyes are always hard. But hey, why don't you express to your friends how difficult it is to leave them? I'm sure they'll appreciate it.

You need to learn how to say you don't want to leave, or that you hate saying goodbye. Let's start with the first of these. It's a negation, right? And I'm sure you remember that there are two ways to make a negative sentence in Korean. Look:

27.5 🌾 поддерживающий:

An tteonago shipeoyo. I don't want to leave.

27.6 🌾 поддерживающий:

Tteonago shipji anayo. I don't want to leave.

That's right! You can either add 🌾 before the verb to create the short-form negation, or go the longer route and use the expression V 🌾. But what if you're really upset about having to go? You can express yourself in stronger terms by saying you hate doing something:

27.7 🌾 поддерживающий:

Heeojigi shireoyo. I hate parting.

Heeojida 🌾 to part 🌾 hateful to leave

I hate farewells.

I know, I know. It's very hard to leave, isn't it? But you still have to concentrate for just a little bit longer so we can examine this sentence. Unlike 🌾, 🌾 doesn't come after the ending 🌾, but rather 🌾. Are you familiar with this pattern 1 ending? I hope so. This is the ending that turns verbs or adjectives into nouns, just like adding "-ing" to a verb in English, remember? Very useful!

Heeojida 🌾 is a verb that means "to part," but in this sentence it's changed into Heeojida 🌾, meaning "parting." As you can see, the verb 🌾 is used with nouns that you hate. They don't even have to be verbs that you turn into nouns either—real nouns work too! All you have to do is add the subject particle to them. Check it out:

27.8 🌾 поддерживающий:

Cheoneun ibyeori shireoyo. I hate farewells.

Cheoneun 🌾 farewell, parting 🌾 hateful
I wish...

There's a Korean saying: "Those who meet must part." Yep. It's true in any language. But the real meaning of this saying is that you don't need to be sad on account of parting. It happens to everyone, and you always have the possibility of meeting again.

Yet, this is little consolation when you're leaving friends. All the Koreans you've met during your stay will be so sad to see you go, because Koreans are known for being very passionate and open with their emotions. Your friends will probably say to you, "I wish we could see each other again." Or, "I wish you would come back to Korea someday." So, to make sure you don't miss these important words of parting, let's learn some expressions dealing with wishes.

In English, when you talk about a wish that hasn't been fulfilled yet, you use the past tense: "I wish I had a million dollars..." If I were a bird..." Why is this? No one knows. But, coincidentally, it works the same way in Korean.

Verbs you're wishing about are conjugated in the past tense and then given the conditional ending "if." You remember this one, don't you? Yes, it's (egadeun). And finally, the word for "to wish," (pokcha), comes at the end.

So in total you have the expression (egadok pokcha). I bet you wish to see some examples:

27.9 :Objective

I wish we could see each other again.

27.10 :Objective

I wish you (Hal) would come back to Korea someday.

My sentiments exactly.

The big goodbye

I can't believe how far you've come in 27 short chapters! You've successfully journeyed through the world of Korean language, and with only little old me to guide you. I hope that you've enjoyed my company as much as I've enjoyed yours, and that I've been able to open your eyes to what makes Koreans, their culture, and their language tick. With the knowledge you've gained from this book, you're ready for anything. Don't hesitate to dive in and use it!

You know I hate goodbyes, so I only have one thing left to say:

I'll be missing you!
Further Vocabulary Exercises

I wish you would come back to Korea someday.

Further vocabulary: Korean national holidays

- **New Year’s Day**: January 1
- **Independence Declaration Day**: March 1
- **Children’s Day**: May 5
- **National Liberation Day**: August 15
- **Korean Thanksgiving Day**: August 15 (lunar calendar)
- **National Foundation Day of Korea**: October 3
- **Christmas**: December 25

Korean Style: Crossword puzzle

You’re going to need something to pass the time on that long plane ride back to your home country. Do you enjoy crossword puzzles? Me too. When I was little, my dad and I would buy a crossword puzzle book every weekend and solve the puzzles together. That’s probably where my love for languages came from. If you feel similarly, then I recommend taking on the challenge of a Korean crossword puzzle. You may think it’s difficult…and you’d be right. In fact, most Korean crosswords are too hard for the average Korean. But don’t worry, because I’ve prepared a special one for you, using only words you’ve learned in this book. A great chance for review, wouldn’t you agree? Okay, are you ready? Go!
Across
1. very, so
2. honorific of "the" (also)
3. what (kind of)
4. generally, usually
5. who
6. friends
7. the modifier form of the pure-Korean word for "eleven"
8. what you've been learning ("Korean language")
10. most
12. Sino-Korean for thirty-two
14. ramen

Down
1. very, so
2. what (kind of)
3. to see, or to try, or the particle meaning "than"
4. to see, or to try, or the particle meaning "than"
5. who
6. friends
7. the modifier form of the pure-Korean word for "eleven"
8. what you've been learning ("Korean language")
10. most
12. Sino-Korean for thirty-two
14. ramen

(See page 192 for answers.)
adjective

a modifying part of speech, typically helping to describe a noun.
The squid tastes delicious.

adverb

a modifying part of speech, typically used to give information on how an action (verb) is carried out.
I quickly ate my squid.

article

in English, a short word that helps identify a noun; these do not exist in Korean.
See the squid swimming in the tank?

aspiration

a pronunciation technique in which a puff of air is released along with the sound(s).
The characters Ή and Ώ are aspirated.

batchim

in Korean, a consonant that appears in the third position of a syllable; often, special pronunciation rules are associated with them.
How do you pronounce the batchim Ώ?

comparative

a grammatical tool to show a comparison between two things; affects adjectives and adverbs.
My squid is more delicious than yours.

conjugation

rules governing how verb forms are created to show grammatical features like person and tense.
How do you conjugate the verb "to walk" in the present tense?

conjunctive

adverbs

words that connect two different clauses or sentences to show the meaning between them; usually referred to in English as "conjunctions".
I ordered a lot of squid, but I couldn't eat all of it.

Appendix: Grammar Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adverb</td>
<td>a modifying part of speech, typically used to give information on how an action is carried out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>article</td>
<td>a short word that helps identify a noun in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aspiration</td>
<td>a pronunciation technique in which a puff of air is released along with the sound(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>batchim</td>
<td>a consonant in Korean that appears in the third position of a syllable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comparative</td>
<td>a grammatical tool to show a comparison between two things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conjugation</td>
<td>rules governing how verb forms are created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conjunctive adverbs</td>
<td>words that connect two different clauses or sentences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:
- The squid tastes delicious.
- I quickly ate my squid.
- See the squid swimming in the tank?
- The characters Ή and Ώ are aspirated.
- How do you pronounce the batchim Ώ?
- My squid is more delicious than yours.
- How do you conjugate the verb "to walk" in the present tense?
- I ordered a lot of squid, but I couldn't eat all of it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>term</th>
<th>definition</th>
<th>example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>consonant</td>
<td>a letter or character representing a consonant sound (as opposed to a vowel)</td>
<td>The letter “b” is the first consonant in the English alphabet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contraction</td>
<td>the shortening and joining of two words or sounds to make their pronunciation easier</td>
<td>I simply cannot get enough of this delicious squid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>declarative</td>
<td>a type of sentence that states information</td>
<td>I love squid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demonstrative pronoun</td>
<td>a word that singles out or points to a noun</td>
<td>You eat this squid, and I'll eat that one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diphthong</td>
<td>the combination of two or more vowel sounds to create one new one</td>
<td>The vowel sound in “boy” is [o] + [i], a diphthong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ending</td>
<td>a set pattern attached to the stem of a verb in order to create meaning through conjugation</td>
<td>Most verbs in English are conjugated into the past tense with the ending -ed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>future</td>
<td>a verb tense indicating something that hasn't happened yet</td>
<td>I will finish my plate of squid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homonym</td>
<td>a word with the same spelling and sound as another but a different meaning</td>
<td>“Band” (e.g., a rock band) and “band” (e.g., a rubber band) are homonyms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homophone</td>
<td>a word with the same sound as another but a different spelling and meaning</td>
<td>“Bare” and “bear” are homophones.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>English Definition</th>
<th>Korean Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>honorific</td>
<td>verb conjugations and special words used in Korean to show respect to the person you're talking to and/or about.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imperative</td>
<td>a type of sentence that gives a command</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infinitive</td>
<td>the most basic, unconjugated form of a verb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inquisitive</td>
<td>(interrogative) a type of sentence that poses a question</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modifier</td>
<td>a word or other grammatical element that describes or qualifies another</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a part of speech representing people, places, and other physical and abstract objects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>a noun that receives the action in a sentence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>omission</td>
<td>the removal of sentence elements that are unnecessary because they are already understood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>particle</td>
<td>a Korean grammar element, usually attached to nouns, that adds meaning to and/or signifies the grammatical function of a word</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You don't need to use honorifics when talking to your squid.

Love your squid!

I'd like more squid, please.

We ate squid.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>past</td>
<td>઴૿ગ્ષ祎.Border</td>
<td>a verb tense indicating something that has already happened</td>
<td>I finished my plate of squid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personal</td>
<td>ၨ تشرينBorder</td>
<td>a word that singles out or points to a person</td>
<td>I will eat my squid, and you eat yours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possessive</td>
<td>ལེ།Activate.Border</td>
<td>word forms that indicate ownership of something</td>
<td>The leftover squid is Hal's, not mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>predicate</td>
<td>།Activate.Border</td>
<td>the second part of a simple sentence, used in this book to describe how two nouns or a noun and an adjective are linked by the verb &quot;to be&quot;</td>
<td>Squid is delicious.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preposition</td>
<td>俸Activate.Border</td>
<td>in English, words used in conjunction with nouns to add meaning; in Korean, particles perform this role</td>
<td>Let's eat squid at the restaurant on the corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present</td>
<td>ກActivate.Border</td>
<td>a verb tense indicating something ongoing or habitual</td>
<td>I always finish my plate of squid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>progressive</td>
<td>ཨActivate.Border</td>
<td>a verb tense indicating something in the process of occurring</td>
<td>I am eating squid right now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>propositive</td>
<td>ཐActivate.Border</td>
<td>a type of sentence that makes a suggestion or proposal</td>
<td>Let's eat some squid.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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</tr>
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**Stem**
The base of a verb that doesn't change and onto which conjugative endings are added. The stem of the verb "to love" is "lov-."
APPENDIX: GRAMMAR TERMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>subject</td>
<td>A noun that performs the action in a sentence</td>
<td>We ate squid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suffix</td>
<td>An element added to the end of words or verb stems to create meaning</td>
<td>In Korean, the honorific suffix is (ၒ)གྷ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superlative</td>
<td>A grammatical tool to show that something is the &quot;best&quot; or &quot;most&quot; out of a group of three or more things; affects adjectives</td>
<td>My squid is the most delicious.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tense</td>
<td>A conjugative tool that shows the timeframe in which an action (verb) takes place</td>
<td>I wrote a sentence in the past tense.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verb</td>
<td>A part of speech representing the action taking place in the sentence</td>
<td>I eat squid all the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vowel</td>
<td>A letter or character representing a vowel sound (as opposed to a consonant)</td>
<td>The letter &quot;a&quot; is the first vowel in the English alphabet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The table contains additional rows and columns that are not transcribed due to the image's resolution and formatting constraints.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Korean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello (lit., How are you?)</td>
<td>안녕하세요 (annyeonghaseyo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye (to someone)</td>
<td>안녕 (annyeong)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye (to someone)</td>
<td>안녕히 (annyeonghi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know (v.)</td>
<td>안다 (anda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>아니 (anae)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book (n.)</td>
<td>책 (chigeum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean barbecue</td>
<td>치개 (chicheum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaceful</td>
<td>평화 (chebul)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacefully</td>
<td>평화롭게 (chebaleouple)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning (leaving)</td>
<td>아침 (chajeongeoi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small (adj.)</td>
<td>작 (chung)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First (time)</td>
<td>처음 (choahada)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farewell (n.)</td>
<td>안녕히 가세요 (annyeonghi kaseyo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luggage</td>
<td>수하물 (chal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir</td>
<td>예 (chigap)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funny (adj.), interesting (adj.)</td>
<td>재미있다 (chijo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House, home</td>
<td>집 (chigeum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed</td>
<td>침대 (chimaede)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good (adj.)</td>
<td>좋다 (chigeum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>엄마 (eomma)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>성인 (eomnae)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How</td>
<td>어떻게 (eoneo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>보라고 (eoreyepo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someday</td>
<td>한낮 (eoneo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someday</td>
<td>한낮 (eonje)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yesterday</td>
<td>esterday (eoneo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last month</td>
<td>지난달 (eoneo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximately</td>
<td>귙 (eoneo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small (adj.)</td>
<td>작 (chung)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot</td>
<td>발 (chigap)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face (n.)</td>
<td>얼굴 (chigel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep (v.)</td>
<td>자 (chigeum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
토다 (౗ఋ) become (v.)

토달 (౉ఋ) turn (v.)

톤 (ే) money

통집 (౏ᄠ) east

통물 (౏ම) animal

통사생 (౏ແ) sibling (younger)

;topda (్ఋ) help (v.)

토라가다 (౉ྤజ਼ఋ) return (v.)

타이 (ಕ) time (n.)

타임런 (ಕබ) because of

타어리다 (ಕ൘ఋ) beat (v.)

ত্র (ಎ) daughter

터테두다 (ಋ೔ዻఋ) warm (adj.)

떼옥 (ಟ) rice cake

tteonada (ಞ୾ఋ) leave (v.)

tteoreojida (ड࿌ხఋ) fail (v.)

터논 (ವ௴) or

트위다 (ೇఋ) run (v.), jump (v.)

트위 (౪) back (n.)

우자 (ၡၴ) chair

우사 (ၡຫ) doctor

울다 (ါఋ) cry (v.)

운전 (ဪ႖) driving (n.)

우리 (ဨ൘) we (plain)

웃다 (ူఋ) laugh (v.), smile (v.)

우울하다 (ဨါዻఋ) gloomy (adj.), depressed (adj.)

우유 (ဨ၉) milk (n.)

와 (ちょう) wow!

왜 (ဒ) why

왕 (ထ) king

위 (၁) upper

위혈 (၁ HinderedRotor) danger

야에기 (࿈౺) story (tale)

야에기하다 (࿈౺ዻఋ) talk (v.)

야구 (྽ૐ) baseball

약 (྾) approximately

약속 (྾໵) appointment, engagement

야트다 (࿆ఋ) shallow (adj.)

예 (࿵) yes

예더생 (࿥౏ແ) sister (younger)

예기 (࿥ૺ) here

예자 (࿥ၴ) woman

예저마다 (࿥ᄴఋ) ask (v.) (honorific of)

예เอกสาร (࿥૟) passport

열 (࿩) fever

열심히 (࿩ཉᎁ) hard (adv.)

영화 (࿱ጷ) movie

영세 (࿨ໞ) age (n.) (honorific of)

영세업 (࿨翀) practice (n.)

예 (࿳) side (n.)

예로부 (࿥�秘书长) you all (honorific of)

예로 (࿥൑) summer

예뻐하다 (࿵ພఋ) beautiful (adj.), pretty (adj.), cute (adj.)

요즘 (ဠც) nowadays

유리 (၉൘) glass
family

kajok

dream (n.)

fast (adj.)

fall (autumn)

experience (n.)

ear

kwi

evening

cheonyeok

modu

do well (v.)

exam

pyeong

drum (n.)

fever

yeol

disistrose (adj.)

exist (v.)

eat (v.)

keori

distance

do (v.)

excited (adj.)

end (n.)

drink (v.)

father, dad

first

meonjeo
ride (v.)
eumshikjeom

pull (v.)
practice (n.)
police

salty (adj.)
rice (uncooked)
plenty (adj.)
munje

hwajangshil
sad (adj.)
cheongmalro

read (v.)

(honorific)

(podia)

(tanggida)
milda

(jjireuda)
pang

(kyejeol)

(jjalda)

(shyaweo)
natda

(yeonseup)

(yatda)
kagyeok

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tissue (Kleenex) hwajangji (ጷၿخدام)
today oneul (࿼௵)
together kachi (੪ၦ)
tomorrow naeil (ஏၩ)
too (much) neomu (ஞඳ)
tooth i (ၦ)
tour (n.) kwangwang (શ઼)
toy (n.) changnangam (ၿ஁੢)
troublesome (adj.) kwichanta (૥ᅐ�)
trust (v.) mitda (෗ఋ)
turn (v.) tolda (౉ఋ)
undress (v.) peotda (ฆఋ)
university student taehaksaeng (ఝዼແ)
upper wi (၁)
USA miguk (ු૑)
used heon (጑)
usually potong (પቛ)
very aju (ྤ჎), cham (ᅒ)
waist heori (ጏ൘)
wake up (v.) ireonada (ၩ࿌୾ഋ)
walk (v.) keotda (ંఋ)
wallet chigap (ხ੣)
warm (adj.) ttatteutada (೔ዻఋ)
wash (v.) ssitda (ྡྷఋ)
wastebasket hyujitong (፨ხቛ)
watch (v.) poda (พఋ)
we uri (ဨ൘), cheohui (႔፻)(honorific)
wear (v.) ipda (ၮఋ)
weather (n.) nalssi (ஃྜ)
week chu (჎)
weekday pyeongil (ዀၩ)
weekend chumal (჎൥)
weight muge (ඳඎ)
well (adv.) chal (ၹ)
west seojjok (໏ᄠ)
what mueot (ඳ࿗)
when eonje (࿎႞)
where eodi (࿌ಀ)
white (adj.) hayata (ዻ࿇ఋ)
white (the color) hayansaek (ዻ྿)
who nugu (௛ૐ)
why wae (dfa)
wife anae (ྤஏ)
window changmun (ᅖබ)
winter kyeoul (ખါ)
woman yeoja (࿥ၴ)
work (n.) il (ၩ)
wow! wa (ဉ)
yard madang (ൠఙ)
yes ye (࿵), ne (஫)
yesterday eoje (࿌႞)
you (plain) neo (ஞ)
you (used primarily by couples) tangshin (ఙཅ)
you all neohui (ஞ፻), yeoreobun (࿥஀) (honorific)
your (plain) ni (ఁ)

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Henry J. Adams is a Korean scholar and author of language
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world, and is the author of several books on Korean language learning.

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