

KOREA NOW
travel and camp



Korean for Travelers

▣ ADVANCED

Speak naturally, master idioms, and connect with Koreans on their level.

10 Chapters · Grammar Mastery · Idioms & Proverbs · Dialects · Native Patterns

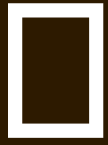
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Advanced Level Note

This guide assumes you know the Korean alphabet (한글) and basic phrases. Content includes complex grammar, colloquial expressions, and cultural nuance that will help you communicate naturally with native speakers.



CHAPTER 1

Advanced

Grammar

Master complex grammar: conditionals, causatives, passives, and more.

Patterns

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Conditional Forms

Form	Meaning	Example
-(-으면	If / When (real)	시간이 있으면 와요. (If you have time,
-다면	If (hypothetical)	내가 너라면 안 가겠어. (If I were you, I
-아도/어도	Even if / Even though	비가 와도 갈 거예요. (Even if it rains,
-(-으)ㄹ 때	When / At the time of	한국에 갈 때 연락해요. (When you go
-거든	If (explanatory, spoken)	배고프거든 먹어. (If you're hungry, eat.)

Causative Verbs (사동사)

Causative verbs express making or letting someone do something.

Base Verb	Causative	Meaning
먹다 (to eat)	먹이다 (meok-ida)	To feed (make someone eat)
입다 (to wear)	입히다 (ip-ida)	To dress (make someone wear)
웃다 (to laugh)	웃기다 (utgida)	To make someone laugh
울다 (to cry)	울리다 (ullida)	To make someone cry
앉다 (to sit)	앉히다 (anjida)	To seat someone (make sit)
자다 (to sleep)	재우다 (jaeuda)	To put someone to sleep

Passive Verbs (피동사)

Active	Passive	Meaning
먹다 (to eat)	먹히다 (meokhida)	To be eaten
잡다 (to catch)	잡히다 (japhida)	To be caught
보다 (to see)	보이다 (boida)	To be seen / To be visible
들다 (to hear)	들리다 (deullida)	To be heard / To be audible
닫다 (to close)	닫히다 (dachida)	To be closed

Complex Verb Endings

These endings are the hallmark of advanced Korean — they add nuance and emotion to your speech

Ending	Meaning & Usage
-아/어 버리다	Completely done / disappointingly finished: 먹어 버렸어 (I ate it all)
-고 말다	End up doing (often unintentional): 잊고 말았어요 (I forgot)
-(으)ㄹ 뻔했다	Almost did (but didn't): 넘어질 뻔했어요 (I almost fell)
-기는 하다	Does/did, but...: 가기는 했어요 (I did go, but...)
-(으)ㄹ 텐데	Probably / I would think: 힘들 텐데 (It's probably hard)
-는 바람에	Because of — negative result: 늦는 바람에 (Because I was late)
-(으)ㄹ까 봐	Worried that: 늦을까 봐 걱정돼요 (I'm worried I might be late)
-다 보면	If you keep doing: 하다 보면 늘어요 (If you keep doing, it will increase)
-는 척하다	Pretend to: 모르는 척했어요 (I pretended not to know)
-는 김에	While you're at it: 가는 김에 사 와요 (While you're going, buy it)

Written vs Spoken Korean □

- Written Korean uses full forms: 저는, 이것은, 그것은
- Spoken Korean contracts: 저는 → 전, 이것은 → 이걸, 그것은 → 그걸
- Particles are often dropped in casual speech: 나 밥 먹었어 (not 나는 밥을 먹었어)
- Sentence endings differ: 먹어요 (polite) vs 먹어 (casual) vs 먹어요? (question)
- Written: -하지 않다 / Spoken: -안 하다 (both mean "not do")
- Textbook Korean sounds stiff in real conversation — contractions are natural



CHAPTER 2

Korean Idioms & Slang

Understand what Koreans actually say —
idioms, expressions, and modern slang.

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Classic Korean Idioms (관용어)

Korean idioms are body-based metaphors. Understanding them reveals how Koreans think about the world.

Korean Idiom	Literal Meaning	Actual Meaning
눈이 높다 (nun-i nopda)	Eyes are high	Has high standards (picky)
발이 넓다 (bari neolda)	Feet are wide	Knows many people / well-...
입이 가볍다 (ibi gabyeopda)	Mouth is light	Can't keep a secret
손이 크다 (son-i keuda)	Hands are big	Generous / Cooks in large ...
배가 아프다 (baega apeuda)	Stomach hurts	Jealous / Envious
귀가 얇다 (gwiga yalda)	Ears are thin	Easily influenced / Gullible
눈이 맞다 (nun-i matda)	Eyes meet / match	Two people like each other
발 벗고 나서다 (bal beokgo naseoda)	Step forward barefoot	Go all out / Jump right in

Longer Idiom Expressions

하늘의 별 따기

haneue byeol ttagi

Near impossible (lit: picking stars from the sky)

뛰는 놈 위에 나는 놈

ttwineun nom wie naneun nom

There's always someone better (lit: above one who runs, one who flies)

원숭이도 나무에서 떨어진

wonsungido namuseo tteoreojinda

Even experts make mistakes (lit: even monkeys fall from trees)

믿는 도끼에 발등 찍힌다

mimneun dokkie baldeuong jikhinda

Betrayed by someone you trusted (lit: your foot gets cut by a trusted axe)

Modern Korean Slang (신조어)

Korean slang evolves fast — these are current as of 2025-2026. Use them to sound natural with younger Koreans.

Slang	Reading	Meaning
갑분싸	gabgunsssa	Sudden awkward silence (갑자기 분위기 싸해 기분)
현타	hyeonta	Reality check moment / hitting rock bottom 현실
핵꿀잼	haek-kkuljaem	Super fun (핵 = nuclear/extreme + 꿀 = honey 맛)
인싸	insssa	Popular/cool person (insider)
아싸	asssa	Loner / outsider (opposite of 인싸)
킹받다	kingbatda	So annoying / I'm triggered (king = intensifier 받)
꾸안꾸	kkuankku	Effortlessly styled look (꾸민 듯 안 꾸민 듯)
소확행	sohwakhaeng	Small but certain happiness (소소하지만 확실 행운)
가성비	gaseongbi	Value for money / cost-performance ratio
갓생	gatsaeng	God-level productive life / living your best life
존버	jonbeo	Hold on / endure (intense slang — use with 버티기)
TMI	tee-em-ai	Too much information (same as English usage)

Generational Differences in Korean Slang □

- Gen Z (MZ세대): Uses slang heavily — 핵꿀잼, 갓생, 인싸/아싸, etc.
- Millennials: Use 대박, 헐, 완전, 진짜 — these are now mainstream and safe
- Older generations: Prefer standard Korean — slang can seem disrespectful
- Internet slang (ㅋㅋ, ㅋㅋ): Universal across all ages in text messages
- New slang is created constantly — K-dramas and social media drive trends
- When in doubt, stick to 대박 and 완전 — always understood and never offensive



CHAPTER 3

Business & Formal Korean

Navigate formal situations, business meetings
and official interactions with confidence.

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Speech Levels Overview

Level	Form	When to Use
합쇼체	~합니다/습니다	Most formal — news, presentations, first
해요체	~해요/아요/어요	Polite — everyday use, strangers, service
해체 (반말)	~해/야/어	Casual — close friends, younger people
해라체	~해라/아라/어라	Command/literary — instructions, written rules

Business Meeting Phrases

처음 뵙겠습니다

cheoem boepgesseumnida

Nice to meet you (formal first meeting)

잘 부탁드립니다

jal butakdeurimnida

I look forward to working with you

명함 드려도 될까요?

myeongham deuryeodo doelkkayo?

May I give you my business card?

회의 일정을 잡고 싶습니다

hoeuyi iljeong-eul japgo sipseumnida

I'd like to schedule a meeting

이메일로 보내드리겠습니다

imeilro bonaedeutigesseumnida

I'll send it to you by email

검토해 주시겠습니까?

geomtohae jusigesseumnikka?

Could you please review this?

More Formal & Business Phrases

자료를 공유해 드리겠습니다

다
jaryo-reul gongyuhae deurigesseumnida
I'll share the materials with you

질문 있으십니까?

jilmun isseusimnikka?
Do you have any questions? (formal)

조금만 기다려 주십시오

jogumman gidaryeo jusipsiyo
Please wait a moment (formal)

다시 한 번 말씀해 주시겠어

요?
dashi han beon malsseum haejusigesseoyo?
Could you please repeat that?

이 부분을 확인해 주시겠어

요?
ionuneul hwa-kinhae jusigesseoyo?
Could you check this part?

제안서를 검토해 보겠습니다

다
jeanseoreul geomtohae bogesseumnida
We'll review the proposal

연락 드리겠습니다

yeollak deurigesseumnida
I will contact you

회식 하실 건가요?

hoesik hasil geongayo?
Are you joining the team dinner?

Korean Business Culture □

- Business cards (명함): Receive and give with both hands; read before pocketing
- Hierarchy matters: Address senior colleagues with title + 님 (e.g., 팀장님, 사장님)
- 회식 (hoesik): Mandatory(ish) team dinners — an important bonding ritual
- Gifts at business meetings: Bring something from your home country
- Decisions often happen outside meetings — relationships built over dinner/drinks matter
- Always bow slightly when greeting or saying goodbye in formal contexts
- Punctuality is essential — arriving a few minutes early is respectful



CHAPTER 4

Native Speaker Patterns

Sound natural — what Koreans actually say
versus textbook Korean.

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Spoken Contractions

Formal / Written	Casual Spoken	Notes
저는 (jeoneun)	전 (jeon)	Topic particle contracts
이것은 (igeoseun)	이건 (igeon)	This (topic)
그것은 (geugeoseun)	그건 (geugeon)	That (topic)
~하고 싶어요	~하고 싶어	Drop -요 for casual
뭐예요? (mwoyeyo?)	뭐야? (mwoya?)	Casual question form
어디예요? (eodiyeyo?)	어디야? (eodiya?)	Casual "where is?"
모르겠어요	모르겠어 (moreugeseo)	Casual "I don't know"
알겠어요 (algeseoyo)	알겠어 (algeseo)	Casual "I understand"

Filler Words & Discourse Markers

음... 어...

eum... eo...

Hmm... uh... (thinking pause)

그... 뭐...

geu... mwo...

That... what... (vague filler)

근데

geunde

By the way / But / However

아무튼

amutun

Anyway / Regardless

사실

sasil

Actually / To be honest

이제

ije

Now then / At this point

뭐

mwo

Kind of / sort of (soft filler)

그냥

geunyang

Just / for no reason

Expressing Surprise & Natural Reactions

설마!

seolma!

No way! / Surely not! (disbelief)

헐!

heol!

Wow! / OMG! (modern shock expression)

어머!

eomeo!

Oh my! (typically used by women)

아이고!

aigo!

Oh my goodness! / Oh dear!

어떡해!

eotteokhae!

What do we do! / Oh no!

진짜요?

jinjjayo?

Seriously? / For real?

대박!

daebak!

Jackpot! / No way! / Amazing!

말도 안 돼!

maldo an dwae!

Impossible! / You're kidding!

The Importance of 눈치 in Conversation □

- 눈치 (nunchi): The ability to read unspoken social cues and adjust accordingly
- High 눈치: Sensing when someone is uncomfortable without them saying so
- Low 눈치 (눈치없다): Missing obvious social signals — very unflattering in Korea
- Example: Leaving a party when the host yawns, without being told to leave
- In conversation: if someone gives vague answers, they may be politely declining
- Developing 눈치 is key to truly connecting with Korean friends and colleagues



CHAPTER 5

Korean History & Cultural Deep Dive

Understand the historical context, respect the culture, and appreciate Korea's rich heritage.

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Key Historical Periods

Period (Korean)	Description
삼국시대 (Samguk sidae)	Three Kingdoms: Goguryeo, Baekje, Silla (57 BC – 668 AD)
고려시대 (Goryeo sidae)	Goryeo Dynasty — origin of the name "Korea" (918–1392)
조선시대 (Joseon sidae)	Joseon Dynasty — Confucian society, Hangeul created (1392–1910)
일제강점기 (Iljegangjomgi)	Japanese colonial occupation (1910–1945) — painful period
한국전쟁 (Hanguk jeonjaeng)	Korean War (1950–1953) — still technically ongoing
한강의 기적 (Hangang-ui gijeok)	Miracle on the Han River — Korea's rapid economic growth (1960s–1980s)
민주화운동 (Minjuhwa undong)	Democratization movement — Korea's path to democracy (1980s–1990s)
한류 (Hallyu)	Korean Wave — global spread of Korean culture (2000s–present)

Traditional Holidays & Customs

설날 (Seollal)

seollal

Lunar New Year — Korea's most important holiday

추석 (Chuseok)

chuseok

Harvest Festival / Korean Thanksgiving

세배 (Saebae)

saebae

New Year's bow to elders for good luck

차례 (Charye)

charye

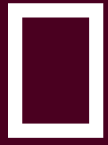
Ancestral memorial rites at holidays

Deep Korean Cultural Concepts

Concept	Meaning & Significance
정 (jeong)	Deep emotional bond/attachment — develops slowly, lasts
한 (han)	Collective sorrow / yearning — grief woven into Korean history
눈치 (nunchi)	Reading the room — social awareness and unspoken
빨리빨리 (ppalli ppalli)	"Hurry hurry" culture — Korea's legendary speed and efficiency
체면 (chemyeon)	Face / dignity — maintaining social reputation and honor
정이 들다 (jeong-i)	To develop deep affection — "I've grown attached to you/this"
눈치코치 (nunchi-)	The art of reading people — "they have no 눈치" = socially
우리 (uri)	"We/Our" — Koreans say "our country," "our mom" not "my" (collective identity)

Recommended Learning Resources □

- Documentaries: "Korea — The Impossible Country" (EBS), "My Love from the Star" (cultural context)
- Books: "The Birth of Korean Cool" by Euny Hong — Korean culture explained for Westerners
- Museums: National Museum of Korea (국립중앙박물관) — free admission, excellent English labels
- Gyeongbokgung Palace (경복궁): Palace tours in English available daily at 10am, 2pm
- To understand 한 (han): Listen to 판소리 (traditional Korean opera) — deeply emotional
- To experience 정 (jeong): Stay with a Korean host family or join a language exchange



CHAPTER 6

K-Media & Pop Culture Mastery

Talk about Korean TV, K-pop, webtoons, and movies like a fan and a critic.

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K-Drama Vocabulary

Korean Term	Meaning
주인공 (juingong)	Main character / protagonist
악당 (akdang)	Villain
클리셰 (keullisye)	Cliché (from French)
반전 (banjeon)	Plot twist / reversal
엔딩 (ending)	Ending (loan word from English)
OST (o-es-ti)	Original Soundtrack — K-drama music is iconic
시즌 (sijeon)	Season
결말 (gyeolmal)	Conclusion / ending of the story
떡밥 (tteokbap)	Plot bait / clue hinting at future events
케미 (kemi)	Chemistry between characters or actors

Discussing Dramas in Korean

요즘 무슨 드라마 봐요?

yojeum museun deurama bwayo?

What drama are you watching lately?

이 드라마 완전 재밌어요

i deurama wanjeon jaemisseoyo

This drama is so interesting

몇 화까지 봤어요?

myeot hwakaji bwasseoyo?

Which episode are you on?

스포 하지 마세요!

seuppo haji maseyo!

No spoilers please!

K-Pop Fan Vocabulary

Korean Term	Meaning
덕후 (deokhu)	Mega fan / super enthusiast (from Japanese otaku)
최애 (choiae)	Ultimate bias / absolute favorite (최고의 애정)
직캠 (jikkaem)	Fancam — direct camera focused on one member
응원봉	Light stick — official fan glow stick
팬싸 (paensssa)	Fan signing event (fan sign)
컴백 (keombaek)	Comeback — new album/song release
뮤비 (myubi)	Music video (MV)
데뷔 (debut)	Debut (same as English)
아이돌 (aidol)	Idol (K-pop idol)
팬클럽 (paen-keullup)	Fan club

Following K-Drama & K-Pop in Korean □

- Naver TV (tv.naver.com): Official K-drama streaming with Korean comments
- Weverse: K-pop fan platform — artists post directly, fans comment in Korean
- Melon / Genie / Bugs: Korean music streaming platforms (Melon = biggest)
- Naver Fan Cafe (카페): Official fandom communities — Korean only but immersive
- YouTube: Korean channels post official MVs with Korean comments to practice reading
- Instagram: Follow Korean celebrities — great for learning casual written Korean



CHAPTER 7

Regional Dialects

Understand what Koreans say outside Seoul — regional accents and expressions.

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Standard Korean vs Regional Overview

표준어 (Standard Korean)

Standard Korean is based on the Seoul dialect and is used in education, media, and formal settings. All Koreans understand it. Regional dialects (사투리) are spoken in daily life outside Seoul.

경상도 Dialect (Gyeongsang)

Spoken in Busan, Daegu, and surrounding areas. Known for its strong, rising intonation and shortened forms.

Dialect Form	Standard Korean	Meaning
뭐하노? (mwo hano?)	뭐 해요?	What are you doing?
어데 가노? (eode gano?)	어디 가요?	Where are you going?
맞다 (matda)	맞아요	That's right
와? (wa?)	왜요?	Why?
아이가 (aiga)	아니예요	No / It's not
예~? (ye?)	네? (ne?)	Pardon? / Yes? (rising)
갔다 아이가 (gadda aiga)	갔잖아요	They went, didn't they?

전라도 Dialect (Jeolla)

Spoken in Jeonju, Gwangju area. Known for warm, musical intonation and unique assertive endings.

Dialect Form	Standard Korean	Meaning
~잖아유 / ~당께	~잖아요	Assertive/emphatic ending
워메! (womae!)	어머! (eomeo!)	Oh my! (exclamation)
거시기 (geosigi)	그것 (geugeot)	That thing (vague reference)
혀 (hyeo)	해 (hae)	Do it (command)

제주도 Dialect (Jeju Island)

UNESCO Endangered Language

The Jeju dialect is so distinct that UNESCO lists it as an endangered language. Jeju speakers may not be fully understood by mainland Koreans.

Jeju Dialect	Standard Korean	Meaning
하영 (hayeong)	많이 (mani)	A lot / many
혼저 옵서예 (honjeo op-seo-ye)	어서 오세요	Welcome! (greeting)
어떻 행? (eodong haen?)	어떻게 해?	What should I do?
옵서! (opseyo!)	와요! / 오세요!	Come! (invitation)
마쌌 (massim)	맞습니다	That's correct
갑서예 (gabseoyeh)	가세요	Please go / Goodbye

Understanding Dialects as a Foreigner □

- Don't panic when you hear a strong dialect — it happens even to Korean mainlanders
- Politely say: "죄송한데요, 표준어로 말씀해 주실 수 있어요?" (Sorry, could you speak standard Korean?)
Or simply: "다시 한 번만요?" (One more time please?) — they'll usually accommodate
- YouTube channels: 경상도 vs 서울 dialect comparison videos are very entertaining and educational
- Understanding dialects makes you seem much more culturally fluent to Koreans
- Busan dialect (부산 사투리) is considered charming — many Koreans find it endearing



CHAPTER 8

Korean Proverbs & Wisdom

Speak with a dot. Use proverbs to impress
and connect with Korean wisdom.

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Korean Proverbs (속담)

Using proverbs in conversation shows deep cultural knowledge and will genuinely impress Korean speakers

가는 말이 고와야 오는 말이 곱다

ganeun mari gowaya oneun mari gopda

Literal: If the words going are nice, the words coming are nice

Meaning: Treat others as you wish to be treated

콩 심은 데 콩 나고, 팥 심은 데 팥 난다

kong simeun de kong nago, pat simeun de pat nanda

Literal: Where you plant beans, beans grow; red beans, red beans

Meaning: You reap what you sow

급할수록 돌아가라

geuphalsurok doragara

Literal: The more urgent, go around

Meaning: More haste, less speed — slow down to go faster

낮말은 새가 듣고 밤말은 쥐가 듣는다

nanmaleun saega deutgo bammaleun jwiga deunneunda

Literal: Birds hear daytime words, mice hear nighttime words

Meaning: Walls have ears — be careful what you say anywhere

세 살 버릇 여든까지 간다

se sal beoreut yeodeunkaji ganda

Literal: Habits at age 3 last until 80

Meaning: Old habits die hard

More Korean Proverbs

백지장도 맞들면 낫다

baekjijangdo matdeulmyeon natda

Literal: Even a sheet of white paper is better when held together

Meaning: Many hands make light work

소 잃고 외양간 고친다

so ilko oeyanggwan gochinda

Literal: Fix the barn after the cow is lost

Meaning: Locking the stable after the horse has bolted — too late

하늘이 무너져도 솟아날 구멍이 있다

haneuli muneojyeodo sosananal gumeongi itda

Literal: Even if the sky falls, there's a hole to escape through

Meaning: Every cloud has a silver lining — there's always a way out

말 한마디에 천냥 빚도 갚는다

mal hanmadi-e cheonyang bitdo gapneunda

Literal: One word can repay a debt of a thousand 냥

Meaning: Kind words can solve any problem — words have great power

고생 끝에 낙이 온다

goesaeng kkeute nagi onda

Literal: At the end of hardship, joy comes

Meaning: No pain, no gain — perseverance leads to happiness

Final Proverbs & Wisdom

빈 수레가 요란하다

bin sureoga yoranhada

Literal: An empty cart is noisy

Meaning: Empty vessels make the most noise — those who know least speak most

아니 땀 굴뚝에 연기 날까

ani ttaen gulttuge yeongi nalka

Literal: Would smoke come from a chimney that has not been lit?

Meaning: Where there's smoke, there's fire — rumors have some truth

모로 가도 서울만 가면 된다

moro gado seoulman gamyeon doenda

Literal: You can go sideways as long as you reach Seoul

Meaning: The end justifies the means — the goal matters most

웃는 얼굴에 침 못 뱉는다

unneun eolgule chim mot baetneunda

Literal: You cannot spit on a smiling face

Meaning: It's hard to be angry at someone who is smiling at you

될성부른 나무는 떡잎부터 알아본다

doelseongbureun namuneun tteongipbuteo arabonda

Literal: A thriving tree is recognizable from its first leaves

Meaning: You can spot true talent and greatness early on



CHAPTER 9

Reading & Writing in Korean

Decode menus, signs, forms, and everyday
Korean text with confidence.

KOREA NOW

Common Signs Explained

Korean Sign	Meaning
화장실 (hwajangshil)	Toilet / Restroom
입구 / 출구 (ipgu / chulgu)	Entrance / Exit
비상구 (bisanggu)	Emergency exit
금지 (geumji)	Prohibited / Forbidden
영업중 (yeongjeopjung)	Open for business
준비중 (junbijung)	Preparing / Not yet open
주의 (jui)	Caution / Warning
매진 (maeijn)	Sold out
영업시간 (yeongjeopshigan)	Business hours
무료 (muryo)	Free (no charge)
유료 (yuryo)	Paid / Costs money
주차금지 (juchageumji)	No parking
촬영금지 (choaryeongeumji)	No photography
흡연구역	Smoking area
금연 (geumyeon)	No smoking

Reading Menus & Official Forms

Menu Vocabulary

Korean Term	Meaning
오늘의 메뉴 (oneulei menyu)	Today's special / daily menu
세트 (seteu)	Set meal / combo
단품 (danpum)	Individual item / à la carte
추가 (chuga)	Add-on / additional
서비스 (seobiseu)	Complimentary / on the house (free extra)
시그니처 (sigeunicha)	Signature dish / specialty
매운맛 / 순한맛	Spicy / Mild version
포함 (poham)	Included

Official Forms Vocabulary

Korean Field Label	English Meaning
성명 (seongmyeong)	Full name
국적 (gukjeok)	Nationality
생년월일 (saengnyeonworil)	Date of birth
주소 (juso)	Address
연락처 (yeollakcheo)	Contact information / phone
여권번호 (yeokwonbeonho)	Passport number
서명 (seomyeong)	Signature
직업 (jigeop)	Occupation

Digital Reading Tools for Korea □

- Naver Dictionary (papago.naver.com): Take a photo of Korean text — instant translation
- Papago App: Best Korean-English translator, supports handwriting and camera input
- Google Lens: Point camera at Korean text for real-time translation overlay
- Korean addresses: Read from largest to smallest (Province → City → District → Street)
- Korean keyboard on phone: Install 한글 keyboard — use it to practice typing Korean
- QR code menus: Very common in Korean restaurants — smartphone essential for dining



CHAPTER 10

Deep Social Connection

Build real friendships, understand Korean relationships, and become part of the community.

KOREA NOW

Korean Relationship Terms

Korean Term	Meaning & Usage
친구 (chingu)	Friend — strictly same age; Koreans rarely use for older/
선배 (seonbae)	Senior — older in school, work, or experience
후배 (hubae)	Junior — younger in school, work, or experience
언니 (eonni)	Older sister — used by women to address older female friends
오빠 (oppa)	Older brother — used by women to address older male friends
누나 (nuna)	Older sister — used by men to address older female friends
형 (hyeong)	Older brother — used by men to address older male friends
동생 (dongsaeng)	Younger sibling — for someone younger, regardless of gender

Building Deep Friendship

진짜 친해지고 싶어요

jinja chinhaejigo sipeoyo

I really want to become close friends

많이 배웠어요, 감사해요

mani baewooseoyo, gamsahaeyo

I learned a lot, thank you

당신 덕분에 한국이 특별해

dangshin deokbune hangug-i

teukbyeorhaeyo
Korea is special because of you

또 보자 (casual)

tto boja

See you again (close friends)

Advanced Drinking Culture

폭탄주 (poktanju)

poktanju

Bomb shot — beer + soju mixed

원샷! (wonsyat!)

wonsyat!

Bottoms up! / Down in one!

오늘 제가 썼어요

oneul jega sswasseoyo

Tonight I treated everyone

2차 가요!

icha gayo!

Let's go to the second round (after dinner)!

술자리 빠질게요

sujari bbajilgeyo

I'll skip the drinking (excuse to leave)

한 잔만요

han janmanyo

Just one drink (token participation)

Meaningful Farewells

또 보자

tto boja

See you again (casual, close friends)

건강하세요

geonganghaseyo

Stay healthy (formal, sincere farewell)

연락하고 지내요

yeollakhago jinaeyo

Let's stay in touch

잊지 않을게요

itji aneulgeyo

I won't forget you

다음에 꼭 봐요

daeume kkok bwayo

Let's definitely meet next time

덕분에 좋은 시간 보냈어요

deokbune joeun sigan bonaesseoyo

Thanks to you, I had a great time

한국이 그리울 거예요

hangug-i geuriur geoyeyo

I'll miss Korea

꼭 다시 올게요

kkok dasi olgeyo

I will definitely come back

Korean Friendships vs Western Friendships □

- Koreans may ask personal questions (age, salary, relationship) — it's showing interest, not rudeness.
- Korean friendship deepens over shared meals and drinks — invest in this
- 정 (jeong) builds slowly — a Korean who's indifferent at first may become a lifelong friend
- Once a Korean considers you a real friend, they'll do a lot for you — it's a deep commitment
- Don't be surprised if a Korean friend suddenly calls to check on you out of nowhere — that's 정
- Exchange KakaoTalk instead of email — it shows you're serious about staying in touch
- Follow up after meeting: "오늘 정말 즐거웠어요!" (Today was really fun!) keeps the connection alive

Quick Reference Card

Advanced Level — Key Patterns & Impressive Phrases

Complex Endings

Idioms to Know

Impressive Phrases

Formal Farewells

return

