

KOREA NOW
travel and camp



Korean for Travelers

▣ INTERMEDIATE

Have real conversations, understand responses,
and navigate Korea independently.

10 Chapters · 500+ Phrases · Grammar Tables · Cultural Mastery

Table of Contents

Intermediate Level — 10 Chapters

- | | | | |
|----|---|--|------|
| 01 | □ | Korean Grammar Basics
Particles, sentence structure, verb endings | p.4 |
| 02 | □ | Making Plans & Invitations
Suggest activities, accept or decline, set times | p.7 |
| 03 | □ | Advanced Food & Dining
BBQ, cafes, delivery, ordering modifications | p.10 |
| 04 | □ | Healthcare & Pharmacy
Symptoms, clinic, prescriptions, pharmacy | p.13 |
| 05 | □ | Directions & Navigation
Landmarks, giving directions, navigation apps | p.16 |
| 06 | □ | K-Culture & Entertainment
Concerts, jjimjilbang, noraebang, nightlife | p.19 |
| 07 | □ | Expressing Feelings & Opinions
Emotions, opinions, compliments, disagreement | p.22 |
| 08 | □ | Shopping Deep Dive
Online, duty-free, K-beauty, returns | p.25 |
| 09 | □ | Technology & Communication
KakaoTalk, internet slang, apps, banking | p.28 |
| 10 | □ | Daily Life & Socializing
Work, family, hobbies, drinking culture | p.31 |

How to use this guide

Each chapter has phrase cards (Korean · Romanization · English), grammar tables, and cultural info boxes. Study at your own pace or jump to the chapter you need most.



CHAPTER 1

Korean Grammar

Basics

Master particles, sentence structure, and verb endings to form real sentences.

KOREA NOW

Sentence Structure (SOV)

Korean follows Subject + Object + Verb order, which is the OPPOSITE of English. The verb always comes last.

English: I [eat] pizza. → Subject + Verb + Object

Korean: 나는 피자를 먹어요. → Subject + Object + Verb

Essential Particles (조사)

Particles attach to nouns and tell you the role each word plays in the sentence.

Particle	Name / Use	Example
은/는	Topic marker	저는 학생이에요. (I am a student.)
이/가	Subject marker	고양이가 예뻐요. (The cat is pretty.)
을/를	Object marker	밥을 먹어요. (I eat rice.)
에	Location / Direction	서울에 가요. (I go to Seoul.)
에서	Location of action	카페에서 공부해요. (I study at a café.)
와/과, 하고	And / With	친구하고 가요. (I go with a friend.)
의	Possessive (of)	친구의 가방 (my friend's bag)
도	Also / Too	저도요! (Me too!)
만	Only / Just	물만 주세요. (Just water please.)
부터...까지	From...To	9시부터 6시까지 (from 9 to 6)

Why Particles Matter □

- Particles are the KEY difference between beginner and intermediate Korean
- In English, word order shows meaning: "Dog bites man" vs "Man bites dog"
- In Korean, PARTICLES show meaning — word order is flexible!
- 저는 피자를 좋아해요 = 피자를 저는 좋아해요 (same meaning, different emphasis)
- Mastering particles lets you form any sentence naturally and correctly

Essential Verb Endings

Korean verbs change form to show tense, mood, and politeness. Here are the most important endings.

Ending	Meaning	Example
-아요/어요	Present tense (polite)	먹어요 (eats/am eating)
-았어요/었어요	Past tense (polite)	먹었어요 (ate)
-(으)ㄹ 거예요	Future tense	먹을 거예요 (will eat)
-고 싶어요	Want to do	가고 싶어요 (I want to go)
-(으)ㄹ 수 있어요	Can / Able to	할 수 있어요 (I can do it)
-(으)면	If / When (condition)	시간이 있으면 (if there's time)
-아서/어서	Because / So	배고파서 먹어요 (hungry so I eat)
-지만	But / Although	비싸지만 좋아요 (expensive but good)

Practice Sentences

저는 한국에 가고 싶어요

jeoneun hanguge gago sipeoyo

I want to go to Korea

한국어를 할 수 있어요?

hangugeoreul hal su isseoyo?

Can you speak Korean?

시간이 있으면 만나요

sigani isseumyeon mannayo

If you have time, let's meet

비가 와서 집에 있어요

biga waseo jibe isseoyo

It's raining so I'm home



CHAPTER 2

Making Plans & Invitations

Suggest activities, set times, accept or decline invitations naturally.

KOREA NOW

Inviting & Making Plans

같이 갈래요?

gachi gallaeyo?

Want to go together?

언제 시간 있어요?

eonje sigan isseoyo?

When are you free?

내일 어때요?

naeil eottaeyo?

How about tomorrow?

좋아요, 갑시다!

joayo, gapsida!

Sounds good, let's go!

죄송해요, 그날은 안 돼요

joesonghaeyo, geunareun an dwaeyo

Sorry, that day doesn't work

몇 시에 만날까요?

myeot sie mannalkkayo?

What time shall we meet?

어디서 만날까요?

eodiseo mannalkkayo?

Where shall we meet?

조금 늦을 것 같아요

jogeum neujeul geot gatayo

I might be a little late

More Plan Phrases

거기서 봐요

geogiseo bwayo
See you there

약속 취소해도 돼요?

yaksok chwisohaedo dwaeyo?
Can I cancel our plans?

다음에 다시 만나요

daeume dasi mannayo
Let's meet again next time

오늘 뭐 해요?

oneul mwo haeyo?
What are you doing today?

같이 밥 먹을래요?

gachi bap meogeullaeyo?
Want to eat together?

제가 살게요

jega salgeyo
It's on me / I'll pay

더치페이 해요

deochi-pei haeyo
Let's split the bill

다음에 살게요!

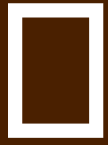
daeume salgeyo!
I'll get it next time!

Days of the Week

Korean	English
월요일 (woryo-il)	Monday
화요일 (hwayo-il)	Tuesday
수요일 (suyo-il)	Wednesday
목요일 (mogyo-il)	Thursday
금요일 (geumyo-il)	Friday
토요일 (toyo-il)	Saturday
일요일 (iryoy-il)	Sunday

Korean Punctuality & Declining Invitations □

- Koreans generally value punctuality — being late is considered impolite
- If you'll be late, always text ahead: 조금 늦을 것 같아요 (I might be a bit late)
- To politely decline: 그날은 선약이 있어요 (I already have plans that day)
- A soft "maybe": 한번 알아보겠습니다 (Let me check / I'll see what I can do)
- Never cancel plans at the last minute without a good reason — it is considered rude
- 더치페이 (Dutch pay / splitting the bill) is common among friends in Korea



CHAPTER 3

Advanced Food & Dining

Order complex dishes, ask about ingredients,
and dine like a true Korea insider.

KOREA NOW

Restaurant & Reservation Phrases

예약하고 싶어요

yeyakhago sipeoyo

I'd like to make a reservation

두 명이에요

du myeong-ieyo

There are two of us

이 음식에 뭐 들어가요?

i eumsige mwo deureogayo?

What's in this dish?

견과류 들어가요?

gyeongwaryu deureogayo?

Does it contain nuts?

글루텐 없는 것 있어요?

geulluten eomneun geot isseoyo?

Do you have gluten-free options?

덜 맵게 해주세요

deol maepge haejuseyo

Please make it less spicy

계란 빼주세요

gyeran bbaejuseyo

No egg please

양 많이 주세요

yang mani juseyo

Extra portion please

Korean BBQ Phrases

불 조절해 주세요

bul jojeorhae juseyo

Please adjust the flame

고기 구워 주세요

gogi guwo juseyo

Please grill the meat for us

쌈 주세요

ssam juseyo

Lettuce wraps please

추가 주문이요

chuga jumun-iyoy

Additional order please

고기 더 주세요

gogi deo juseyo

More meat please

기름 종이 주세요

gireum jongi juseyo

Oil paper / foil please

Cafe & Delivery Phrases

아이스 아메리카노 하나요

aiseu amerikano hano yo

One iced Americano please

따뜻한 걸로 주세요

ttatteuthan geollo juseyo

Hot one please

사이즈 업 해주세요

saijeub haejuseyo

Please upsize

샷 추가요

syat chugayo

Add an extra shot

설탕 빼주세요

seoltang bbaejuseyo

No sugar please

테이크아웃이요

teikeu-iyoy

Takeaway please

포인트 적립해 주세요

point jeoknibhae juseyo

Please add loyalty points

배달 시키려고요

baedal sikiryegoyo

I'd like to order delivery

배달비 얼마예요?

baedalbi eolmayeyo?

How much is the delivery fee?

몇 분 걸려요?

myeot bun geollyeoyo?

How many minutes will it take?

Korean Dining Etiquette □

- Wait for the eldest/most senior person to begin eating first
- Pour drinks for others — never pour for yourself while others' glasses are empty
- Tipping is NOT customary in Korea — it can sometimes cause confusion
- Say 잘 먹겠습니다 (jal meokgesseumnida) before eating — "I will eat well"
- Say 잘 먹었습니다 (jal meogeosseumnida) after — "I ate well / thank you for the meal"
- Delivery apps: 배달의민족 (Baemin) and 쿠팡이츠 (Coupang Eats) are the most popular



CHAPTER 4

Healthcare & Pharmacy

Describe symptoms, visit a doctor, and navigate Korean pharmacies.

KOREA NOW

Body Parts

Korean (Pronunciation)		English	
머리 (meori)	Head	눈 (nun)	Eye(s)
코 (ko)	Nose	귀 (gwi)	Ear(s)
입 (ip)	Mouth	목 (mok)	Neck / Throat
어깨 (eokkae)	Shoulder	팔 (pal)	Arm
손 (son)	Hand	손가락 (songarak)	Finger
가슴 (gaseum)	Chest	배 (bae)	Stomach / Abdomen
등 (deung)	Back	허리 (heori)	Lower back / Waist
다리 (dari)	Leg	무릎 (mureup)	Knee
발 (bal)	Foot	발가락 (balgarak)	Toe
이 (i)	Tooth/Teeth	피부 (pibu)	Skin

Describing Symptoms

열이 나요

yeori nayo
I have a fever

기침이 나요

gichimi nayo
I'm coughing

콧물이 나요

konmuri nayo
I have a runny nose

배가 아파요

baega apayo
My stomach hurts

두통이 있어요

dutong-i isseoyo
I have a headache

More Symptoms & Clinic Phrases

어지러워요

ejireowoyo
I feel dizzy

구역질이 나요

guyeokjiri nayo
I feel nauseous

설사를 해요

seolsareul haeyo
I have diarrhea

토했어요

tohaesseoyo
I vomited

잠을 못 잤어요

jameul mot jasseoyo
I couldn't sleep

숨이 차요

sumi chayo
I'm short of breath

발목을 삐었어요

balmogeur ppieosseoyo
I sprained my ankle

알레르기 반응이에요

allereugui ban-ung-ieyo
It's an allergic reaction

진료 예약하고 싶어요

jillyo yeyakhago sipeoyo
I'd like to make an appointment

보험이 없어요

beoheomi eopseoyo
I don't have insurance

처방전 주세요

cheobanggeon juseyo
Please give me a prescription

약은 어떻게 먹어요?

yageun eotteoke meogeoyo?
How do I take this medicine?

Korean Healthcare Tips □

- Korea has an excellent national health insurance system (국민건강보험)
- Foreigners can use clinics and hospitals — bring your passport
- 24-hour pharmacies (24시 약국) are common in major cities
- Convenience stores sell basic medicine: 타이레놀 (Tylenol), bandages, etc.
- To find English-speaking doctors: search "English friendly hospital Seoul"
- Tourist Helpline 1330 can help you find medical services in English
- Emergency: 119 (ambulance) — operators often speak basic English



CHAPTER 5

Directions & Navigation

Give and receive directions, read maps, and navigate like a local.

KOREA NOW

Directions Vocabulary

Korean	Pronunciation	Korean	Pronunciation
북 (North)	buk	남 (South)	nam
동 (East)	dong	서 (West)	seo
왼쪽 (Left)	oenjjok	오른쪽 (Right)	oreunjjok
직진 (Straight)	jikjin	뒤 (Back)	dwi
앞 (Front)	ap	위 (Up)	wi
아래 (Down)	arae	건너편 (Opposite side)	geonneo-pyeon

Landmark Vocabulary

신호등

sinhodeung

Traffic light

횡단보도

hoengdan-bodo

Crosswalk / Pedestrian crossing

건물

geonmul

Building

골목

golmok

Alley / Side street

사거리

sageori

Four-way intersection

삼거리

samgeori

Three-way intersection

Asking for Directions

여기서 얼마나 걸려요?

yeogiseo eolmana geollyeoyo?

How long does it take from here?

걸어서 갈 수 있어요?

georeoseo gal su isseoyo?

Can I walk there?

지도 보여주시실 수 있어요?

jido boyeojusil su isseoyo?

Can you show me on a map?

오른쪽으로 돌아요

oreunjogeuro dorayo

Turn right

왼쪽으로 돌아요

oenjjogeuro dorayo

Turn left

직진하세요

jikjinhaseyo

Go straight

저 건물 지나서요

jeo geonmul jinaseoyo

Past that building

__역에서 내려요

__yeokeseo naeryeoyo

Get off at __ station

몇 번 출구예요?

myeot beon chulguyeyo?

Which exit number is it?

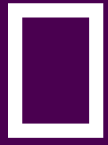
저기가 맞아요?

jeogio ga majayo?

Is that the right place?

Navigation Apps in Korea □

- Kakao Maps (카카오맵): Best for public transit — fully supports English
- Naver Maps (네이버 지도): Most accurate map data, some English support
- Google Maps: Good for English speakers but transit data can be incomplete
- Kakao Maps shows real-time bus info, subway exits, and walking routes
- Naver Maps has the most detailed address and business information
- T-Map: Best for driving — preferred by most Korean taxi drivers



CHAPTER 6

K-Culture & Entertainment

Visit museums, attend concerts, enjoy nightlife
and truly experience Korean culture.

KOREA NOW

Concert & Event Phrases

입장권 있어요?

ipjangwon isseoyo?

Do you have tickets?

어디 앉아야 해요?

eodi anjaya haeyo?

Where should I sit?

사진 찍어도 돼요?

sajin jjigeodo dwaeyo?

Can I take photos?

앵콜!

aengkol!

Encore!

티켓 두 장이요

tiket du jang-iy

Two tickets please

좌석 어디예요?

jwasek eodiyeyo?

Where is my seat?

Jjimjilbang (찜질방) Vocabulary

입장료 얼마예요?

ipjangnyo eolmayeyo?

How much is admission?

수건 포함이에요?

sugeon poham-ieyo?

Is a towel included?

락커 열쇠 주세요

rakeo yeolsoe juseyo

Locker key please

찜질복 입어야 해요?

jjimjilbok ibeoya haeyo?

Do I need to wear the uniform?

Noraebang (노래방) Phrases

방 있어요?

bang isseoyo?

Do you have a room available?

몇 명이에요?

myeot myeong-ieyo?

How many people?

한 시간에 얼마예요?

han sigane eolmayeyo?

How much per hour?

한 시간 더 연장해 주세요

han sigan deo yeonjanghe juseyo

Please extend one more hour

마이크 고장났어요

maikeu gojangnaesseoyo

The microphone is broken

탬버린 있어요?

taebeolin isseoyo?

Do you have a tambourine?

Must-Do Korean Experiences □

- Jjimjilbang (찜질방): 24-hour spa/sauna — wear the provided uniform (찜질복)
- Separate areas for men and women in the bathing section
- Noraebang (노래방): Private karaoke rooms — song books have English songs too
- Order drinks/snacks to your room — it's expected and fun
- PC Bang (PC방): Gaming cafes — open 24/7, extremely fast internet
- Tipping performers is not traditional — clapping and cheering is the way to show appreciation



CHAPTER 7

Feelings & Opinions

Share emotions, give compliments, express opinions, and have meaningful conversations.

KOREA NOW

Emotion Vocabulary

Korean (Verb form)	English
기쁘다 / 기뻐요 (gippeuda/gippeoyo)	Happy / Joyful
슬프다 / 슬퍼요 (seulpeuda/seulpeoyo)	Sad
화나다 / 화나요 (hwanada/hwanayo)	Angry
피곤하다 / 피곤해요 (pigonhada/	Tired
설레다 / 설레요 (seolleda/seolleyo)	Excited / Heart fluttering
무섭다 / 무서워요 (museobda/	Scared / Afraid
외롭다 / 외로워요 (oelobda/oerowoyo)	Lonely
그립다 / 그리워요 (geuripda/geuriwoyo)	Miss someone / Nostalgic
부끄럽다 / 부끄러워요 (bukkeureopda/	Embarrassed / Shy
걱정되다 / 걱정돼요 (geokjeongdoeda)	Worried

Expressing Opinions

제 생각에는...

je saenggak-eneun...

In my opinion...

저는 ~이/가 좋아요

jeoneun ~i/ga joayo

I like ~

별로예요

byeolloye yo

It's not great / not my thing

대박이에요!

daebak-ieyo!

Awesome! / Amazing!

More Opinion & Reaction Phrases

실망이에요

silmang-ieyo

I'm disappointed

괜찮은 것 같아요

gwaenchan-eun geot gatayo

It seems okay / not bad

정말요?

jeongmallyo?

Really?

맞아요

majayo

That's right / Exactly

아, 그렇군요

a, geureokkunyo

Oh, I see / Ah, is that so

완전 동의해요

wanjeon dong-uihaeyo

I totally agree

잘 모르겠어요

jal moreugeseoyo

I'm not sure

그럴 수도 있죠

geureol sudo itjyo

That could be / Maybe so

정말 잘 하시네요!

jeongmal jal hasiNeyo!

You're really good at this!

한국어 진짜 잘 하세요!

hangugeo jinja jal haseyo!

Your Korean is amazing!

스타일 멋있어요!

seutail meosisseoyo!

Your style is great!

너무 친절하세요

neomu chinjeolhaseyo

You're so kind

Korean Communication Style □

- 눈치 (nunchi): Reading the room — the ability to pick up on unspoken feelings
- Koreans often express disagreement indirectly: "조금 어려울 것 같아요" (might be difficult)
- A vague "네..." can mean "I hear you" — not necessarily agreement
- 괜찮아요 can mean "It's fine," "I'm okay," or politely "no thank you" depending on context
- Compliments are often deflected: "아니예요, 아직 멀었어요" (Oh no, I still have a long way to go)
- Direct "no" is avoided — learn to read indirect signals



CHAPTER 8

Shopping

Deep Dive

Shop online, navigate department stores, understand warranties, and master duty-free.

KOREA NOW

Department Store & Duty-Free

면세 혜택 받을 수 있어요?

myeonse hyetaek badeul su isseoyo?

Can I get duty-free benefits?

여권 보여드릴게요

yeokwon boyeodrilgeyo

I'll show you my passport

영수증은 나중에 주세요

yeongsujeung-eun najunge juseyo

Receipt later please

배송해 드릴까요?

baesonghe deurilkkayo?

Shall we ship it for you?

선물 포장 해주세요

seonmul pojang haejuseyo

Gift wrapping please

이게 제일 최신 모델이에요?

ise jeil choesin moderi-eyo?

Is this the latest model?

보증서 있어요?

bojeungseo isseoyo?

Is there a warranty?

교환 기간이 얼마예요?

gyohwan gigan-i eolmayeyo?

What is the exchange period?

Size Conversion — Clothing

Korean Size	US (Women)	UK (Women)	EU
44 (XS)	0-2	4-6	32-34
55 (S)	4-6	8-10	36-38
66 (M)	8-10	12-14	40-42
77 (L)	12-14	16-18	44-46
88 (XL)	16	20	48

K-Beauty & Traditional Market Shopping

이 제품 테스터 있어요?

i jepum teseuteo isseoyo?

Do you have a tester for this?

제 피부 타입에 맞아요?

je pibu taip-e majayo?

Is this suitable for my skin type?

민감한 피부예요

mingamhan pibuye yo

I have sensitive skin

수분 크림 추천해 주세요

subun keurim chucheonhae juseyo

Recommend a moisturizer please

더 저렴한 거 있어요?

deo jeoryeomhan geo isseoyo?

Do you have something cheaper?

이거 얼마나 남았어요?

igeo eolmana namaosseoyo?

How much is left in this?

세트로 있어요?

seteo ro isseoyo?

Do you have a set/bundle?

깎아 주세요

kkakka juseyo

Can you give me a discount?

Shopping Districts by Category □

- Electronics: Yongsan Electronics Market (용산전자상가) — best prices, some negotiation OK
- K-Beauty: Myeongdong (명동) — many stores, tourist prices; Hongdae for younger brands
- Olive Young (올리브영): Best H&B chain — find it everywhere, check app for coupons
- Traditional crafts & souvenirs: Insadong (인사동) and Namdaemun Market (남대문시장)
- Fashion: Dongdaemun (동대문) — wholesale open late; Hongdae for indie designers
- Department stores: Lotte, Shinsegae, Hyundai — luxury, tax-free, reliable quality



CHAPTER 9

Technology & Communication

Stay connected, use local apps, and communicate digitally in Korea.

KOREA NOW

SIM Cards, WiFi & KakaoTalk

유심 어디서 살 수 있어요?

yusim eodiseo sal su isseoyo?

Where can I buy a SIM card?

데이터 무제한 있어요?

deiteo mujaehan isseoyo?

Do you have unlimited data?

와이파이 비밀번호가 뭐예요?

waijai bimilbeonhoga mwoyeyo?

What's the WiFi password?

카카오톡 아이디가 뭐예요?

kakaotok aidi ga mwoyeyo?

What's your KakaoTalk ID?

카카오톡 추가해도 돼요?

kakaotok chugahaedo dwaeyo?

Can I add you on KakaoTalk?

충전기 있어요?

chungjeongi isseoyo?

Do you have a charger?

공유기 비밀번호가 뭐예요?

gong-yugi bibeon-i mwoyeyo?

What's the router password?

인터넷이 안 돼요

inteones-i an dwaeyo

The internet doesn't work

Korean Internet Slang

Slang	Reading	Meaning
ㅋㅋㅋ	keukeukeu	lol / haha (laughing)
ㅎㅎ	hehe	gentle laugh / hehe
ㅠㅠ	u-u	crying / sad face (like tears)
ㄱㄱ	go go	let's go!
감	gamsahabnida (abbr.)	thanks
존맛	jonmat	so delicious (slang: intensified 맛)
대박	daebak	awesome / no way / jackpot
화이팅/파이팅	hwaiting/paiting	Fighting! / You can do it! / Go!

eung eung

yeah yeah / uh huh

no no

no no / nope

Banking & ATM Phrases

ATM 어디 있어요?

eiteiem eodi isseoyo?

Where is the ATM?

이 카드 되나요?

i kadeu doenayo?

Does this card work?

현금 인출하려고요

hyeongeum inchulharyeogoyo

I'd like to withdraw cash

환전하려고요

hwanjeonharyeogoyo

I'd like to exchange currency

오늘 환율이 어떻게 돼요?

oneul hwanyuri eotteoke dwaeyo?

What's today's exchange rate?

소포 보내려고요

sopo bonaelyeogoyo

I'd like to send a package

항공편으로 보내주세요

hanggongpyeon-euro bonaejuseyo

Send it by airmail please

이거 해외로 보낼 수 있어요?

iseo haeoero bonael su isseoyo?

Can I send this overseas?

Essential Korean Apps □

- KakaoTalk (카카오톡): Primary messaging app — everyone in Korea uses it
- Kakao Maps (카카오맵): Best navigation — works in English, accurate transit info
- Naver (네이버): Korea's main search engine and portal
- Coupang (쿠팡): Korea's Amazon — same-day/next-day delivery across Korea
- Baemin / 배달의민족: Food delivery app — largest in Korea
- Papago: Best translation app for Korean (made by Naver)
- T-Money app: Manage your transit card balance on your phone



CHAPTER 10

Daily Life & Socializing

Talk about work, family, hobbies, and build genuine connections with Koreans.

KOREA NOW

Work & Family Vocabulary

Korean	English
직업이 뭐예요? (jigeob-i mwoyeyo?)	What do you do for work?
저는 회사원이에요 (hoisaweoni-eyo)	I'm an office worker
저는 프리랜서예요 (peulliraenseo-yeyo)	I'm a freelancer
저는 학생이에요 (haksaeng-ieyo)	I'm a student
어디서 일해요? (eodiseo ilhaeyo?)	Where do you work?
형 / 오빠 (hyeong / oppa)	Older brother (for males/females)
언니 / 누나 (eonni / nuna)	Older sister (for females/males)
부모님 (bumonim)	Parents (honorific)

Making Korean Friends

친구 되어도 될까요?

chingu doeodo doelkkayo?

Can we be friends?

연락해요!

yeollakhaeyo!

Let's keep in touch!

맛집 알려줄게요

matjip allyeojulgeyo

I'll tell you about good restaurants

카카오톡 교환해요

kakaotok gyohwanhaeyo

Let's exchange KakaoTalk

Korean Drinking Culture

건배!

geonbae!
Cheers! / Toast!

한 잔 더요?

han jan deoyo?
One more glass?

저는 안 마셔요

jeoneun an masyeoyo
I don't drink

오늘은 제가 살게요

oneureun jega salgeyo
Tonight is on me

술 잘 못해요

sul jal motaeyo
I can't drink much

맥주 한 잔 주세요

maekju han jan juseyo
One beer please

소주 한 병 주세요

soju han byeong juseyo
One bottle of soju please

물 주세요

mul juseyo
Water please (non-drinker)

Age & Honorifics

Why Age Matters in Korean Culture

Koreans often ask your age early in a conversation — this determines speech level and honorifics. Older = higher respect. Use -요/세요 endings with everyone until told otherwise. "언니/오빠/형/누나" are used for older friends — not their actual names.

Korean Social Customs □ □

- Remove shoes when entering a Korean home — always
- Bring a small gift when visiting someone's home (fruit, cake, or snacks)
- 빨리빨리 (ppalli ppalli): Korea's "hurry hurry" culture — things move fast
- Koreans may ask personal questions (age, job, relationship status) — it's polite curiosity
- Accepting drinks: use two hands or your right hand supported by your left wrist
- Age hierarchy (나이 서열) shapes all social interactions in Korea
- Gift-giving etiquette: don't open gifts immediately in front of the giver

Quick Reference Card

Intermediate Level — Essential Grammar & Phrases

Key Particles

Verb Endings

Social Phrases

Emergency & Health

