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ASSiMiL
Phrasebook

Korean



정말 아름다워요.
It's really beautiful!

무선인터넷이 되나요?
Is there wi-fi here?

Includes: 21 language lessons

Korean

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This phrasebook doesn't claim to be a substitute for a language course, but if you devote a bit of time to reading it and learning a few useful phrases, you'll quickly find that you're able to participate in basic exchanges with Korean speakers, enriching your travel experience.

A word of advice: don't aim for perfection! Those you're speaking to will forgive any mistakes and appreciate your efforts to communicate in their language. The main thing is to leave your inhibitions behind and speak!

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Getting started

➤ Day 1

어디예요? **eodiyeoyo?**
Where is it?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 어디예요?
eodi-yeyo?
where-be
<i>Where are [you]?</i> | 2 한국이에요.
hangug-ieyo.
Korea-be
<i>[I] am [in] Korea.</i> |
| 3 누구예요?
nugu-yeyo?
who-be
<i>Who are [you]?</i> | 4 캐롤이에요.
kaeror-ieyo.
Carol-be
<i>[I] am Carol.</i> |
| 5 무엇이에요?
mueos-ieyo?
what-be
<i>What is [it]?</i> | 6 여권이에요.
yeogwon-ieyo.
passport-be
<i>[It] is [a] passport.</i> |

1 aw-dee-yay-yo 2 han-gook-ee-ay-yo 3 noo-goo-yay-yo 4 keh-rol-ee-ay-yo
5 moo-awsh-ee-ay-yo 6 yaw-kwon-ee-ay-yo

Notes

In the Romanization in the lessons, we use dots to separate suffixes to help you identify the different parts of the word. In the phonetic transcriptions under the dialogue, we use hyphens to separate each syllable (which corresponds to a Korean syllable block). But keep in mind that the syllables blend together when spoken quickly.

The subject in a Korean sentence is very often omitted as the context usually makes it clear who or what the verb refers to. The subject is expressed only when really necessary.

The verb is always placed at the end of a sentence. Verbs do not conjugate according to person – good news! However, there are three forms depending on the degree of politeness required: colloquial (for friends or peers), polite informal and polite formal. We have opted for the polite informal, which means a sentence always ends with 요 **-yo**. This is the most frequently used form, both in speech and writing. It is a polite way to address someone you don't know well (Koreans also use it to address people who are older than them, normally including their parents).

To form a question, just use a rising intonation.

이예요 **ieyo** [ee-ay-yo] / 예요 **yeyo** [yay-yo] correspond to the verb *to be*. After a word that ends with a consonant, 이에요 **ieyo** is used. After a word that ends with a vowel, 예요 **yeyo** is used. There is no real difference in pronunciation. Note that there is no space between *be* and the word preceding it.

Practice – Translate the following sentences:

1. What is it?
2. Who are you?
3. 어디예요?
4. 여권이에요.

Answers:

1. 무엇이에요?
2. 누구예요?
3. Where are you?
4. It's a passport.

Conversing

➤ First contact

Greetings

In Korean, 안녕하세요? **annyeonghaseyo?** *Hello!* is a question. It derives from the verb 안녕하다 **annyeonghada** *be at peace* ('peace-be') and literally enquires if someone is untroubled. The shorter greeting 안녕? **annyeong?** *Hi!* is only used in casual contexts with peers or very close friends or family.

<i>Hello! / Good morning!</i>	안녕하세요? annyeonghaseyo?	<i>an-nyawng-a-say-yo</i>
<i>Hi! (very informal)</i>	안녕? annyeong?	<i>an-nyawng</i>

How are you?

잘 지내세요?

jal jinaeseyo?

chal chee-neh-say-yo

well pass

요즘 어떻게 지내세요?

yojeum eotteoke jinaeseyo?

yo-juhnm aw-taw-kay chee-neh-say-yo

these-days how pass

Saying goodbye

Depending on whether a person is the one staying or leaving, there are two ways to say goodbye: 안녕히 계세요 **annyeonghi gyeseyo** 'stay well' (said when leaving) and 안녕히 가세요 **annyeonghi gaseyo** 'go well' (said when staying behind).

<i>See you again soon!</i>	또 봐요. tto bwayo	<i>toh pa-yo</i>
<i>See you tomorrow!</i>	내일 봐요. naeil bwayo	<i>neh-eel pa-yo</i>
<i>See you next time!</i>	다음에 봐요. daeume bwayo	<i>ta-uhm-ay pa-yo</i>
<i>See you later!</i>	이따 봐요. itta bwayo	<i>ee-ta pa-yo</i>

<i>Goodbye!</i> (when leaving)	안녕히 계세요. annyeonghi gyeseyo	<i>an-nywang-ee</i> <i>kay-say-yo</i>
<i>Goodbye!</i> (when staying)	안녕히 가세요. annyeonghi gaseyo	<i>an-nyawng-ee</i> <i>ka-say-yo</i>

Thanking, apologizing and excusing

Rather than saying 'You're welcome. It's nothing' Koreans usually just give a small smile.

<i>Thank you.</i>	고마워요. gomawoyo	<i>ko-ma-wo-yo</i>
<i>You're welcome.</i> (formal) / (informal)	천만에요. cheonmaneyo / 뭘요. mworyo	<i>chawn-man-ay-yo</i> / <i>mol-yo</i>
<i>I'm sorry.</i> (formal) / (informal)	죄송합니다. joesonghamnida / 미안해요. mianhaeyo	<i>chay-song-am-nee-da</i> / <i>mee-an-heh-yo</i>
<i>Excuse me ...</i> (formal)	실례지만... sillyejiman	<i>shil-jay-jee-man</i>
<i>Excuse me!</i> (to catch attention)	여기요! / 저기요! yeogiyo / jeogiyo	<i>yaw-gee-yo</i> / <i>chaw-gee-yo</i>

Offering wishes

You might hear 수고 하세요 **sugo haseyo** ('effort make'), which is said when leaving the workplace to those who remain. It means something like *Keep up the good work!* but is used almost like *Have a good day!* when taking leave of someone. It is very common because Koreans spend a lot of time at work!

<i>Keep up the good work! / Take care!</i>	수고 하세요. sugo haseyo	<i>soo-go ha-say-yo</i>
<i>Cheer up!</i>	힘 내세요. him naeseyo	<i>heem neh-say-yo</i>
<i>Congratulations!</i> (informal) / (formal)	축하해요. chukahaeyo / 축하드려요. chukadeuryeoyo	<i>chook-a-eh-yo</i> / <i>chook-a-duh-raw-yo</i>

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>	생일 축하해요. saengil chukhaeyo	<i>seng-il chook-a-eh-yo</i>
<i>Happy New Year!</i>	새해 복 많이 받으세요. saehae bok mani badeuseyo	<i>seh-heh po^s man-ee</i> <i>pad-uh-say-yo</i>

Agreeing and disagreeing

Avoid simply using 'yes' or 'no' on its own, as this suggests a lack of desire to continue the conversation, or even rejection in the case of 'no'.

Yes.	네. ne	<i>nay</i>
<i>Yes, of course!</i>	네, 당연하죠. ne, dangyeonhajyo	<i>nay tahng-yawn-a-jo</i>
<i>Yes, I understand.</i>	네, 알겠어요. ne, algeseoyo	<i>nay al-gayss-aw-yo</i>
<i>All right.</i>	좋아요. joayo	<i>cho-ah-yo</i>
<i>Well ... I'll think about it.</i>	글쎄요, 생각해 볼게요. geulsseyo, saenggakae bolgeyo	<i>kuhl-say-yo seng-gak-eh pol-kay-yo</i>
<i>I'm not sure.</i>	잘 모르겠어요. jal moregesseoyo	<i>chal</i> <i>mo'-ruh-gayss-aw-yo</i>
<i>I don't think so.</i>	아닌 것 같은데요. anin geot gateundeyo	<i>a-noon gaw'</i> <i>kat-uhn-day-yo</i>
No.	아니요. aniyo	<i>a-nee-yo</i>
<i>No, thank you.</i>	아니요, 괜찮아요. aniyo, gwaenchanayo	<i>a-nee-yo</i> <i>kwen-chan-a-yo</i>

Asking questions

As with agreeing or disagreeing, it is abrupt in Korean culture to respond with a one-word answer if someone asks you a question. You should repeat the verb used in the question when answering, e.g. *Yes, I am.* rather than simply *Yes.*

Are you a student?

학생이에요?

haksaengieyo?

hak-seng-ee-ay-yo

student-be

Yes, I'm a student.

네, 학생이에요.

ne, haksaeingieyo.

nay hak-seng-ee-ay-yo

yes, student-be

No, I'm not a student.

아니요, 학생이 아니에요.

aniyo, haksaeingi anieyo.

a-nee-yo hak-seng-ee a-nee-ay-yo

no, student not-be

Here are some questions you can use in conversations (see also the back cover flap for common question words):

<i>Ah! Is that so?</i>	아! 그래요? a! geuraeyo?	<i>ah kuh-reh-yo</i>
<i>Really?</i>	정말요? jeongmaryo?	<i>chawng-ma'-yo</i>

Body language

Westerners frequently use gestures and facial expressions to animate a conversation. Koreans (like other Confucian cultures) tend not to. A Confucian ideal is 'discreetness': being showy or calling attention to yourself is to be avoided. This is why Korean women cover their mouth when they laugh.

In Korea, never point at someone with your finger. It is also advisable to avoid looking directly into someone's eyes when speaking to them. This can be interpreted as rude or even as a provocation. Look at the chin instead, occasionally glancing at the eyes. Koreans greet each other with a slight bow; they don't hug, kiss or pat backs or shoulders. If you shake someone's hand, it is best to use both hands – this is a sign of respect.

Korean

Phrasebook

Visiting the modern megacity of Seoul or the historical wonders of Gyeongju? The creator of the famous Assimil language-learning method has developed this indispensable companion for your break or business trip to South Korea.

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