

How to... Say it in Korean Vol. 1

50 Essential Phrases for Beginners & Casuals Learning Korean



Includes 180 audio files to help
you pronounce each phrases correctly

by Dom & Hyo

Welcome to How to Say it in Korean!

Thank you for your purchase.

In this short ebook, you will find 50 basic and essential phrases that you can use immediately in daily conversation.

This ebook is mainly targeted towards casuals and beginners learning Korean. Maybe you will only be in Korea for a short time and just want to get around with the basics or maybe you have some Korean friends you want to impress. These phrases will help you.

Some basics about this ebook:

Formal: Use these phrases around people older than you and in professional settings.

Polite: The standard way most Koreans speak to people they don't know well. Also used towards people older than you outside of a formal setting.

Casual: Use these phrases with people younger than you and people close to you like best friends and family.

Green numbers: These numbers correspond to the audio track for that phrase.

Good luck!

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How to say 'Hello' in Korean

Formal: 안녕하세요 (an-nyeong-ha-sim-ni-kka) To show a high level of respect, use this version. This is often used during speeches, formal announcements, etc. (1)

Polite: 안녕하세요 (an-nyeong-ha-se-yo) To be polite, use this in most situations. (2)

Informal: 안녕 (an-nyeong) Use this with close people you know and people younger than you. (3)

On the phone: 여보세요? (yeo-bo-se-yo) This is only used when answering the phone. (4)

Slang: 안녕 (an-nyong) Cuter version of the informal way of saying hello. (5)

How to say 'Goodbye' in Korean

Formal: 안녕히 가십시오 (an-nyeong-hi ga-ship-shio): The formal way of saying goodbye if the other person is leaving. (10-1)

안녕히 가십시오 (an-nyeong-hi ga-ship-shio): The formal way of saying goodbye if you are leaving and the other person is staying. (10-2)

Polite: 안녕히 가세요 (an-nyeong-hi ga-se-yo): Use this if the other person is leaving. (6)

안녕히 계세요 (an-nyeong-hi gye-se-yo): Use this if you are leaving and the other person is staying. (7)

가세요 (ga-se-yo): A polite way of saying "go". Older people use this towards younger people. (8)

잘 가요 (jal-ga-yo): Means to "go well". It's Polite version of "잘 가" below. (9)

Informal: 안녕 (an-nyeong) Yes this can also be used to say goodbye! (11)

잘 가 (jal-ga): If the other person is leaving, use this. It literally means "go well". (12)

나 먼저 가 (na meon-jeo ga): If you are leaving first, use this. It means I'll go first. (13)

내일 봐 (nae-il bwa): See you tomorrow. (14)

이따 봐 (i-tta bwa): See you later. (15)

다음에 봐 (da-eum-e bwa): See you next time. (16)

How to say 'Thank You' in Korean

Formal: 감사합니다 (gam-sa-ham-ni-da): This is the most common way of saying thank you in Korean. You can use this with pretty much anyone. This is especially useful in public places like stores, restaurants, etc. (17)

How to Say it in Korean!

고맙습니다 (go-map-seum-ni-da): This is the second formal way of saying thank you. This, and 감사합니다 are pretty much the same. (18)

Polite: 고마워요 (go-ma-weo-yo): Although this is the standard form, you will only use this with people close to you who are also older than you. (19)

Informal: 고마워 (go-ma-weo): Use this with close people you know (friends, siblings, etc.) and people younger than you. (20)

How to say 'Sorry' in Korean

Formal: 죄송합니다 (joe-song-ham-ni-da): This is the most preferred way of saying sorry if you want to be respectful and show that you are serious about your apology (and for serious situations). A small bow with your head is also preferred. (21)

미안합니다 (mi-an-ham-ni-da): This version can also be used although the one above is slightly more respectful. (22)

Polite: 죄송해요 (joe-song-hae-yo): This would be used to say sorry in not so serious situations. However, it's always a good idea to just go with the formal version when saying sorry. (23)

미안해요 (mi-an-hae-yo): Like the formal versions, this one can also be used in place of 죄송해요. (24)

Informal: 미안해 (mi-an-hae): Use this with people close to you and young children. (25)

How to say 'Good Morning' in Korean

Formal: 잘 주무셨어요? (jal ju-mu-shyeo-sseo-yo): This is a common greeting for good morning and you would use this towards people older than you. It means "Did you sleep well?" (26)

안녕히 주무셨어요? (an-nyeong-hi ju-mu-shyeo-sseo-yo): This is one is also used towards people older than you and means "Did you sleep peacefully?" (27)

Only use the above two phrases after someone has just woken up and you first meet them early in the morning

좋은 아침입니다 (jo-eun a-chim-im-ni-da): This literally means good morning and it's the closest phrase to the English phrase "good morning". (28)

Polite: 잘 잤어요? (jal ja-sseo-yo): The standard form of "Did you sleep well" from above. (29)

좋은 아침이에요 (jo-eun a-chim-i-e-yo): This is the Standard form of "Good morning" from above. (30)

Informal: 잘 잤어? (jal ja-sseo): Use this with people close to you and young children. This is the most casual form of "Did you sleep well?" (31)

좋은 아침: (jo-eun a-chim): This is the casual version of the literal "Good morning." (32)

How to say 'Good Night' in Korean

Formal: 안녕히 주무세요 (an-nyeong-hi ju-mu-se-yo): This literally means to tell someone to sleep peacefully. Use this towards people significantly older than you (basically your elders). (33)

편안한 밤 되세요 (pyeon-an-han bam doe-se-yo): This is another formal way to say good night. Its literal meaning means to have a comfortable night. (34)

Polite: 잘 자요 (jal ja-yo): This is probably the most common form of good night you will hear and use. It means to sleep well. Use this with people you know who are older than you or people you don't know well. (35)

좋은 꿈 껴요 (jo-eun kkum kkweo-yo): This is basically the equivalent of "Sweet dreams" in English. It's literal translation could be something to the effect of "Dream good dreams." (36)

Informal: 잘 자 (jal ja): Use this with people close to you and young children. This is telling someone to sleep well. (37)

좋은 꿈 껴: (jo-eun kkum kkweo): This is the casual version of "Sweet dreams". (38)

How to say 'Happy Birthday' in Korean

Formal: 생신을 축하드립니다! (saeng-shin-eul chuk-ha-deu-rim-ni-da): This way of saying happy birthday uses the formal word for birthday (생신) and is used towards your elders. (39)

Polite: 생일 축하합니다! (saeng-il chuk-ha-ham-ni-da): Although this has the formal ending "입니다" we would still consider this the standard greeting as even with close friends and family, it is used. (40)

생일 축하해요! (saeng-il chuk-ha-hae-yo): This is basically the same as the phrase directly above except that it's slightly more casual. (41)

Informal: 생일 축하해! (saeng-il chuk-hae): This is the most casual form of happy birthday. You would only want to use this with your close friends, siblings, and children. (42)

How to say 'I Love You' in Korean

Formal: 사랑합니다 (sa-rang-ham-ni-da): It's kind of strange to say 'I love you' in a formal setting so you probably won't be using this one much. However, it's still good to know. (43)

Polite: 사랑해요 (sa-rang-hae-yo): This is less casual than the first, but not the most commonly used version of 'I love you'. (44)

사랑해 (sa-rang-hae): This is the most common way of saying I love you that you will use. Because you are usually saying this phrase to someone like a romantic partner, family member, or close friend, the casual version is usually the best way of expressing 'I love you'. (45)

Bonus: 나도 사랑해 (na-do sa-rang-hae): This means 'I love you too.' (46)

How to say 'Yes' in Korean

Formal: 예 (ye): You can use this in formal situations. (47)

Polite: 네 (ne): This is more widely used and while considered 'standard', this is also acceptable in formal situations. (48)

Both 예 and 네 can basically be used interchangeably. However, 네 is more widely used and in some situations, using 예 can have a mocking tone to it. To be safe, just use 네 in most conversations.

Informal: 응/어 (eung/eo): These are both used casually with people younger than you or people you know well. Don't use these with people much older than you as it can be considered very rude. You will find most friends using this in text messaging. Also 응 is seen as more feminine while 어 is seen as more masculine. (49)

How to say 'No' in Korean

Formal/Polite: 아니요 (a-ni-yo): This is very simple to remember and you will want to use this version when asked a question from someone older than you. Sometimes 아니오 is also used. This is an older spelling that is still sometimes used on TV shows set in the Joseon Dynasty era. (50)

Informal: 아니 (a-ni): This is the casual form which drops the '요'. You can use this with people close to you and younger than you. (51)

Other: 안돼요 (an-dwae-yo): This basically means that something is not allowed. So if someone asks you for your food, you can reply with this. It has a stronger tone than the other ways of saying no. (52)

How to say 'Please' in Korean

Formal: ~주십시오 (ju-ship-shi-o): If you want to ask someone to do something for you, use this with another verb. So for example if you want to ask someone to tell you something, you would say '말해 주십시오'. Here, you are combining the verb '말하다 (conjugated to 말해)' with 주십시오. You can do this with pretty much any verb or noun. (53)

Polite: ~주세요 (ju-se-yo): This is the casual form of the phrase above. The same rule applies here. So for example if you wanted bread, you could say '빵 주세요'. (54)

Informal: 줘 (jweo): This is the most casual form of both above. The same rule applies to this one as well. (55)

Other: 제발 (jweo): This can be directly translated to please in English. However, this is used mainly in negative situations where you are pleading or begging someone to do/not do something. You would never use this to ask for something like water, food, etc. For example you could say '제발 가지마' which means 'Please don't go'. (56)

How to say 'How are you' in Korean

Formal: 잘 지내셨어요? (jal ji-nae-shyeo-sseo-yo): This is a simple way to ask someone 'Have you been well?' Use this towards people older than you. (57)

어떻게 지내셨어요? (eo-tteo-ke ji-nae-shyeo-sseo-yo): This is very similar to the one above. The only difference is that '잘 (well)' has been replaced with '어떻게 (how)'. This translates this phrase into 'How have you been?' (58)

Polite: 잘 지냈어요? (jal ji-nae-sseo-yo): This is the standard form of '잘 지내셨어요?' from above. (59)

어떻게 지냈어요? (eo-tteo-ke ji-nae-sseo-yo): Standard form of '어떻게 지내셨어요?' from above. (60)

잘 있었어요? (jal i-sseo-sseo-yo): This is another way to ask 'Have you been well?' (61)

Informal: 잘 지냈어? (jal ji-nae-sseo): You would use this towards a close friend or sibling you haven't seen in awhile. (62)

어떻게 지냈어? (eo-tteo-ke ji-nae-sseo): You would use this towards a close friend or sibling you haven't seen in awhile. (63)

잘 있었어? (jal i-sseo-sseo): You would use this towards a close friend or sibling you haven't seen in awhile. (64)

Other: 밥 먹었어요? (bap meo-geo-sseo): Koreans commonly ask this question towards one another. It literally means 'Have you eaten?', but it is also used as a way of asking someone how they are. (65)

How to say 'My name is' in Korean

Formal: 제 이름은 (name)입니다 (je i-reum-i [name]im-ni-da): You can use this to say your name to people older than you. (66)

Polite: 제 이름은 (name)이에요 (je i-reum-i [name]i-e-yo): Use this form to be polite with new people are the same age as you or with new coworkers. (67)

Informal: 내 이름은 (name)이야 (je i-reum-i [name]i-ya): Use this towards people younger than you. (68)

How to say 'You're welcome' in Korean

Formal: 천만에요 (cheon-man-i-e-yo): This is the official definition of 'you're welcome' that you will find often in books. Although this is not used in daily conversation, it's still a good phrase to know. (69)

Polite: 아니에요 (a-ni-e-yo): This is the most common way of saying thank you to someone. It closely translates to 'Oh it's nothing/No problem.' (70)

How to Say it in Korean!

괜찮아요 (gwaen-chan-a-yo): This has a literal meaning of 'It's okay/It's alright'/'It's nothing'. It can also be used with 아니에요. (71)

'아니에요, 괜찮아요.' = Don't worry, it's okay. (72)

Casual: 아니야 (a-ni-ya): This is the casual form of 아니에요. (73)

괜찮아요 (gwaen-chan-a): This is the standard form of 괜찮아요. (74)

How to say 'Nice to meet you' in Korean

Formal: 만나서 반갑습니다 (man-na-seo ban-gap-seum-ni-da): This combines words for meet and glad. It literally means 'I'm glad to meet you'. 만나다 means to meet and 반갑다 means to be pleased or happy. Use this formal version in situations like professional meetings/gatherings or to someone older. (75)

Polite: 만나서 반가워요 (man-na-seo ban-geo-weo-yo): Use this with people who are the same age as you or if you know it's a normal everyday situation when meeting people outside of a formal or professional setting. (76)

Casual: 만나서 반가워 (man-na-seo ban-geo-weo): Since you want to be as polite as possible when meeting someone for the first time, you will probably want to avoid using the casual version. Only use this if speaking to a young child, and even then, a simple 안녕 would be okay. (77)

How to say 'Congratulations' in Korean

Formal: 축하드립니다! (chuk-ha-deu-rim-ni-da): This is the highest level of formality you can use when congratulating someone. Use this with bosses, teachers, or in general people with positions of power over you in the workplace. (78)

There are some variations with these. For example for weddings, you can use 축하드려요 which is a more casual form of 축하드립니다 while still being formal. For example 결혼 축하드려요! (결혼 = wedding). You can just add the occasion to the beginning of your congratulations. For close friends, you can simply use the Polite and casual forms with these words as well (결혼 축하해 [요]).

축하합니다! (chuk-ha-ham-ni-da): Use this with people older than you. You would also use this to congratulate someone on their wedding or graduation. If you want to be formal without sounding too proper in the wrong context, use this one rather than the one above. (79)

Polite: 축하해요! (chuk-ha-hae-yo): The 요 has been added on and you would say this to acquaintances, not so close friends, coworkers, and neighbors. (80)

Casual: 축하해! (chuk-ha-hae): Notice that the '요' is dropped as usual for the casual form. You would say this to very close friends, children, and someone younger than you. (81)

How to say 'I miss you' in Korean

Formal: 보고 싶습니다 (po-go ship-seum-ni-da): Usually when you say you miss someone, they are probably pretty close to you so the formal version of 'I miss you' is not used often. (82)

Polite: 보고 싶어요 (po-go ship-eo-yo): This could be used if you're talking about missing someone who is older than you OR if you're speaking of missing someone in a conversation with someone who is older than you. (83)

Casual: 보고 싶어 (po-go ship-eo): This is the main version of I miss you that you would use since when you usually speak of missing someone, they are very close to you. (84)

How to say 'Delicious' in Korean

Formal: 맛있습니다 (ma-shi-sseum-nida): You could use this in a formal setting like a business lunch with your boss. You would also hear this in advertisements or broadcasts. (85)

Polite: 맛있어요 (ma-shi-sseo-yo): Use this if you're eating a meal with someone older than you who is not particularly close. (To say something is not delicious, you can say "맛없어요") (86)

Casual: 맛있어 (ma-shi-sseo): Use this with your close friends and family to describe a delicious meal. (To say something is not delicious, you can say "맛없어") (87)

How to say 'I like you' in Korean

Formal: 저는 [name]씨를 좋아합니다 (jeo-neun [name]-sshi-reul jo-a-ham-ni-da): Although you would probably not find yourself in a situation to use the formal way of saying 'I like you', it is still good to know just in case. '저' is a formal way of saying 'I', and '씨' is a suffix added to someone's name to be polite. (88)

Polite: 저 [name]씨 좋아해요 (jeo [name]-sshi jo-a-hae-yo): Use this if you want to tell someone older than you, or higher rank than you that you like them. (89)

Casual: 나 너 좋아해 (na neo jo-a-hae): Use this with close people and people younger than you. In this casual form, the casual word for you, '너', is used. You should only use this word with people very close to you as it's rude otherwise. The word '나' is the casual form for 'I'. (90)

How to say 'Excuse me' in Korean

Formal: 실례합니다 (shil-lye-ham-ni-da): This is a very formal and polite way of saying excuse me. This can be used often when out in public and you are trying to get someone's attention like asking for help. If you're not sure which excuse me to use, use this one just to be safe. (91)

How to Say it in Korean!

Polite: 잠깐만요/잠시만요 (jam-ggan-man-yo/jam-shi-man-yo): The literal meaning of these words is "Wait a moment/second/minute." However if you are taking the bus, subway, or just walking around, you can say these two phrases to politely let someone know they are in your way and you need to pass them. (92)

여기요/저기요 (yeo-gi-yo/cheo-gi-yo): These two words are commonly heard in restaurants to get the server's attention. You can also use these to get someone's attention while out in public. (93)

Casual: 잠깐만/잠시만 (jam-ggan-man/jam-shi-man-yo): These are just the casual versions of the polite ways to say excuse me. The "요" is dropped with these. (94)

How to say 'Good luck' in Korean

Formal: 잘 하세요 (jal ha-se-yo): This means to do well. You could say this to someone before a test, job interview, etc. (95)

Polite: 잘 해요 (jal hae-yo): Use this one with someone who is not close to you but you still want to sound polite. (96)

Casual: 잘 해 (jal hae): This is the most casual form. Use this with your close friends and family to wish them good luck. (97)

Other: 화이팅 (hwa-i-ting): This is a very common term used to wish someone good luck. It's Konglish for "Fighting" although it doesn't literally mean to fight someone. Only use this with your friends. (98)

잘 하고 와요/잘 하고 와 (jal ha-go wa-yo/jal ha-go wa): This phrase is telling someone to do well and return. Use with your friends and people you know to be polite. (99)

The number 7 is considered lucky in Korea. Dreaming of a pig is also considered lucky and means money and wealth are coming to you.

How to say 'Cute' in Korean

Formal: 귀엽습니다 (gwi-yeop-seum-ni-da): This is the formal version of saying cute. It's not very likely that you will use cute in a formal situation though. For instance I highly doubt you would call your boss or teacher cute to their face. It really sounds kind of awkward. (100)

Polite: 귀여워요 (gwi-yeo-weo-yo): This is the standard version that you will want to use around people who you are not close to or people older than you. Notice the 요 ending. (101)

Casual: 귀여워 (gwi-yeo-weo): This is the one that you will probably hear most often and it is used around your close friends, family, and people younger than you. (102)

Other: 귀요미 (gwi-yo-mi): This is a Korean slang word used to describe someone who is cute or acts cute. You could use this to describe a baby, child, pet, significant other etc. It's a very versatile slang word. (103)

How to say 'Cheers' in Korean

건배! (geon-bae): This is the most common way to say cheers or make a toast. You can use this with pretty much anyone. It literally means "empty glass". You will use and hear this one the most often when you go out and drink. (104)

위하여! (wi-ha-yeo): Most people have not heard of this one because it used mostly by older people. It is more common among the older Koreans and you'll rarely hear this from younger people. This is also commonly said when a toast is made among a business meeting or gathering. (105)

짤 (jjan): This is the most casual way to say cheers and is more of a kind of slang. Should only be used with people you are close to and you will hear this frequently used among younger people. (106)

원샷 (weon-shyat): This is the Konglish version of "one shot". When you say this, it's time to down your drink in one go. (107)

Formalities are really not needed when doing cheers and toasts

How to say 'Happy New Year' in Korean

Formal: 새해 복 많이 받으십시오 (sae-hae bok ma-ni ba-deu-sip-sio): Use this in formal settings, to people who have authority over you, people you respect, etc. You will also see this version used on television shows and ads. (108)

Polite: 새해 복 많이 받으세요 (sae-hae bok ma-ni ba-deu-se-yo): Use this with your coworkers and people you may encounter during the day (clerks, store workers, etc.). This phrase literally means to have lots of luck in the new year. (109)

행복한 새해 되세요 (haeng-bok-han sae-hae doe-se-yo): This is another polite way of saying happy new year. The difference between this one and the one above is this one means to literally have a happy new year. (110)

Casual: 새해 복 많이 받아 (sae-hae bok ma-ni ba-da): You typically wouldn't use this version of happy new year except among your close friends and family. Even then, most times the polite version is still used. (111)

How to say 'Merry Christmas' in Korean

Formal: 행복한 크리스마스 되십시오 (haeng-bok-han keu-ri-seu-ma-seu doe-sip-si-o): You can use this with higher ups that you know or just about anyone if you want to be sure to not offend. (112)

즐거운 성탄절 보내십시오 (jeul-geo-un seong-tan-jeol bo-nae-sip-si-o): This is another formal way of saying Merry Christmas. This phrase uses the less common way of saying Christmas '성탄절'. (113)

How to Say it in Korean!

Polite: 크리스마스 잘 보내세요 (keu-ri-seu-ma-seu jal bo-nae-se-yo): This is the second most common way of saying Merry Christmas. (114)

크리스마스 잘 보내요 (keu-ri-seu-ma-seu jal bo-nae-yo): This is a more casual form of the one above and is most often used among people you know well. (115)

즐거운 성탄절 보내세요 (jeul-geo-un seong-tan-jeol bo-nae-se-yo): This form once again uses the alternate word for Christmas. It's literal meaning is telling someone to enjoy their Christmas. (116)

Casual: 메리 크리스마스 (me-ri keu-ri-seu-ma-seu): People usually use this phrase to say Merry Christmas. It's easy to remember because it's basically 'Merry Christmas' written out using Korean letters. Even though this is under the informal section, you would still be usually be fine using this in most situations. However, if you aren't sure, just use the more formal versions above. (117)

크리스마스 잘 보내 (keu-ri-seu-ma-seu jal bo-nae): Use this with your close friends and family. (118)

How to say 'Good Job' in Korean

Formal: 잘 했습니다 (jal hae-sseum-ni-da): This can be translated as 'you did well.' You wouldn't normally use this as it would probably be very rare for you to tell a superior they did well. (119)

수고하셨습니다 (su-go ha-shyeo-sseum-ni-da): This second phrase can be translated as 'Thank you for your hard work' or 'You worked very hard.' This is more formal than the first phrase and can be used towards coworkers and workers you see in shops. (120)

Polite: 잘 했어요 (jal hae-sseo-yo) / 수고했어요 (su-go hae-sseo-yo): Use these with people you don't know very well but still want to be polite towards. (121)

Casual: 잘 했어 (jal hae-sseo) / 수고했어 (su-go-hae-sseo): Use this form with people who are close to you. (122)

How to say 'I don't know' in Korean

Formal: 잘 모르겠습니다 (jal mo-reu-get-seum-ni-da) / 잘 모릅니다 (jal mo-reum-ni-da): These come from the verb 모르다 which means to not know something. 잘 means well so when you put these words together, it means "I don't know well." (123)

Polite: 몰라요 (mol-la-yo) / 잘 몰라요 (jal mol-la-yo) / 잘 모르겠어요 (jal mo-reu-ge-sseo-yo): All three of these can be used in place of the other. However using 잘 sounds a bit more polite. Use these with casual acquaintances. (124)

Casual: 몰라 (mol-la) / 모르겠어 (mo-reu-ge-sseo): These forms are quick and to the point. Use these with people you are close to. (125)

How to say 'Good' in Korean

Formal: 좋습니다 (jo-seum-ni-da): If you want to say something or a situation is good to someone of higher status than you, then use this. (126)

Polite: 좋아요 (jo-a-yo): To say something is good to someone you don't know well, use this. (127)

Casual: 좋아 (jal hae): Drop the '요' to use the casual form with your close friends and family. (128)

How to say 'What are you doing' in Korean

Formal: 뭐 하십니까? (mweo ha-sim-ni-kka): The chances are very low that you would use this in a formal situation except for maybe you're on the street and someone is acting weird. You could then use this question to inquire what they are doing while still sounding respectful. (129)

Polite: 뭐 하세요? (mweo ha-se-yo) / 뭐 해요? (mweo hae-yo): If someone is not that close to you, you can use these two. However, the first one is a bit more polite so use this one just to be safe. (130)

Casual: 뭐 해? (mweo hae) / 뭐 하니? (mweo ha-ni): Use these with close people you know. The last one is very casual. The '니' is used in casual forms when asking a question. (131)

How to say 'Happy' in Korean

Formal: 행복합니다 (haeng-bok-ham-ni-da): The verb form of happy is '행복하다'. Use this to people older than you or in formal situations like meetings, interviews, etc. (132)

기쁩니다 (gi-ppeum-ni-da): This second word is similar to happy but is better translated as glad. (133)

Polite: 행복해요 (haeng-bok-hae-yo) / 기뻐요 (gi-ppeo-yo): Change the endings to '요' to make these polite, but not too formal when talking to people you don't know. (134)

Casual: 행복해 (haeng-bok-hae) / 기뻐 (gi-ppeo): The casual forms you can use with your close friends and family. (135)

How to say 'Really' in Korean

Formal: 정말입니까? (jeong-mal-im-ni-kka): This is the formal form of 'really' phrased into a question. If you were at a business meeting with your boss, he may ask this to confirm something. It's basically the equivalent of "Did you really?", "Is that really true?". (136)

정말입니다 (jeong-mal-im-ni-da): You can use this to answer when someone uses the formal question above. (137)

Polite: 정말요 (jeongmallyo) / 진짜요 (jin-jja-yo): These are to be used with people older than you or

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with people you don't know very well or just met. Like the formal version, these can also be phrased as questions to confirm what someone said or to act surprised (Really? Seriously?) (138)

Casual: 정말 (jeongmal) / 진짜 (jin-jja): Use these with close friends and family. (139)

How to say 'You' in Korean

For the word you, we are going to show you the basic forms. However, it is better to address a person by their name or title as saying you can be rude or confrontational. To be safe, don't use these at all until you've become a bit more advanced at learning Korean

너 (neo): This has many different forms, but we will just stick with the basics. You would only find yourself using this towards a child. This is usually considered rude although lots of older people may use this towards younger people (not considered rude). (140)

당신 (dang-shin): This is very confrontational and you don't need to worry about using this one. (141)

As we said above, it is better to address someone by their name or title. So we are going to list some ways to do this below:

~씨 (sshi): You can add this to someone's name in order to be polite. You wouldn't do this to someone you know well, but to someone like a coworker or someone you just met. (142)

Ex: 효선씨, 도미닉씨, 은지씨, 현수씨 (143)

선생님 (seon-saeng-nim): Teacher. Can also refer to a doctor or anyone that teaches something. (144)

사장님 (sa-jang-nim): Head of a company. (145)

아저씨 (a-jeo-sshi): A middle aged man. (146)

아줌마 (a-jum-ma): A middle aged woman. (147)

할아버지 (hal-a-beo-ji): A term that normally means grandpa, but can be used to refer to an elderly man. (148)

할머니 (hal-meo-ni): A term that normally means grandma, but can be used to refer to an elderly woman. (149)

How to say 'I' in Korean

Formal: 저 (jeo): Use this to refer to yourself when you are around someone older than yourself or if you are in a formal setting like an interview or business meeting with your boss. (150)

Polite: 나 (na): Use this with people you just met or with people you know well. (151)

How to say 'What' in Korean

무엇 (mu-ot): This is the basic form of the word 'what' in Korean. However, it usually does not stand on its own like this. (152)

뭐 (mweo): This is the most common way of saying what. It is simplified and you can use it in sentences like: (153)

뭐 해요? (mweo hae-yo): What are you doing? (154)

뭐 먹을까요? (mweo meo-geul-kka-yo): What shall we eat? (155)

There are variations to these that involve using particles, but you will learn that later if you decide to study Korean more seriously.

How to say 'Why' in Korean

Polite: 왜요 (wae-yo): To ask why about something, use this with people you are not close to or just met. (156)

Casual: 왜 (wae): Drop the '요' to use the casual form with your close friends and family. (157)

Examples:

그 여자 정말 싫어 (geu yeo-ja jeong-mal shil-eo): I really dislike that girl. (158)

왜/왜요? (wae/wae-yo) = Why? (159)

*If you start off a sentence with why:

왜 전화 안받았어요? (wae jeon-hwa an-ba-da-sseo-yo): Why didn't you pick up the phone? (160)

You don't need to worry about adding the 요 to the why as it's added onto the end of the sentence.

How to say 'Crazy' in Korean

미쳤어? (mi-chyeo-sseo): This is the most common way of saying crazy. You can pose it as a question or as a statement about someone. However note that most Koreans equate saying this with swearing so I wouldn't recommend using this at all. It's just good to know. (161)

How to say 'Awesome' in Korean

엄청난 (mi-chyeo-sseo) / 대단한 (dae-dan-han) / 굉장한 (gweh-jang-han): These all have slightly different nuances, but can be commonly used for saying something is amazing. (162)

How to say 'Pretty' in Korean

Formal: 예쁩니다 (ye-ppum-ni-da): While you will probably never use this yourself, you may hear this in formal settings. (163)

Polite: 예뻐요 (ye-ppeo-yo): Like always with the "yo" ending, you will want to use this with people with whom you are not very close to. (164)

Casual: 예뻐 (ye-ppeo): Use this with your close friends and family. (165)

Other: 정말 예쁩니다 / 예뻐요 / 예뻐 (jeong-mal ye-ppum-ni-da/ye-ppeo-yo/ye-ppeo): If you want to say someone is really pretty, then you would use these phrases. (166)

How to say 'Beautiful' in Korean

Formal: 아름답습니다 (a-reum-dam-seum-ni-da): A little more complicated than the formal version of pretty right? The good thing is that you will rarely need to use this, but it's still good to put it in your memory bank. (167)

Polite: 아름다워요 (a-reum-da-weo-yo): Use this version with people who are older than you, but not close to you. (168)

Casual: 아름다워 (a-reum-da-weo): Use this with your close friends and family. (169)

How to say 'I'm hungry' in Korean

Formal: 배고픕니다 (bae-go-peum-ni-da): It's unlikely that you'll use this, but if you're ever in a really formal situation, keep this in mind! (170)

Polite: 배고파요 (bae-go-pa-yo): You can say this in most situations with people you don't know well or people older than you. If you're really hungry, it can be sort of an exclamation as well. (171)

Casual: 배고파 (bae-go-pa): Use this with your close friends and family. This can also be used as an exclamation. (172)

How to say 'I'm full' in Korean

Formal: 배부릅니다 (bae-bu-reum-ni-da): Just like hungry in formal Korean, it's unlikely that you'll use this, but it's still good to know. (173)

Polite: 배불러요 (bae-bul-leoyo): You can say this in most situations with people you don't know well or people older than you. If you're really hungry, it can be sort of an exclamation as well. (174)

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Casual: 배불러 (bae-bu-reum-ni-da): Use this with close friends and family to exclaim how full you are after a good meal. (175)

Other: 배고팡 (bae-go-pang): This is a cute, aegyo, way of saying I'm hungry to someone. (176)

How to say 'What is your name' in Korean

Formal: 성함이 어떻게 되세요? / 성함이 어떻게 되십니까? (seong-ha-mi eo-tteo-ke doe-se-yo/seong-ha-mi-eo-tteo-ke doe-sim-ni-kka): You may not of heard of these phrases before because '성함' is the formal way of saying name in Korean. This phrase is used mostly in business meetings but you may also hear this at places like banks, the airport, etc. so this is a good formal phrase to know and remember. (177)

Polite: 이름이 뭐예요? (i-reum-i mweo-ye-yo): This is probably the version you may have already heard. You can use this with most people you've just met. Although it's less formal than the two phrases above, it's still pretty safe to use in most situations. '이름' is the most common way of saying name, and '뭐' means what. (178)

Casual: 이름이 뭐야? (i-reum-i mweo-ya): You would say this to someone like a kid. it would be really rude to use this towards adults. (179)