

Lesson 10 – Numbers

Welcome to lesson 10! We've had a few lessons with Korean vocabulary that was related to numbers and we will finally be explaining the basic number system and some nuances here and there with each one. Numbers may seem intimidating at first, but it's easy to catch on quickly. With that said, let's get started!

To start off, the Korean language has two number systems. What is the difference between the two?

Sino Korean Numbers

These numbers are derived from numbers in the Chinese system and Sino is a prefix meaning Chinese. Let's start off simple with numbers 1-20:

🔊 (track 10-1)

Sino Korean Numbers 1-10					🔊 Track 10-1
a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	
0	1	2	3	4	
영 zero	일 one	이 two	삼 three	사 four	
f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	
5	6	7	8	9	
오 five	육 six	칠 seven	팔 eight	구 nine	
k.					
10					
십 ten					

a. 영	zero
b. 일	one
c. 이	two
d. 삼	three
e. 사	four
f. 오	five
g. 육	six
h. 칠	seven
i. 팔	eight
j. 구	nine
k. 십	ten

As you can see, the words are short and easy to remember. Just like learning the Hangul alphabet, if you spend an hour or two on these, you can know the numbers by heart within a very short time. So, what about numbers after ten?

 [\(track 10-2\)](#)

Sino Numbers Above 10

 Track 10-2

a.

11

십일
eleven

b.

12

십이
twelve

c.

13

십삼
thirteen

d.

14

십사
fourteen

e.

15

십오
fifteen

f.

20

이십
twenty

g.

25

이십오
twenty-five

h.

30

삼십
thirty

i.

40

사십
forty

j.

50

오십
fifty

k.

60

육십
sixty

g.

70

칠십
seventy

h.

80

팔십
eighty

i.

90

구십
ninety

j.

100

백
one hundred

a. 십일	eleven
b. 십이	twelve
c. 십삼	thirteen
d. 십사	fourteen
e. 십오	fifteen
f. 이십	twenty
g. 이십오	twenty-five
h. 삼십	thirty
i. 사십	forty

j. 오십	fifty
k. 육십	sixty
l. 칠십	seventy
m. 팔십	eighty
n. 구십	ninety
o. 백	one hundred

If you want to count numbers above ten, you simply count the number of 10's (십, 이십, 삼십, 사십, etc.) you need, followed by the remaining digits. Let's see some examples:

$$16 = \text{십 (10)} + \text{육 (6)} = \text{십육}$$

$$28 = \text{이십 (20)} + \text{팔 (8)} = \text{이십팔}$$

$$34 = \text{삼십 (30)} + \text{사 (4)} = \text{삼십사}$$

$$55 = \text{오십 (50)} + \text{오 (5)} = \text{오십오}$$

This rule also applies to numbers above one hundred:

$$105 = \text{백 (100)} + \text{오 (5)} = \text{백오}$$

$$120 = \text{백 (100)} + \text{이십 (20)} = \text{백이십}$$

$$135 = \text{백 (100)} + \text{삼십 (30)} + \text{오 (5)} = \text{백삼십오}$$

If you know this basic rule, you can count easily into the thousands as well.

Now as we said earlier, there are two numbers systems, and each one is used in certain situations. For Sino Korean numbers, you would use them in the following situations:

- Any numbers over 99
- Math
- Counting money
- Measurements
- Phone numbers (however zero changes from 영 to 공 when reading phone numbers)
- Units of time other than hours


- Names of the months

It seems like a lot to remember at first, and you may use Sino Korean numbers when you're supposed to use Native numbers, but as you learn more Korean and become familiar with it, it will start to come naturally and you won't even have to think about it.

Native Korean Numbers

Now let's move on to Native Korean Numbers. These are the numbers that stem from the Korean language itself without Chinese influence.

 (track 10-3)

Native Korean Numbers 1-10
 Track 10-3

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
1	2	3	4	5
하나 one	둘 two	셋 three	넷 four	다섯 five
f.	g.	h.	i.	j.
6	7	8	9	10
여섯 six	일곱 seven	여덟 eight	아홉 nine	열 ten

a. 하나	one
b. 둘	two
c. 셋	three
d. 넷	four

e. 다섯	five
f. 여섯	six
g. 일곱	seven
h. 여덟	eight
i. 아홉	nine
j. 열	ten

Some of these numbers change in certain situations which we'll cover in a bit. Let's move on to numbers above ten.

🔊 (track 10-4)

Native Numbers Above 10

🔊 Track 10-4

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
11	12	13	14	15
열하나 eleven	열둘 twelve	열삼 thirteen	열넷 fourteen	열다섯 fifteen
f.	g.	h.	i.	j.
16	17	18	19	20
열여섯 twenty	열일곱 twenty-five	열여덟 thirty	열아홉 forty	스물 fifty
k.	g.	h.	i.	j.
30	40	50	60	70
서른 sixty	마흔 seventy	쉰 eighty	예순 ninety	일흔 one hundred
k.	g.	h.		
80	90	100		
여든 sixty	아흔 seventy	온 eighty		

a. 열하나	eleven
b. 열둘	twelve
c. 열셋	thirteen
d. 열넷	fourteen
e. 열다섯	fifteen
f. 열여섯	sixteen
g. 열일곱	seventeen
h. 열여덟	eighteen
i. 열아홉	nineteen
j. 스물	twenty
k. 서른	thirty
l. 마흔	forty
m. 쉰	fifty
n. 예순	sixty
o. 일흔	seventy
p. 여든	eighty
q. 아흔	ninety
r. 온	one hundred

Once you get above forty or so, you will very rarely use these numbers except for when referring to age. Most of the native numbers you will need to know are 1-30.

When are native Korean numbers used?

- Counting objects and people (followed by counters)
- Age
- Years
- Counting in general
- Counting months (with 달 added)

Counters

Finally, let's go over some common counters you would add to Native Korean numbers when counting objects or people.

🔊 (track 10-5)

a. 개	General counter for things. If you can't remember the counter for something, then use this (사과 두 개 = 2 apples)
b. 권	counter for books (책 세 권 = 3 books)
c. 달	counter for months (두 달 = 2 month)
d. 마리	Counter for animals (개 한 마리 = one dog)
e. 번	Counter for time (한 번 = one time, 두 번 = two times)
f. 병	Counter for bottles (소주 한 병 = one bottle of soju)
g. 명	Counter for people (네 명 = four people)
h. 분	Counter for people, formal (두 분 = two people)
i. 살	Counter for age (스물 살 = twenty years old)
j. 시	Counter for hours (한 시 = one o'clock, 두 시 = two o'clock)
k. 장	Counter for paper (종이 네 장 = 4 pieces of paper)
l. 잔	Counter for glasses of drinks (물 두 잔 = two glasses of water)
m. 조각	Counter for pieces of food like pizza, cake, and bread (빵 두 조각 = two pieces of bread)

For counting objects and people, the numbers that will change are:

하나 >>> 한

둘 >>> 두

셋 >>> 세

넷 >>> 네

Quiz on next page

Practice 1

Write the correct number for each column.

Sino Number

Native Number

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Practice 2

Write the following numbers in Sino Korean format

a.

5

b.

34

c.

18

d.

88

e.

60

Write the following numbers in Native Korean format

a.

8

b.

24

c.

11

d.

16

e.

10

Practice 1 Answers

Write the correct number for each column.

Sino Number

일

이

삼

사

오

육

칠

팔

구

십

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Native Number

하나

둘

셋

넷

다섯

여섯

일곱

여덟

아홉

열

Practice 2 Answers

Write the following numbers in Sino Korean format

a.

5

오

b.

34

삼십사

c.

17

십칠

d.

88

팔십팔

e.

60

육십

Write the following numbers in Native Korean format

a.

8

여덟

b.

24

스물넷

c.

11

열하나

d.

16

열여섯

e.

10

열