

Lesson 2: School & Education

In this lesson, we are going to be covering vocabulary related to school and education. We will cover words related to grade school, university, as well as things like school supplies.

Take note that schooling in Korea is very rigorous and hard for many students. Even from elementary school, students attend all kinds of academies (학원) ranging from English, to art, to science, to math, and many more.

These academies take place after their regular schooling. Some students may attend one academy from 4-6 pm and then another one from 7-8 pm. It all depends on the type of academy and scheduling.

It gets even more time consuming as students enter middle and high school where many students will stay in academies until 10pm and then ON TOP OF THAT still have to come home and do homework before doing it all over again the next day.

Also, regular school mostly focuses on taking and passing tests. This is especially true for high school students getting ready for college.

Let's get started!

"학" Words

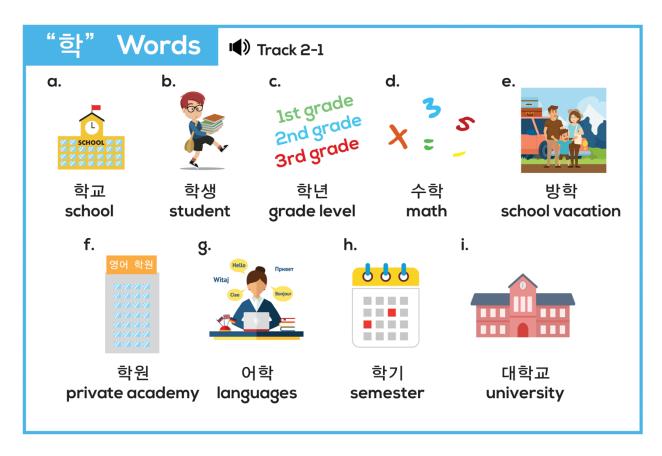
For starters, let's talk about the word 학. This is a word that can be referred to as a word for learning or studying. The hanja for this word is 學.

We won't go too much into the hanja of the other words, but we have put their meanings in parenthesis to help you better understand how the words below were formed.

You can easily remember lots of education words by just recognizing the 학 in them. Here are several easy ones for you to study:



◆ (Track 2-1)



f. 학 + 원 (house, garden) = **학원** (學院) = academy (where students go after regular school for extra studying)



h. 학 + 기 (period) = **학기** (學期) = semester

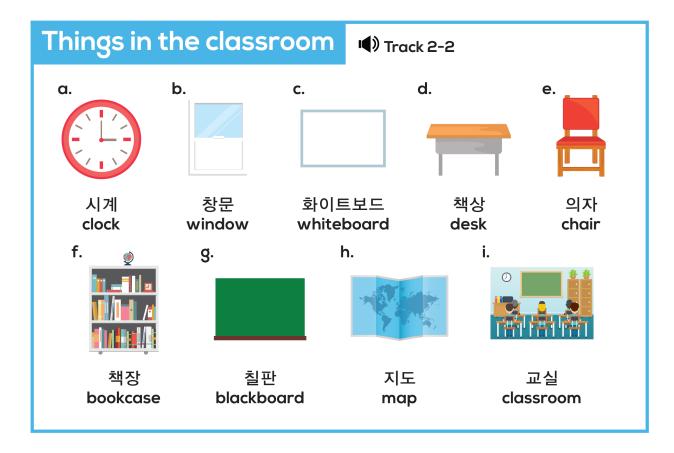
i. 대 (big) + 학교 = 대학교(大學校) = university (literally means big school)

Things in the Classroom (like furniture and big objects)

Now let's talk about some things like furniture or objects you can find in the classroom. In Korean, the classroom is called 교실.

In the classrooms here in Korea, you will find class sizes ranging from 15-40 students depending on the neighborhood and type of school it is. Regular public schools will usually have about 30-40 students in one classroom, while private schools will have smaller classes around with around 15-20 students per class.

◄ (Track 2-2)





a. 시계	clock
b. 창문	window
c. 화이트보드	whiteboard
d. 책상	desk
e. 의자	chair
f. 책장	bookshelf
g. 칠판	blackboard
h. 지도	map
i. 교실	classroom

Classroom Supplies

Now let's talk about supplies in the classroom. Take a listen to the audio below and follow along. (Next page)



◆ (Track 2-3)





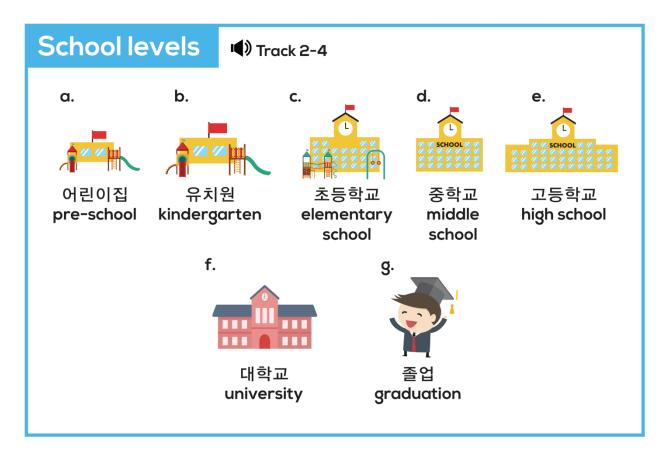
a. 연필	pencil			
b. 펜	pen			
c. 필통	pencil case			
d. 클립	paperclip			
e. 책가방	backpack			
f. 지우개	eraser			
g. 연필깎이	pencil sharpener (A combination of 연필 [pencil] and 깎이 which comes from			
	깎다 which means to cut, shorten, or sharpen.)			
h. 종이	paper			
i. 계산기	calculator (계산 means to calculate and			
	adding 기 to a word usually implies it is			
	a type of machine or tool.)			
j. 책	book			
k. 자	ruler			
I. 지구본	globe			
m. 공책	notebook (This often gets confused with			
	수첩. 수첩 is often translated as			
	notebook, but it is more used as a term for a small memo pad or notepad.)			
n. 풀	glue			
o. 크레용	crayon			
p. 가위	scissors			
q. 스카치테이프	scotch tape			
r. 스테이플러	stapler			
s. 시험	test			
t. 숙제	homework			



Years and Levels in School

In Korea, elementary school, middle school, and high school are all broken down like this:

◄ (Track 2-4)



a. 어린이집	Pre-school
b. 유치원	Kindergarten
c. 초등학교	Elementary school (1 st – 6 th grade)
d. 중학교	Middle school (1 st – 3 rd grade)
e. 고등학교	High school (1 st – 3 rd grade)
f. 대학교	University
g. 졸업	Graduation



As you can see, the numbers don't go up progressively with each level. For example, an 8th grader would be called a 2nd grade middle schooler. A twelfth grader in high school would be called a high school 3rd grader.

This also applies to college/university as well.

Earlier in this lesson, we talked about words that use "학". One of those words was 학년. This is the word you would use to describe what year you are in in school. So, let's describe the grades for each level.

◄ (Track 2-5)

a. 초등학교 일학년	elementary school 1 st grade
b. 초등학교 이학년	elementary school 2 nd grade
c. 초등학교 삼학년	elementary school 3 rd grade
d. 초등학교 사학년	elementary school 4 th grade
e. 초등학교 오학년	elementary school 5 th grade
f. 초등학교 육학년	elementary school 6 th grade

As you can see, the numbers used for labeling each grade use Sino Korean numbers. Although there will be a lesson in numbers in this course, let's briefly review the numbers used for the grades above:

일 = 1

0| = 2

삼 = 3

사 = 4

오 = 5

육 = 6

These numbers are simply put in front of the word 학년 to describe the year a student is in.

Now let's look at middle school:



◄ (Track 2-6)

a. 중학교 일학년	middle school 1st grade
b. 중학교 이학년	middle school 2 nd grade
c. 중학교 삼학년	middle school 3 rd grade

Now high school:

◄ (Track 2-7)

α. 고등학교 일학년	high school 1st grade
b. 고등학교 이학년	high school 2 nd grade
c. 고등학교 삼학년	high school 3 rd grade

Finally, we have university:

◄ (Track 2-8)

a. 대학교 일학년 / 신입생	university freshman (1 st grade)
b. 대학교 이학년	university sophomore (2 nd grade)
c. 대학교 삼학년	university junior (3 rd grade)
d. 대학교 사학년	university senior (4 th grade)

When a student graduates from elementary to middle, from middle to high, and high to university, it is called 졸업 which means graduation. The graduation ceremony is called 졸업식.

Another thing you should know is how to describe a student in each level. If you wanted to describe an elementary student, you would say 초등학생. For middle school, it would be 중학생. High school would be 고등학생 and finally, university would be 대학생.

The typical Korean school year is a tad different from what you may be used to. The school year begins at the beginning of March with a summer vacation sometime



around late July into August for about 3-4 weeks. Then the second semester starts, and the school year finishes at the end of the year.

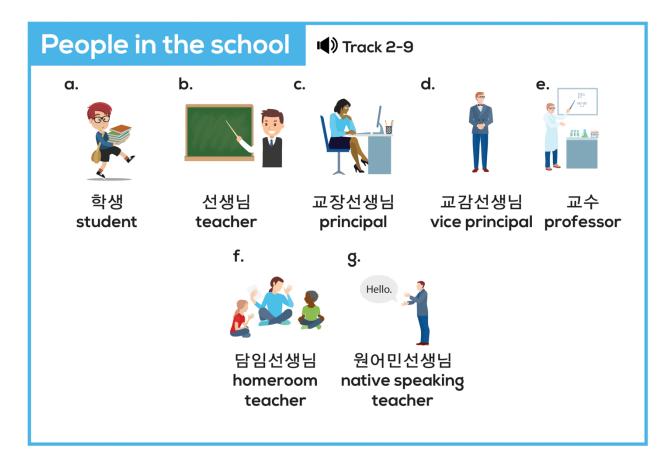
There is also a small 2-3 week period of classes in February where they basically get ready for graduation and prepare for the new school year.

Positions and People in School

Finally, let's talk about the different positions in school. Just like in your home country, there are principals, vice principals, etc.

Let's take a look at the words for each one:

◆ (Track 2-9)

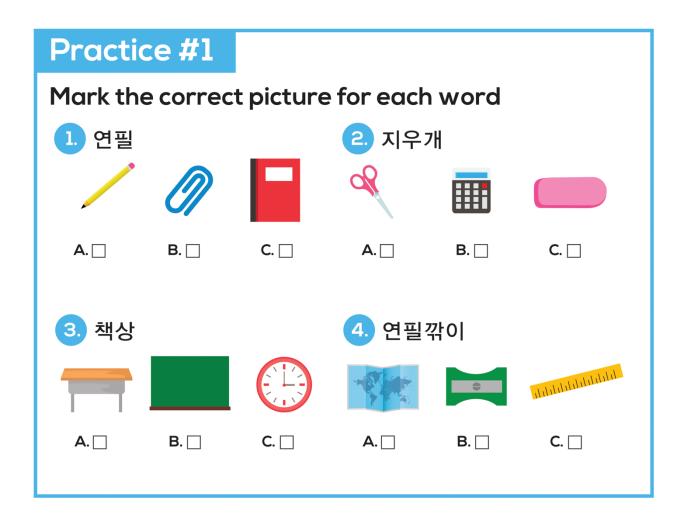


a. 학생	student
b. 선생님	teacher



c. 교장선생님	Principal
d. 교감선생님	Vice Principal
e. 교수	Professor
f. 담임선생님	Homeroom teacher
g. 원어민 선생님	Native speaking teacher (English, Chinese, Spanish, etc.)

Quiz Lesson 2





Practice #2

Write the Korean word according to the picture





































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Put the words below into the correct category

지도 풀 의자 칠판 화이트보드 크레용 시험 시계 창문 책가방

Things in the classroom (not supplies)

School supplies