

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)