

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)

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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)