

# **PHRASES & BASIC WORDS**

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# 1

## How to Say 'Cheers'

Chances are if you come to Korea for work or travel (and are 18+ ㅋㅋ), you will be invited to go out and drink with your coworkers or friends. When you go out with your coworkers, it is called a “회식” and you eat, talk, and drink with each other.

Now if you don't drink, don't be afraid to refrain from drinking and just tell them the reason why. Aside from the older generation, most people will have no problem.

Knowing how to say cheers or make a toast would be very helpful in these situations. A lot of your friends/coworkers might be impressed that you know how to say it perfectly and in the right context.



### 건배!

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.

### 위하여!

Most people have not heard of this one because it used mostly by older people. Hyo told me that she rarely hears this from younger people and you might sound weird or out of place if you use it.

### 짤!

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.

Other vocabulary that might be useful in this context:

술 = alcohol

일차 = First round (usually at a restaurant)

이차 = Second round (maybe a bar or lounge)

삼차 = Third round (noraebang, pool hall, etc)

맥주 = Beer

소주 = Soju



001

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a. 회식 = company dinner

b. 건배! = cheers! (traditional way)

c. 위하여! = cheers! (older people)

d. 짤! = cheers! (casual)

e. 술 = alcohol

f. 일차 = first round

g. 이차 = second round

h. 삼차 = third round

i. 맥주 = beer

j. 소주 = soju

k. 막걸리 = makgeolli

l. 소맥 = soju and beer mixed together

m. 호프 = drinking place

# 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”.



## OTHER WAYS



**위하여!**  
(wi-ha-yeo)

Most people have not heard of this one because it used mostly by older people.

**짚!**  
(jjan)

This is the most casual way to say cheers. Should only be used with people you are close to and you will hear this frequently used among younger people.



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# 2

## How to Say 'Good luck'



These are the common and casual ways of what roughly translates to good luck in Korean. You have probably heard “화이팅” (also sometime 파이팅/-fighting) on dramas or just around your Korean friends.

The other two are also very common and used among close people and friends. Like telling someone to have a good day, you want to send your friends off with a good feeling of confidence to accomplish whatever it is they need to accomplish.

‘잘 하고 와’ is especially used when you want to tell someone good luck on a test or an exam. You can add “요” if talking to someone older than you and you’re not quite at the point where banmal is accepted. You can add things like oppa (오빠), sister (누나, 언니), or hyung (형) depending on who you are addressing if you are really close to them. They are not necessary but people add them sometimes. So for example:

형 잘 하고 와! (hyung jal ha-go wa)  
오빠 잘 해! (o-ppa jal hae)  
누나 화이팅! (nu-na hwa-i-ting)

Also, we added some things that are considered lucky in Korea. I have no idea where the pig thing or the baby tooth thing came from and neither does Hyo. I guess every place has its weird good luck charms and superstitions.



002

- a. 화이팅! = You can do it! (Fighting!)
- b. 잘 해(요)! = Do well!
- c. 잘 하고 와(요)! = Do well and return!
- d. 형 잘 하고 와! = Do well brother!
- e. 오빠 잘 해! = Do well honey! (오빠 is used as a term of endearment towards a man from a woman or used by women towards older male friends and older male brothers.)
- f. 누나 화이팅! = Do well sister! (누나 is used by men towards older female friends or older sisters.)



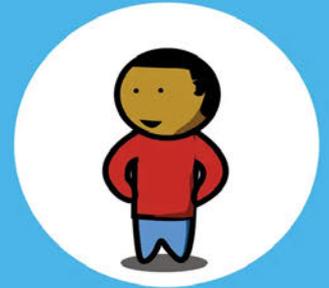
# HOW TO SAY GOOD LUCK IN KOREAN



**화이팅!**  
[hwa-i-ting]  
You can do it!



**잘 해(요)!**  
[jal hae-(yo)]  
Do well!



**잘 하고 와(요)!**  
[jal ha-go wa-(yo)]  
Do well and return

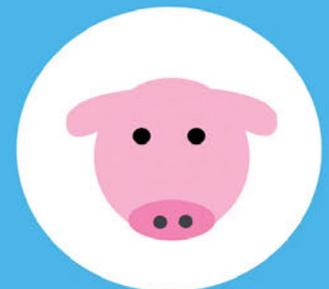
## THINGS THAT ARE SAID TO BRING GOOD LUCK IN KOREA



The number 7 is considered lucky in Korea.



If a child loses a baby tooth, people say you can have good luck if you throw it on the roof.



Dreaming about a pig means good luck and wealth are coming your way!

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# 3

## How to Say 'I Miss You'

This is one of the most common phrases you will use and come across, especially if you are dating a Korean significant other. If you watch a lot of Korean dramas or listen to a lot of Korean songs, you will also hear this a lot.

Since missing someone implies closeness, the most common form you will be using is 보고 싶어 which is the casual/informal form. This form drops the “요”. The phrase is a combination of the verb 보다 (to see) and the grammatical form to want (~고 싶다).

The standard/polite form will rarely be used with people close to you as missing someone implies closeness. You may use this form while asking someone if they miss someone else or when talking to an acquaintance or coworker about how you miss your family. For example:



엄마가/아빠가 보고 싶어요. (I miss my mom./ I miss my dad.)

There are also ways to make this phrase cute or write it with modern slang. When texting, some people may type “보고 시퍼”. It basically sounds the same, but just makes it quicker to type. To make it sounds cute you could use:

보고싶당 (bo-go-ship-dang)

보고싶어용 (bo-go-ship-eo-yong)

To make a lot of words/phrases cuter, Koreans like to add 당 or change the ending 요 to 용.

### 그립다

Many people see this as a translation for “to miss” but this doesn’t apply to missing someone. You would use this when saying something like “I miss my old school days!” (학창시절이 그리워요!).



## 003

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- a. 보고 싶어 = I miss you (informal)
- b. 보고싶당 = Cute way of saying I miss you
- c. 보고싶어용 = Cute way of saying I miss you
- d. 그리다 = to miss (a place, a time in your past)
- e. 학창시절이 그리워요! = I miss my old school days!

# I MISS YOU IN KOREAN

## Casual

보고 싶어

(bo-go-ship-eo)

This is the most common way to say I miss you. Since missing someone implies closeness, you will almost always be using the casual form which drops the “요”



## Standard/Polite

보고 싶어요

(bo-go-ship-eo-yo)

Since you will usually be saying I miss you to someone close to you, you will rarely use this one except when phrasing as a question to a friend. (Do you miss so and so?)



# 4

## How to Say 'Good Morning'



Saying good morning in Korean is very easy to learn as the most common way is something that you learn from the very beginning. As it's stated in the graphic above, "안녕하세요" is the most common way people greet each other in the morning.

'좋은 아침' is also used, but less frequently compared to the former. The ones covered in the graphic are the casual forms of good morning. If you want to be more formal, you can use phrases like:

좋은 아침입니다 = Good morning or literally the morning is good.

잘 주무셨어요? = Did you sleep well? (Used towards people older

than you)

Other casual forms for use with friends:

잘 잤어? = Did you sleep well?

Also feel free to write/text these in the morning to friends or your SO.



004

a. 안녕하세요 = Usually means 'hello' but can also mean 'good morning'

b. 좋은 아침 = Literal good morning

c. 좋은 아침입니다 = Literal good morning (formal)

d. 잘 주무셨어요? = Did you sleep well? (formal)

e. 잘 잤어? = Did you sleep well? (casual)



# GOOD MORNING IN KOREAN

## MOST COMMON WAY

**안녕하세요**  
(an-nyeong-ha-se-yo)

**You may know this phrase as "hello" in Korean, but this phrase is used for most greetings (day and night).**

## SECOND WAY

**좋은 아침**  
(jo-eun a-chim)

**The second way literally means good (좋은) morning (아침) in Korean. While it is understood when it is used, 안녕하세요 is used much more often.**

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# 5

## How to Say 'Good Night'

Like saying good morning in Korean, saying good night has different levels of formality depending on who you are talking to.

안녕히 주무세요 (an-nyeong-hi ju-mu-se-yo)

For saying good night formally, it means to sleep peacefully.

However, if you are not close to a Korean family, or a Korean who is significantly older than you, you may rarely use this phrase.

잘 자요/잘 자 (jal ja-yo/jal ja)

For the second phrase, you would use this as a standard good night, and you can drop the (요) for people you are really close to. You would never say this to someone older than you as it is quite rude. If you are new to Korean, they might give you a pass, but it's still better to learn the formal way and remember it.

These are both pretty simple and easy to learn, and are phrases you can use immediately with your Korean friends.

For the past tense of both:

Formal - 안녕히 주무셨어요 (an-nyeong-hi ju-mu-shyeo-sseo-yo)

Standard/Casual - 잘 잤어요?/잘 잤어? (jal ja-yo/jal ja)



005

- 안녕히 주무세요 = Good night (Formal)
- 잘 자요 = Good night (Standard, casual)
- 안녕히 주무셨어요? = Did you have a good night? (Formal)





# GOOD NIGHT IN KOREAN

## FORMAL

**안녕히 주무세요**

[an-nyeong-hi ju-mu-se-yo]

You would say this to people older than yourself, especially towards seniors.



## STANDARD / CASUAL

**잘 자요 / 잘 자**

[jal ja-(yo)]

The first one is the standard good night towards someone you know. Use the second one for people you are close to.

## OTHERS

**안녕히 주무셨어요? / 잘 잤어(요)?**

[an-nyeong-hi ju-mu-shyeo-sseo-yo]

**Did you sleep well? (Formal)**

[jal ja-sseo-(yo)]

**Did you sleep well?  
(Standard & Casual)**

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# 6

## How to Say 'Congratulations'

If you have Korean friends or acquaintances or if you are/will be spending a decent amount of time in Korea, this will be a handy phrase to know. You will eventually want to congratulate someone on a graduation, a birthday, wedding, etc. Notice that there are four ways to say congratulations.

### Congratulations in Korean Casual/Informal

For the casual/informal form, you will simply say 축하해!. 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 (if you've had their permission to use the casual form). This is especially used on birthdays.



### Congratulations in Standard Polite Informal

The second one is 축하해요! The 요 has been added on and you would say this to acquaintances, not so close friends, coworkers, and neighbors. However you can use the next form as well if it's a formal occasion.

### Congratulations in Formal

In the formal form, you would use 축하합니다! Use this with people older than you. You would also use this to congratulate someone on their wedding or graduation.

### Congratulations in Very Formal

For the very formal form, you would use 축하드립니다! Use this with bosses, teachers, or in general people with positions of power over you in the workplace. 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). For close friends, you can simply use the Polite informal form for most situations.

Other vocabulary:

결혼 = Wedding

졸업 = Graduation

생일 = Birthday



a. 축하해! = Congratulations (Informal)

b. 축하해요! = congratulations (Standard)

c. 축하합니다! = congratulations (Formal)

d. 축하드립니다! = congratulations (Very formal)

e. 결혼 = wedding

f. 졸업 = graduation

g. 생일 = birthday



# HOW TO SAY CONGRATULATIONS IN KOREAN

## CASUAL

(To your friend  
or someone younger)

**축하해!**

(chu-ka-hae)

## INFORMAL POLITE

(To acquaintances, coworkers,  
neighbors)

**축하해요!**

(chu-ka-hae-yo)

## FORMAL

(To an older person)

**축하합니다!**

(chu-ka-ham-ni-da)

## VERY FORMAL

(To a boss or teacher)

**축하드립니다!**

(chu-ka-deu-rim-ni-da)