

Lesson 3:

Self Introduction / Age

Before This Lesson

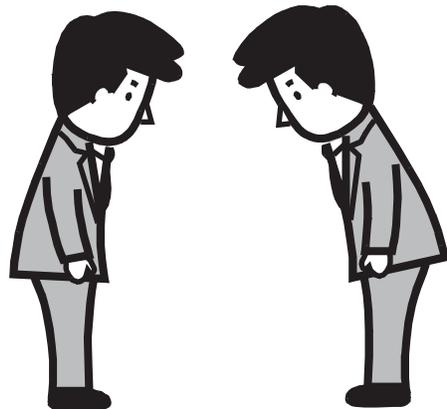
1. Learn the Korean numbers, since saying your age in Korean requires them.

Lesson Goals

1. Learn the key phrases to say to people you are meeting for the first time.
2. Learn how to say your age in Korean.

From The Teachers

1. This is the last lesson where phrases are taught in such quantity. After this lesson we will begin teaching grammar patterns. However, introducing yourself is a key part of speaking Korean, so the only option at this point is to memorize the key phrases.



3

3 First Meeting 첫인사

When you first meet new Koreans you will hear a variation of the first or second phrase. If you are meeting in a more formal situation then the first phrase will be used. In more casual situations such as language meetups, the classroom, or among friends you will most likely hear the second sentence.

1. 만나서 반갑습니다.

Nice to meet you. (very polite)

습니다 despite written with a “B” sound (ㅅ) is pronounced like 습니다 with an “M” sound. (ㅁ)

Pronunciation Note

As needed we will remind you of some of the pronunciation rules.

Simple Rule

When ㅅ (B) is followed by ㄴ (N) the sound always changes to ㅁ (M).

Longer Explanation

In Korean words, when the 받침, also called “the final consonant”, is ㅅ, the final sound of the character would be a “b” sound. However, when ㅅ is immediately followed by ㄴ (n sound) the sound changes to an “m” sound as if the ㅅ was actually ㅁ.

seub ni da
습니다

sounds like
→

seum ni da
슴니다

2. 반가워요.

Nice to meet you. (Casual Polite)

This phrase is used when you are meeting new people in a casual situation. Perhaps a friend introduced you to their friends, or you are at one of the many language meetups around Korea. NOTE: If you want a quick way to make Korean friends in Korea, you should travel to a language meetup. Many major cities throughout the world have meetups. You can search for some on Meetup.com.

3 Asking Names 이름 묻기

This simple phrase also has a few variations depending on the formality of the situation. In formal situations, such as talking to someone above you in status, (bosses, someone older than you, teachers) the first two can be used, but in more casual situations the third one is fine.

3. 성함이 어떻게 되세요?

What is your name? (formal)

4. 성함이 어떻게 되십니까?

What is your name? (formal)

5. 이름이 뭐예요?

What is your name? (when talking to equals or people below you)

How to answer

When answering, there are a few ways to do it.

The reality is that, since you are not Korean, any way will be fine. Koreans will be tougher on native Koreans in regard to formality than a foreigner learning the language. So if you get this wrong, you will not be summarily killed. Even Koreans will answer a formal question with a more casual / polite response depending on the situation.

Typically, you are safe to match formal to formal and casual to casual. But if the person is older than you, your response should show them the respect they “deserve” as an elder, even if they ask in a casual manner.

6. _____ 입니다.

I am _____.

This is very standard, yet formal and polite. Nothing bad can happen if you are polite.

7. _____ (이) 라고 합니다.

I am called _____.

This is used if your name and what you are called are different. If you are “Joseph” but everyone calls you “Joe” this is the phrase you use. If the Korean version of your name ends with a 받침 then use the 이 in the parenthesis.

8. 제 이름은 _____ 입니다.

My name is _____.

This is the polite way to tell someone your name if you haven't been asked.

3 Asking Age 나이 묻기

9. 나이가 어떻게 되세요?

How old are you?

This literally means "What does your age become?" and is polite.

10. 몇 살이에요?

(sounds like 며살)

How old are you?

This is polite, but is much closer to casual than formal. It can be asked to children.

11. _____입니다.

(sounds like 입니다) (always use Korean numbers)

I am _____ years old.

This is the polite way to say how old you are, either way you are asked your age.

ages (1-100 years old)					
Age	Korean	Age	Korean	Age	Korean
1	한 살	18	열여덟 살	35	서른다섯 살
2	두 살	19	열아홉 살	36	서른여섯 살
3	세 살	20	스무 살	37	서른일곱 살
4	네 살	21	스물한 살	38	서른여덟 살
5	다섯 살	22	스물두 살	39	서른아홉 살
6	여섯 살	23	스물세 살	40	마흔 살
7	일곱 살	24	스물네 살	41	마흔한 살
8	여덟 살	25	스물다섯 살	42	마흔두 살
9	아홉 살	26	스물여섯 살	43	마흔세 살
10	열 살	27	스물일곱 살	44	마흔네 살
11	열한 살	28	스물여덟 살	45	마흔다섯 살
12	열두 살	29	스물아홉 살	50	쉰 살
13	열세 살	30	서른 살	60	예순 살
14	열네 살	31	서른한 살	70	일흔 살
15	열다섯 살	32	서른두 살	80	여든 살
16	열여섯 살	33	서른세 살	90	아흔 살
17	열일곱 살	34	서른네 살	100	백 살

□ 3-1. Korean age VS International age

In Korea you might be surprised that even a baby can be born and in one month be 2 years old. Koreans use the Chinese New Year to count their age. So everyone in Korean age is always 1-2 years older than their international age. It all depends on when they were born.

So when you ask a Korean person who hasn't travelled abroad their age, they will most likely give you their "Korean age". So that "18" year old girl might actually be 16... you have been warned!

Example conversation

A: 몇 살이에요?

B: 열여덟 살이에요.

A: 몇 살이에요?

B: 스무 살입니다.

A: How old are you?

B: I am 18 years old.

A: How old are you?

B: I am 20 years old.

3 Workbook Area

□ A3-1. Korean Ages

Write the Korean ages in the blanks provided. Remember to only use the Korean counting system. Write in the answers as best as you can with the Hangeul you know. You can check your answers in the Answer Key in the back of the book.

1. 19 years old

5. 36 years old

2. 41 years old

6. 28 years old

3. 22 years old

7. 5 years old

4. 20 years old

8. 67 years old

3 Vocabulary Builder

During your studies you will soon realize that grammar points aren't so easily forgotten. But you need more than grammar to speak effectively – you need a lot of vocabulary too!

Throughout this book we will introduce groups of words that are important for everyday Korean speaking. You don't have to try to memorize them all at once. Just familiarize yourself with each group since they will be showing up in subsequent lessons.

■ Group A: the body 몸

몸	body
입	mouth
눈	eye
귀	ear
코	nose
얼굴	face
손	hand
발	foot
팔	arm
다리	leg
손가락	finger
발가락	toes
머리	head, hair
이	tooth

