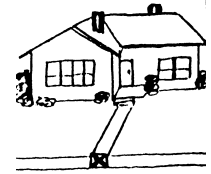


# 4 어디 가요?

IN THIS UNIT ...

- Telling people where you are going
- Some basic verbs
- Using the *Polite Informal* verb endings
- More about pronunciation



## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

When you run into friends or fellow students, you say hello, that is, “안녕하세요?”. Often, you will then notice you are asked where you are heading. Don’t be surprised. The question is rarely meant to be inquisitive, but is simply part of a routine Insa in Korea. It is simply asked after the initial greeting to indicate polite interest in someone’s doings. In this unit we learn how to respond to such questions, and study a bit about using Korean verbs to describe a range of activities.

### 1 Conversation

Kylie, a foreign student in Korea, has just met up with a Korean acquaintance, 선영 (Seon-Yeong), in the street.

카일리: 안녕하세요?

선영: 안녕하세요, 카일리씨. 어디 가요?

카일리: 학교에 가요.

선영: 그래요? 나도 학교에 가요. 같이 가요.



#### Translation

Kylie: Hi.  
 Seon-Yeong: Hi, Kylie. Where are you going?  
 Kylie: I’m going to school.  
 Seon-Yeong: Really? So am I. Let’s go together.

usually indicates that no particular personal relationship exists with the person being addressed. We suggest that in addressing your fellow students by name, you likewise add 씨.

#### Notes for Conversation

- ...씨 (ssi): In Korean, we almost never address someone by just their name (“David”, “Annie”, etc) unless they are very close friends. Rather, it is part of Korean etiquette to add some sort of title, or status referent, to someone’s name, and so here 선영 adds 씨 to Kylie’s name. 씨 is a somewhat matter-of-fact title that

- 어디 ...? (eo-di): *Where ...?*
- 가요 (ga-yo): *go*; for further information, see below.
- 학교 (hak-gyo): *school*
- ...에 (e): *to*
- 그래요? (Geu-rae-yo?): *Is that so?*
- 나 (na): *I*
- ...도 (do): *too, also*
- 같이 (ga-chi): *together*; note that the ㅌ (티을) in 같이 is not pronounced as *t* but *ch*.

## 2 Where are you going? I am going to ...

어디	where	은행	bank
가요?	do you go?/are you going?	서점	bookshop
대학교	university	학생 식당	student dining hall
학교	school	학생	student
교실	classroom	식당	dining hall, restaurant
강의실	lecture room (in university)	집	house, home
도서관	library	시내	downtown
카페 / 커피숍	cafe/coffee shop	우체국	post office
인터넷 카페 / PC 방	Internet Cafe	-에	to ...
노래방	Karaoke	가요.	I go/I'm going

If we want to ask people where they are going we can say:

**어디 가요?**

and to answer we can say:

**PLACE NAME - 에 가요.**

### EXAMPLES

어디 가요?	Where are you going?
학교에 가요.	I'm going to school.
도서관에 가요.	I'm going to the library.
시내에 가요.	I'm going to the city.

### Language & Culture Notes

- A Korean sentence can be complete without the overt grammatical subject. The word-on-word translation of the question 어디 가요? is in fact “*Where go?*”, and, out of context, it can mean “*Where do you/does she/do they go?*” etc. We deduce the subject from the context of the sentence. It may take a while for you to get familiar with this way of saying things, but for the moment you can safely assume that, whenever you see a subjectless sentence, the English counterpart of the ‘missing’ subject will always be a pronoun, ie either of *I, you, he, she, it* and *they*, and exactly what the pronoun is will be worked out from the context.
- Although 학교 means *school*, it also identifies any educational establishment from a primary school to a graduate school. Similarly, 교실 means *classroom*, referring to a classroom in any educational institution.

**Pronunciation Notes: Liaison (1)**

When a Hangeul character has the syllable-final consonant and there is no syllable-initial consonant in the following character, that is, when the second character begins with ㅇ (이응), the syllable-final consonant of the first character is pronounced as if it occurs in the syllable-initial position of the second character. This is the prototypical example of the process which we call *liaison*.

*Liaison* is important because it can bring about sound changes; it is indeed the source of many discrepancies between spelling and pronunciation. For instance, 집 (*house*) is pronounced as *ji̯p*, according to the rule we learnt in the previous unit: ㅂ (비읍) is pronounced as unexploded *p* in the syllable-final position (see Page 18). However, when 집 is followed by a character which begins with ㅇ (이응) as in 집에 (*to a house*), the ㅂ is not pronounced as unexploded *p* but as *b*. It is pronounced as if it occurs in the syllable-initial position of the next character. We thus say *ji-be*, not *ji̯p-e*.

The same applies to 교실 (*classroom*). (However, there are further complications involving ㄹ (리을), which we learn later in this Unit.) While 교실 is pronounced as *gyo-sil* (the syllable-final ㄹ is pronounced as *l*, as explained in Page 16), 교실에 (*to the classroom*) is to be pronounced as *gyo-si-re*, not *gyo-sil-e*. The ㄹ is pronounced as if it occurs in the syllable-initial position of the next character (see Page 16, and also Page 3). Listen to the language tapes or CDs and practise reading the following examples.

**EXAMPLES**

집	ji̯p		집에	ji-be	to the house
커피숍	keo-pi-syo̯p		커피숍에	keo-pi-syo-be	to the coffee shop
우체국	u-che-guk	⇒	우체국에	u-che-gu-ge	to the post office
교실	gyo-sil		교실에	gyo-si-re	to the classroom
강의실	gang-ui-sil		강의실에	gang-ui-si-re	to the lecture room

**3 More places where we go ...**

마트 / 가게	'mart'/corner shop	시장	market
비디오가게	video shop	동대문시장	Dongdaemun Market
슈퍼마켓	supermarket	남대문시장	Namdaemun Market
편의점	convenient store	버스터미널	bus terminal
병원	hospital	강남터미널	Gangnam Express Bus Terminal
음식점	restaurant	역	railway station
백화점	department store	서울역	Seoul Station
롯데백화점	Lotte Department Store	공항	airport
공원	park	인천공항	Seoul-Incheon International Airport
극장	cinema, theatre	김포공항	Gimpo domestic airport

## Language & Culture Notes

- 슈퍼마켓 refers to a large Western-style supermarket. 마트 is the name many small local shop keepers choose – a name with the connotation of ‘Mini-Mart’. There are also mammoth-scale discount retailers in Korea, such as 이마트 (E-Mart).
- 병원 indicates a hospital or clinic. In Korea there is no widespread system of neighbourhood, or family doctors, and people tend to go to the hospital outpatients division to obtain prescription.
- 동대문시장 (Dongdaemun Market) and 남대문시장 (Namdaemun Market) are the places to go for bargains in Seoul: cheap clothing, jewellery, silk, ginseng, tents, and so on, and wonderful local food from street stalls. 동대문 and 남대문 refer to the ‘Great East Gate’ and the ‘Great South Gate’ in Seoul, respectively. Here, 동- literally means *east*, 남- *south*, 대- *great* (see also Page 21, the same 대- appears in 대학교), and 문 *gate*.
- 강남터미널 (Gangnam Bus Terminal) is Seoul’s only express bus terminal for buses to all parts of Korea. It can be reached easily by subway. Here 강 literally means *river*, and refers to 한강 (han-gang: the Hangang River) which runs across Seoul.
- 서울역 (Seoul Station) is in the centre of Seoul. It is both a subway station and the rail-transport hub for long-distance trains to most of Korea, including KTX, the Korea Train eXpress, South Korea’s high-speed rail system, which connects Seoul to Busan and Mokpo.
- 인천공항 (Seoul-Incheon International Airport) is the major gateway to Korea, located 35 km southwest of Seoul. The major domestic airport in Seoul is 김포공항, which is located in the far western end of Seoul and is on the way to 인천공항 from downtown.

## Pronunciation Notes

- The letter ㅈ in 슈퍼마켓 and 롯데 is to be pronounced as unexploded *t*, as explained in Page 18.
- **Liaison (2):** When a Hangeul character ending in a *partially aspirated* consonant, ie ㄱ (g), ㄷ (d), ㅂ (b) or ㅈ (j), is followed by ㅎ (h), the ㅎ is not pronounced as a separate sound, but is ‘blended’ with the preceding *partially aspirated* consonant, resulting in a *heavily aspirated* sound, ie ㅋ (k), ㅌ (t), ㅍ (p) or ㅊ (ch). (The same is true when ㅎ (h) occurs as a syllable-final consonant and is followed by a *partially aspirated* consonant.) This *heavily aspirated* consonant is then pronounced as if it occurs in the syllable-initial position of the second character, ie where ㅎ occurs. To reflect this we’ve romanised 백화점 as bae-kwa-jeom.
- **Liaison (3):** Note that the ㄹ in 서울역 (Seoul Station) is to be pronounced as *l*, not *r*. The *liaison* rule (1) we introduced in Page 22 is not applied, particularly when the syllable-final ㄹ (l) is followed by a vowel combined with the semi-vowel *y*, ie 야 (ya), 여 (yeo), 요 (yo) or 유 (yu). We’ve thus romanised 서울역 as seo-ul-yeok, not as seo-u-ryeok.

## 4 Using Korean Verbs (1): the Polite Informal Style

Korean verbs come at the end of clauses and sentences. They have two components: a stem and an ending. The stem gives the meaning, and the ending shows what function the verb performs. The verbs in the list below, marked with a dash, ie ‘-’, are in their stem forms. To use these stems we need to learn a number of endings, and in this Unit we learn to attach the endings in order to ask simple questions and make simple statements. It is worth observing at the outset that Korean verbs are extremely regular, and so once you know one class of ending you can automatically use it with all the verb stems.

About twenty verb endings are used to show whether we’re making a statement or asking a question (or expressing commands or suggestions). Twenty may sound a lot, but we use these endings to express another kind of meaning as well: the speech ‘style’ (or level), ie whether we are speaking to the hearer in a polite, formal, informal, or intimate way. We need to recognise at least four grammatically distinctive speech styles in Korean, which we call *Polite Informal*, *Polite Formal*, *Intimate*, and *Written*, respectively. Thus, each of the twenty verb endings can be identified as Polite Informal Statement, Polite Informal Question, Polite Formal Statement, Polite Formal Question, and so on.

The *Polite Informal* style features the verb endings -아요, -어요 and, in the case of ...하- verbs, 해요, with varying intonation patterns attached. See the following page for details. The *Polite Informal* style is appropriate when we talk to people we feel close to, even when they are older or of higher social status, and to strangers perhaps after an initial phase of formality or to just manifest our inclination to be polite but informal to them. We assess that the *Polite Informal* is likely to be of much greater use to most students than the other three, we concentrate on using it in this book.

The *Polite Formal* style is widely used in formal situations. When you use it, it is as if you pay the hearer the compliment of regarding him/her as being of a social status superior to yours. The *Polite Formal* also carries somewhat masculine connotations. So while it can be used by women, this often occurs only when the women concerned are performing roles commonly associated with men – exercising authority in an office situation. We will study the *Polite Formal* in Unit 7.

As the label suggests, the *Intimate* style is used between very close friends, amongst the family members, or by an adult speaking to a child. Thus, using the *Intimate* style towards someone that you don't know very well can make the situation very awkward. The *Written* style is used in literary works; using it in your talk will give an impression that you are reading aloud some written piece. We will study these two styles in the next volume.

**Some basic verbs & expressions**

가-	go	쓰-	write
오-	come	만나-	meet
하-	do	보-	see
공부하-	study	시험보-	take an exam
이야기하-	have a chat	잠자-	sleep
먹-	eat	놀-	play
마시-	drink	운동하-	exercise, work out
식사하-	have a meal	뭐 해요?	What are you doing?
일하-	work	뭐	what
숙제하-	do homework	공부해요?	Are you studying?
전화하-	telephone, ring	네.	Yes.
읽-	(i_k-) read	아니요.	No.

Traditionally Korean verbs are listed in what is called their ‘dictionary form’, consisting of the verb stem plus the suffix -다 (-da). However, this form is non-functional in spoken Korean, and so in the vocabulary lists in this book you see just the verb stems. We mention this because your instructor, especially if he or she is a native speaker, may refer to the dictionary form, and when you start to use Korean-English dictionaries you will see all the verbs are listed in this form.

A small number of Korean syllables end with two consonants, as in 읽- (*to read*). When the consonant cluster is followed by a vowel, ie when followed by a syllable that begins with the letter ㅇ (이응), both of the consonants are pronounced (see Page 25). Otherwise, there are rules that apply to determine which of the two are pronounced. In the case of 읽-, the ㄹ (리을) falls silent, and thus we read i\_k-. We judge that these double consonant syllables are sufficiently rare for us to note the pronunciation when individual cases come up, rather than to offer a list of rules at this stage.

**Do you ...? Yes, I do ...**

To ask and respond to this question in the *Polite Informal* style we attach the -아요/-어요 ending to the verb stem with an appropriate intonation pattern.

Firstly, we attach the ending as follows.

**1. If the last vowel in the verb stem is ㅏ or ㅑ, we add -아요.**

Note, however, (1) the -아 is omitted from -아요 if the preceding verb stem actually ends in ㅏ, and (2) in case of stems ending in ㅑ, the ㅑ is written in combination with the ensuing ㅏ, thus ㅑㅏ요. Note also that this rule is not applicable to the verb stem 하- (to do) and stems ending in 하-. See 3 below.

**EXAMPLES**

놀- + 아요 = 놀아요	오- + ㅏ요 = 와요
가- + 요 = 가요	보- + ㅏ요 = 봐요
잡자- + 요 = 잡자요	시험보- + ㅏ요 = 시험봐요
만나- + 요 = 만나요	

**2. For all other final vowels in the verb stem the ending is -어요.**

Note however (1) in case of stems ending in ㅣ, the ㅣ is written in combination with the ensuing ㅑ, thus ㅑ어요, and (2) in case of stems ending in ㅡ, we drop ㅡ and add ㅑ어요.

**EXAMPLES**

읽- + 어요 = 읽어어요	마시- + ㅑ어요 = 마셔요
먹- + 어요 = 먹어요	쓰- ⇒ ㅑ + ㅑ어요 = 써요

**3. Verb stems ending in -하 (to do) becomes -해요.****EXAMPLES**

하- → 해요	식사하- → 식사해요
숙제하- → 숙제해요	전화하- → 전화해요
이야기하- → 이야기해요	운동하- → 운동해요
공부하- → 공부해요	

Secondly, as in English, we say the verb with a rising intonation when we ask a *yes-no* question, and say with a falling intonation when we ask a *wh-* question, make a statement, or answer to a question.

As mentioned above, a Korean sentence is complete without the overt subject and the English counterpart of this 'missing' subject is a pronoun. In the examples below we are only assuming the pronoun to be *he*.

**EXAMPLES**

Q: 가요? ↗ Is he going?	A: 네, 가요. ↘ Yes, he's going.
Q: 놀아요? ↗ (No- <u>ra</u> -yo) Is he playing?	A: 네, 놀아요. ↘ (Ne, no- <u>ra</u> -yo) Yes, he's playing.
Q: 읽어요? ↗ (Il- <u>geo</u> -yo) Is he reading?	A: 아니요, 써요. ↘ (A-ni-yo, sseo-yo) No, he's writing.
Q: 마셔요? ↗ Is he drinking?	A: 아니요, 먹어요. ↘ (A-ni-yo, meo- <u>geo</u> -yo) No, he's eating.
Q: 뭐 해요? ↘ What's he doing?	A: 공부해요. ↘ He's studying.