

# 13 가족

IN THIS UNIT ...

- talking about family members, relative, and other people
- Periods of time
- Using Possessive Case Particle -의
- Using Comitative Case Particle -과/-와
- *What's your telephone number/name?*
- *How long has it been since ...?*
- Making longer sentences using -고 (*and*) and -지만 (*but*)



## MY FAMILY

The Korean family is an extended family unit whose complex inter-relationships contrast with the Western nuclear family system. In this Unit we start to gain a feel for this complexity as we acquire a basic vocabulary for describing family members. We also learn to ask others' contact details; also to make 'longer' sentences, using a couple of conjunctive endings.

### 1 Yun-Mi's Family

윤미 가족이에요.

부모님과 할머니가 계시고, 오빠와 언니, 남동생이 있어요.

오빠의 이름은 태우고, 언니의 이름은 상미, 그리고 남동생의 이름은 정우예요. 아빠의 성함은 박명재씨고 엄마의 성함은 최명옥씨예요. 그리고 할머니 성함은 이수희씨예요.

할아버지는 돌아가셨어요. 돌아가신 지 3년 됐어요.

윤미 식구는 모두 일곱 사람이예요. 다 같이 살아요.

아, 그리고, 사진에는 없지만, 개하고 고양이가 있어요. 개의 이름은 강아지, 그리고 고양이의 이름은 야옹이예요.



### Language Notes

- 가족: *family* • 부모님: *parents* • -과/-와 = 하고: NOUN and NOUN • 할머니: *grandmother* • VST-(TENSE)-고: SENTENCE, and ... • 오빠: *elder brother* • 언니: *elder sister* • 남동생: *younger brother* • -의: 's (Possessive Case Marker) • 이름: *name* • 아빠: *daddy* (endearment form) • 엄마: *mummy* (endearment form) • 성함: (respected person's name) • 할아버지: *grandfather* • 돌아가시-: (for a respected person to) *die, pass away* • VST-(으)ㄴ 지 TIME PERIOD 되었-: *It's been TIME WORD since ...* • 식구: *family members* • -지만: SENTENCE, but ... • 강아지; *puppy* • 야옹이: Lit. *the little one that says "야옹 (miaow)"*

## 2 Family: Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, Spouse & Children

어머니	mother, mum	여동생	younger sister
엄마	mum, mummy	남동생	younger brother
아버지	father, dad	형제	brothers
아빠	dad, daddy	자매	sisters
부모님	parents	할머니	grandmother
형	(a male's) elder brother	할아버지	grandfather
오빠	(a female's) elder brother	남편	husband
누나	(a male's) elder sister	아내	wife
언니	(a female's) elder sister	아들	son
동생	younger sibling	딸	daughter

## 3 Other People

가족	family	어른	adult
식구	family members	여자	woman, female
다섯 식구	a family of five	남자	man, male
모두	all together	애인	lover, sweetheart
모두 세 사람	a total of three people	남자 친구	boyfriend
아기/애기	baby	여자 친구	girlfriend
아이/애	child	그냥	simply, as it is

**Language Note:** To say so and so is *just a friend of mine*, rather than your boy/girlfriend, you can use the expression 그냥 as in “그냥 친구예요 (*He/She is just a friend*)”.

## More Family Members

조부모님	grandparents	삼촌	아버지의 형제 (unmarried)
친척	relatives	외삼촌	어머니의 오빠, 남동생
외-	maternal ...	외숙모	외삼촌의 아내
외할아버지	(maternal) grandfather	이모	어머니의 언니, 여동생
외할머니	(maternal) grandmother	이모부	이모의 남편
큰아버지	아버지의 형 (married)	고모	아버지의 누나, 여동생
큰어머니	큰아버지의 아내	고모부	고모의 남편
작은아버지	아버지의 남동생 (married)	사촌 형/오빠/누나/언니/동생	cousins
작은어머니	작은아버지의 아내	조카, 조카딸	nephew, niece

### 4 Some Useful Expressions

태어나-	be born	죽-	die
자라-	grow up	되-	be done, become
고향	home town	이름	name
동안	for, period of time	성함	(a respected person's) name
얼마 동안 ...?	for how long ...?	주소	address
SK년 동안	for SK years	전화번호	telephone number
이사하-	move house	약혼하-	be engaged to
이사오-	move in (ie to one's current address)	결혼하-	marry, get married
이사가-	move away (ie to a new address)	이혼하-	divorce, get divorced
돌아가시-	pass away (for a respected person to die)	재혼하-	're-marry'

### 5 Periods of Time: Summary

Here is a summary for how to refer to periods of time in various ways. To ask:

몇 분 동안 ...?	How many minutes?	몇 주일 동안 ...?	How many weeks?
몇 시간 동안 ...?	How many hours?	몇 달 동안 ...?	How many months?
며칠 동안 ...?	How many days?	몇 년 동안 ...?	How many years?

To answer:

SK 분 동안	for SK minutes	SK 주일 동안	for SK weeks
PK 시간 동안	for PK hours	PK 달 동안	for PK months
SK 일 동안	for SK days	SK 년 동안	for SK years

#### EXAMPLES

4 분 동안 (사)	for 4 minutes	1 주일 동안 (일)	for 1 week
10 분 동안 (십)	for 10 minutes	6 주일 동안 (육)	for 6 weeks
2 시간 동안 (두)	for 2 hour	1 달 동안 (한)	for 1 month
3 시간 동안 (세)	for 3 hours	8 달 동안 (여덟)	for 8 months
5 일 동안 (오)	for 5 days	4 년 동안 (사)	for 4 years
7 일 동안 (칠)	for 7 days	9 년 동안 (구)	for 9 years

#### LANGUAGE NOTES

- More traditional expressions for *days* are 하루 (a period of one day), 이틀 (two days), 사흘 (three days), 나흘 (four days), 닷새 (five days), etc. (These are instead of 일 일, 이 일, 삼 일, 사 일, 오 일, etc.)
- In talking about *weeks*, PK numbers can also be used, but seemingly only up to, say, nine. Thus, don't be surprised if you hear Koreans mentioning 한 주일, 두 주일, 세 주일, 네 주일, etc.
- Note also that the forms 석달 for 세 달 (three months) and 넉달 for 네 달 (four months) also exist.

## 6 It belongs to ...: the Possessive Case Particle -의

When we want to say that such-and-such belongs to so-and-so, we can link the item concerned and the owner using -의. The pronunciation of the syllable 의 can vary according to context, and when it is the Possessive Case Particle, it is pronounced as though it were in fact written /에|. Note also that in normal colloquial speech 의 is usually omitted.

### EXAMPLES

이 책은 홍선생님의 책이에요.	This book belongs to Mrs Hong.
태우씨는 선영씨의 친구예요.	Tae-U is Seon-Yeong's friend.
큰아버지는 아버지의 형이에요.	큰아버지 is one's father's elder brother.
고모부는 고모의 남편이에요.	고모부 is one's father's sister's husband.

## 7 Doing together with ...: the Comitative Case Particle -와/-과

When we want to indicate that we're doing something with a person we can use -와/-과. We use -와 after a vowel, and -과 after a consonant. Note that this runs counter to the practice with other particles, where the forms of the particle which have initial consonants follow preceding vowels. Note also that in general -와/-과 are interchangeable with -하고, which we've learnt already.

When referring to marriage, note that Korean says 'A married *with* B.', in contrast to the English 'A married B.'

### EXAMPLES

수잔은 조지와 결혼했어요.	Susan married George.
조지는 수잔과 결혼했어요.	George married Susan.
숙제는 친구와 같이 해요.	I do my homework with my friend.
집에 개와 고양이가 많이 있어요.	There're many dogs and cats in my house.

## 8 What's the Phone Number?

To ask this question we can say

**전화번호가 어떻게 돼요?**

**NOTES:** 어떻게 = How ..?; 돼요? = 되- + 어요 = ... is it done/shaped?

To answer, we usually give the district digits as one number followed by 예, meaning 'in (the prefix area) ...', and then we give the following numbers individually using Sino-Korean numbers. Thus 3456 6789 will be 삼천사백오십육에 육, 칠, 팔, 구.

With Mobile Numbers, however, we give the numbers individually using SK numbers.

## 9 What's Your Name?

To ask this question (not in an abrupt way), we can say:

**이름이 어떻게 돼요? or  
성함이 어떻게 되세요?**

**NOTES:** 되세요 is a more polite form for 돼요. You use 되세요 when the person you speak about is a respected one.

To answer you simply give your name and -예요/-이에요 or -입니다.

## 10 How long has it been since ...?

To ask this question in Korean we can say:

**VST - (으)ㄴ 지 얼마나 됐어요?**

**NOTES:** • (으)ㄴ = noun modifier form; 지 = since; 얼마 = How much (time); 나 = about; 됐어요? = ... has been done/completed? • 됐어요 is a shortened form of 되었어요

To answer:

**VST - (으)ㄴ 지 TIME PERIOD 됐어요.**

### EXAMPLES

호주에 온 지 얼마나 됐어요?	How long have you been in Australia?
마지막 기차가 출발한 지 30 분 됐어요.	It's been thirty minutes since the last train departed.
아침을 먹은 지 한 시간쯤 됐어요.	It's been an hour since I had breakfast.
한국어 공부를 시작한 지 다섯 달 됐어요.	It's been five months since I started Korean.

## 11 Making longer sentences ...

Two sentences, complementary meaning-wise, can be combined into one as follows.

**... VST1 - (TENSE) - 고, ... VST2 - ...**

### EXAMPLES

한국어는 재미있고 아주 쉽습니다.	Korean is interesting and very easy.
오빠의 이름은 태우고, 언니의 이름은 상미예요.	My elder brother's name is Tae-U, and my elder sister's name Sang-Mi.
태우는 미국에서 공부했고, 지수는 영국에서 공부했어요.	Tae-U studied in the US, and Ji-Su in the UK.
수원까지는 지하철로 가고, 수원에서 민속촌까지는 버스로 갈까요?	Shall we go to Su-won by the subway, and then from Su-won to the Min-sok-chon shall we go by bus?

However, when we want to combine two seemingly contradictory sentences we can say:

**... VST1 - (TENSE) - 지만, ... VST2 - ...**

### EXAMPLES

태우는 영어를 공부했지만, 지수는 불어를 공부했어요.	Tae-U studied English, but Ji-Su studied French.
한식은 젓가락과 숟가락으로 먹지만, 양식은 포크와 나이프로 먹어요.	We eat Korean-style food with spoons and chopsticks, but we do Western-style food with forks and knives.
한국어는 어렵지만 재미있어요.	Korean's difficult but interesting.
김치는 좀 맵지만 맛있어요.	Gimchi's a little hot but tasty.

## 12 More on Respect Language

We've learnt about how to express our respect to the people we are SPEAKING TO in a culturally sensitive manner: using *Polite Informal* and *Polite Formal* verb endings.

Let us now look at how we show respect to the people we are SPEAKING ABOUT in Korean. This is done by using a respect verb, as it were. A respect verb derives by adding the honorific suffix -(으)시 to the verb stem – the contrast 가- (*to go*) versus 가시- (*for a respected person to go*), and also 읽- (*to read*) versus 읽으시- (*for a respected person to read*), for instance.

This honorific suffix -(으)시 comes before the tense marker and before the Polite Informal/Formal verb endings. Thus, we add to -(으)시 the Polite Informal ending -어요 and get -(으)세요, and likewise we add -었 the past tense marker and the Polite Informal ending -어요.

EXAMPLES

할아버지가 책을 읽으세요.	Granpa reads a book.
동생이 책을 읽어어요.	My younger brother/sister reads a book.
할아버지가 책을 읽으셨어요.	Granpa read a book.
동생이 책을 읽었어요.	My younger brother/sister read a book.
할아버지가 도서관에 가세요.	Granpa goes to the library.
동생이 도서관에 가요.	My younger brother/sister goes to the library.

### 13 Cultural Notes: Korean Names & Language

#### Korean family names

Korean family names derive from Chinese family names, and began to be adopted in Korea some 1,500 years ago. Initially, the names were adopted by high-born families as a mark of their growing adoption of many aspects of Chinese high culture, and over the following centuries the practice gradually spread throughout Korean society.

While there are about 250 family names in Korea, the predominance of the surnames 김 (Kim), 이 (Lee, Rhee, or Yi) and 박 (Park or Pak) reflect the adoption by people of names that held particular prestige. Kim ('metal' or 'gold') was the family name of the royal clan of the Silla kingdom (1st century B.C.–936), Pak ('gourd' a significant fertility symbol) was also a prominent and ancient royal clan, while Yi ('plum') was the family name of the ruling house of the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910) — and before that the ruling house of the Tang Dynasty in China. Practically all family names are single-character names but a few double-character names also exist — Hwang-bo, Sa-gong, Seon-u etc.

Families are known not simply by their family name but by a combination of family names and geographical location of the clan seat. Thus a person may be referred to as a 'Gyeongju Kim' or an 'Andong Kim', and particular prestige still attaches itself to some clans with long yangban traditions. Almost without exception, Koreans would be very aware not only of their own clan seat but also of the clan's history — its founder, its famous members, its legends. When Koreans with the same family name meet (a common enough occurrence) they may sometimes be heard enquiring about the other person's clan seat to see if they are from the same clan.

#### Korean given names

Korean given names usually consist of a personal character followed by a generational character — that is, a character that will be chosen for the first-born male and will be shared by all subsequent brothers. Like so many aspects of Korean culture major and minor, the names are coined with fundamental reference to the Neo-Confucianist view of the universe. They are usually chosen with considerable care by the senior male member of the family, and families usually attach great importance to coining names that are meaningful in Neo-Confucianist terms, easy to articulate, aesthetic, and, by being all of these things, a suitable reflection of the love they bear for the child.

For the eldest son, the only prescribed element in the name is the range of meaning of the generational character. This follows a fixed cycle of five in accordance with the Five Elements in Neo-Confucianist cosmology, a sequence of inter-acting elements which is held to produce every thing and every event in the universe. In sequence, they are metal – water – wood – fire – earth: metal (or chemical elements) produces water, water nurtures

wood, wood feeds fire, fire ash returns to the earth, the earth brings forth metal and so on.

Thus the Chinese character for the generational name for a first-born baby will need to contain the element next in the cycle to the element contained in the father's generational name. Since so many items of vocabulary relate to one of these five elements, the choice is in theory quite extensive. The personal name is then chosen to harmonise with the generational name.

The full system of name-choosing is only applied to the male children — and especially to the first-born — since it is they who have responsibility for performing clan rites and carrying on the clan line. For women, the names chosen reflect feminine virtues rather than Neo-Confucian cosmology, and often on this basis, it is possible to determine the sex of people through their name. Some preferred feminine names include Suk (virtue), Ok (jade), Hwa (flower), Hye (benevolence), Eun (grace), Sun (obedience), and Heui (princess), while some preferred masculine names include Hyo (filial), Jeong (upright), Tae (great), and Jung (moderate).

#### The family and language

Within the family, personal names are rarely used except in reference to young people. In traditional Korea, when a couple had a child they were henceforth referred to as 'so-and-so's father/mother.' Only those of an older generation might then refer to the parents by their given name.

You may have noted from the Vocabulary and Grammar Notes that the terms 할아버지 and 할머니 can refer not just to one's own grandparents, but to people old enough to be grandparents. In Western terms, of course, one would never respectfully address such people as 'Grandma' or 'Grandpa'.

However, in Korean society, such terms are a reflection of the dominating influence of family relationships in society as a whole. Outside the family people are routinely referred to in terms of their family status. People would never refer to Ji-su's mother as 'Mrs Kim', for example, but as 'Ji-su's mother'. Outside strictly business settings people are rarely referred to by their actual names, but in terms of their relationship to other members of the family.

Another key factor in Korean family life that is reflected in language is hierarchy. Traditionally, Korean family rights and responsibilities were strongly determined by sex and by sequence of birth, and by the ethical force of the cardinal Confucian relationships of father to son, husband to wife, and older brother to younger brother. While many things have changed, this sense continues to be strong, and this strength is reflected in the language as well. The Korean language therefore makes more precise distinctions between family members than Westerners make. While a brother is a brother and a sister is a sister to Western siblings, Korean differentiates according to age and also according to the sex of the speaker.