

4 반말

HOW'S YOUR KOREAN GOING?

IN THIS UNIT ...

- *Panmal* (반말): the Intimate Language



This unit focuses on *Panmal*: the non-polite forms of Korean, also called the Intimate style. *Panmal* can give special nuances to interpersonal relationships, and if employed when not expected the hearer can be seriously offended. Thus care should be taken in using the style.

1 Conversation

선영 has made an arrangement with 상미 to come over and study together. She said she'd arrive at three, but now she's arrived and it's after four.

Compare the conversation with the one between Annie and 선영 appeared in Unit 1.

상미: 어서 와.
 선영: 늦어서 미안해. 많이 기다렸지?
 상미: 아냐, 괜찮아. 들어와.
 선영: 응, 그래.
 상미: 주스 좀 갖다 줄까?
 선영: 응, 좋아.
 상미: ... 선영아, ... 주스가 다 떨어졌네. 어떻게 하지?
 선영: 괜찮아. 커피 있으면, 커피 줄래?
 상미: 그래, 커피를 줄게.
 선영: 설탕은 한 손가락만 넣어 줘.
 상미: 응. ... 참! 이번 주말에 피크닉 같이 가지?
 선영: 이번엔 나 좀 빼 줄래? 다음 주 월요일에 시험이 있거든. 미안해.
 상미: 그래? ... 자, 커피 마셔.
 선영: 고마워. ... 상미야, 커피 맛이 좀 이상하다, 애.
 상미: 왜? ... 어머니, 미안해, 소금을 넣은 모양이네!

Language Notes

- 응, 그래: "Yes, it is", "Yes, I'll", etc = expression used to confirm in the intimate style what is said is correct or is to be complied
- 갖다 주-: get something to someone = neutral version of 갖다 드리- which is used when the recipient is a respected person
- 선영아: Hey, Seon-Yeong! = 선영 + 아 (vocative case marker after a noun ending in a consonant)
- 상미야: Hey, Sang-Mi! = 상미 + 야 (vocative case marker after a noun ending in a vowel)
- 맛이 좀 이상하다, 애: "It tastes a bit strange!" 애 literally means "This child", and here it functions as a kind of attention-getter adding the friendly and intimate attitude of the speaker to the message.

More words

- 선배: a senior; • 후배: a junior;
- NAME-군: Mr (for a young man);
- NAME-양: Miss (for a young woman);
- 사모님: Mrs (Originally, teacher's wife, but for the wife of a respected man);
- 존댓말: language of respect; • 반말: language of intimacy

2 The Grammar of *Panmal*

Two basic divisions of spoken Korean in terms of levels of politeness are: (1) the speech using honorific forms, known as 존댓말, which is of course the type we've been using throughout this course, and (2) the Intimate non-polite speech, or 반말.

As intermediate learners you should not find the grammar of 반말 difficult. *Panmal* grammar is firstly a matter of identifying and using verb endings. However, precisely what makes one choose 존댓말 over 반말 is a complicated question to answer. It is also a question that may not concern us too much, because as foreigners you will almost always use 존댓말 – perhaps until you establish an intimate relationship with Koreans.

Broadly, we can make the following points. (1) Korean children and young adults use 반말 to each other. (2) Younger people are expected to use 존댓말 when talking to older people. (3) Children, and perhaps younger adults as well, receive 반말 from adults. (4) When two Korean adults meet for the first time they use 존댓말, and even if they build up a good friendship they would most likely continue to use 존댓말 to each other. (5) By contrast, if two Korean adults have been friends (or simply known to each other) since their childhood they would use 반말 to each other – in a sense, using 반말 to each other is simply a part of their childhood! However, the two will use 존댓말 if they are in a formal situation where other people are around.

2.1 Making Statements

$$\dots \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{VST} - \text{아./어./}\dots\text{해.} \\ \text{VST} - \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{았/었/}\dots\text{했} \\ \text{겠} \end{array} \right\} - \text{어.} \end{array} \right\}$$

Points to remember:

- We omit 요 from the Polite Informal ending to make a statement in the Intimate style.

EXAMPLES

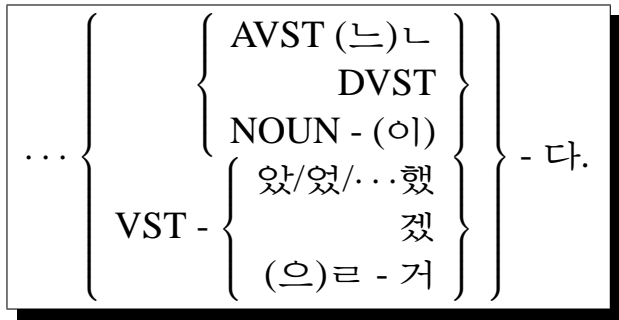
나는 6시에 일어나.	I get up at six.
밥은 많이 안 먹어.	They don't eat a lot.
요즘 숙제 많이 해.	I do a lot of homework.
숙제 아직 못 했어.	I haven't done (Lit. <i>haven't been able to do</i>) my homework yet.
콜라는 안 마시겠어.	I won't have any cola.

$$\dots \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{NOUN} - (\text{이}) \\ \text{VST} - (\text{으})\text{ㄹ 거} \end{array} \right\} - \text{야.}$$

- When the verb is actually 'NOUN + (이)-' in present tense, or when the verb is in future tense, ie, -(으)ㄹ 거-, we use -(이)야 ending.

EXAMPLES

10분 후에 갈 거야.	I'm going in 10 minutes.
이것은 책이야.	This is a book.
저것은 사과 주스야.	That's apple juice.
Notice however	
책이었어.	It was a book.
사과 주스였어.	It was apple juice.

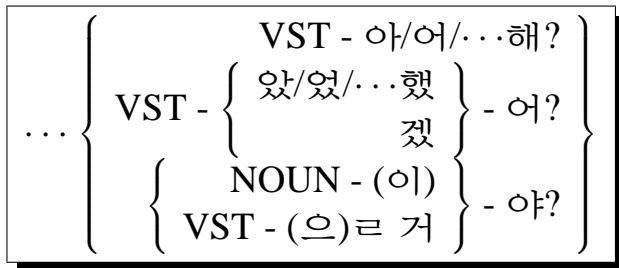


- People also use ...다 ending in their intimate everyday speech, which we will learnt in Unit 10 as the written ending for statements.
- However, the tendency is that this ending is used only ‘downwards’, that is, only to someone who is comparable with your younger siblings or who has been a very close friend from the childhood.

EXAMPLES

학교에는 9 시에 간다.	I go to school at 9.00.
한국어는 좀 어렵다.	Korean is a little bit difficult.
이것은 책이다.	This is a book.
저것은 우표다.	This is a stamp.
우유 다 마셨다	I finished (Lit. <i>drank up</i>) the milk.
콜라는 안 마시겠다.	I won't have any cola.
10 분 후에 갈 거다.	I'm going in 10 minutes.

2.2 Asking Questions



Points to remember:

- Again, we omit 요 from the Polite Informal ending to ask a question in *Panmal*.
- When the verb is actually ‘NOUN + (이)-’ in present tense, or when the verb is in future tense, ie, -(으)ㄴ 거-, use -야? ending.

EXAMPLES

콜라 안 마셔?	Won't you have any cola?
태우가 영어를 공부해?	Does Tae-U study English?
너 아직 집에 안 갔어?	Are you still here (Lit. <i>Haven't you gone back home yet</i>)?
밥 더 먹겠어?	Will you eat more?
이거 누구 책이야?	Whose book is this?
이게 뭐야?	What's this?
그게 뭐였어?	What was that?

VST - (TENSE) - 니/냐?

- Another frequent interrogative ending is ‘-니?/-냐?’.
- Again, the tendency is that you use this ending only ‘downwards’, that is, only to someone who is comparable with your younger siblings or who has been a very close friend from the childhood. You don’t use the ‘-니?/-냐?’ ending towards, for instance, someone who is older than you but who you can be intimate to, eg, your older siblings.

EXAMPLES

콜라 마셨니?/마셨냐?	Won't you have any cola?
뭐 하니/하냐	What're you doing?
이거 누구 책이니/책이냐?	Whose book is this?
저게 뭐니/뭐냐?	What's this?
몇 살이니/몇 살이냐?	How old are you?
재미 있었니?/재미 있었냐?	Was it interesting?

2.3 Making Suggestions**Points to remember:****VST - 자.**

- You use this ending only ‘downwards’ too.
- To perform this speech function towards someone who is older than you but who you can be intimate to, you generally use -아/-어/...해 ending.
- For negative suggestions, ie “*Let's not do ...*”, you use VST - 지 말자.

EXAMPLES

한국어를 열심히 공부하자.	Let's study Korean hard.
야채를 먹자.	Let's eat vegetables.
공원에 가지 말자.	Let's not go to the park.

2.4 Giving Instructions, Orders or Invitations**Points to remember:****AVST - 아/어/...해(라)**

- Although 라 is presented as optional, ending your instructions, orders, or invitations with 라 should only happen ‘downwards’, ie, when talking to someone who is comparable with your younger siblings or who has been a very close friend from the childhood.
- For negative commands, ie “*Don't do ...*”, you use VST - 지 마(라).

EXAMPLES

여기 앉아.	Take a seat over here.
빨리 해.	Hurry up.
빨리 해라.	Hurry up.
하지 마라.	Stop it!

2.5 Exclamations

When you use -아/어/...해(라) ending with a description verb, your sentence becomes an exclamatory one. You will be seen as talking to yourself.

An exclamatory sentence is typically prefixed with an injection such as 아이, 아유, 아이구, 어머, 어머니, and so on. Note that 어머 and 어머니 are feminine interjections.

INTERJECTION, DVST - 아/어/...해 - 라!

EXAMPLES

어머, 예뻐라!	Wow, prett-tty!
아유 아파라!	Ouch! That hurts!
아이구, 답답해라!	Grrrrr! ...

2.6 Others

For various endings such as -네요, -지요, (으)르까요, etc, we simply omit the -요 ending.

EXAMPLES

비가 오네!	It's raining!
한국말이 정말 재미 있지?	Korean's really interesting, isn't it?
다섯 시에 도서관 앞에서 만날까?	Shall we meet at 5.00 in front of the library?

2.7 YES and NO

Instead of 네/예 and 아니요, we say 응 for Yes and 아니 for No. Note that in actual practice, 응 sounds pretty much as '어'.

EXAMPLES

반말이 어렵니?	Is Panmal difficult?
응, 어려워.	Yes, it is.
아니, 하나도 안 어려워.	No, not at all.

2.8 Calling and Referring to People (1)

When calling a person to catch their attention in Panmal, add -야 to the person's name if it ends in a vowel, eg 상미야. You add -아 if their name ends in a consonant, eg 선영아!

When referring to a third person, who you don't have to use 존댓말 to, for the benefit of the person you're now speaking to, use the third person's name. When the third person's name ends in a consonant, add -이 to the personal name.

EXAMPLES

태우가 했어. (cf 태우가 했어요.)	Tae-U did it.
선영이가 먹었어. (cf 선영이가 먹었어요.)	Seon-Yeong ate it.

2.9 Calling and Referring to People (2)

One final issue relating to the use of 존댓말 and 반말 is calling out to attract people's attention or else referring to them in conversation. We've already learnt 존댓말 terms such as 선생님, 아줌마 etc, now we look at this topic in detail.

In the following table we consider as an example the situation of a Korean couple, whose names are 김 인택 (husband) and 박 영희 (wife), and their son 태우. Notice in particular how kinship terms and terms for various positions and social roles are used for these purposes.

김인택 is called	Is referred to as	when he is ...	by ...
인택아	인택이	child	anyone
형/인택이형	형/인택이형	-	younger brothers and other younger males
오빠/인택이오빠	오빠/인택이오빠	-	younger sisters and other younger females
김(인택)선배님	김(인택)선배(님)	university student and afterwards	his juniors in entrance/graduation
아저씨	아저씨	over 20	people on the street
김(인택)군	김(인택)군	adolescent, before 30	acquaintance who is over 30
미스타김	미스타김	over 20	superiors at work
김인택씨	김인택씨	over 20	peers/superiors at work
인택씨	인택씨	over 20	women of similar age/peers at work
김형	-	over 20	peers and superiors at work
김씨	김씨	holding a blue-colour job and over 30	people of higher status
(김)사장님	(김)사장(님)	사장	his subordinates, acquaintances
김사장	김사장	사장	other 사장 or people higher in position
태우아빠/아버지	태우아빠/아버지	태우아빠	people known informally
할아버지	할아버지	over 60	people on the street

박영희 is called	Is referred to as	when she is ...	by ...
영희야	영희	child	anyone
누나/영희누나	누나/영희누나	-	younger brothers and other younger males
언니/영희언니	언니/영희언니	-	younger sisters and other younger females
박(영희)선배님	박(영희)선배(님)	university student and afterwards	her juniors in entrance/graduation
박(영희)양	박(영희)양	adolescence, before 25	acquaintance who is over 30
미스박	미스박	over 18	people in higher position
박영희씨	박영희씨	over 18	peers/superiors at work
영희씨	영희씨	over 18	males at same age/peers at work
아가씨	아가씨	over 18, before marriage	older people on the street
부인	부인	after marriage	middle-aged males
아주머니/아줌마	아주머니/아줌마	over 30	people on the street
사모님	사모님	if husband has job with high social status	husband's subordinates
박여사님/박여사	박여사님/박여사	if in job with good social status	people similar or lower in status
미세스 김	미세스 김	after marriage	people similar or higher in status
태우엄마/어머니	태우엄마/어머니	태우 엄마	anyone
할머니	할머니	over 60	anyone