

9 어느 나라에서 왔어요?

In this Unit ...

- Countries and People
- *Where do you come from?*
- Using Description Verbs
- *Where is it located?*



WHICH COUNTRY ARE YOU FROM?

In this Unit we learn to exchange personal information about ourselves, in particular, asking and telling people where we come from.

1 Conversation

Annie Brown, an Australian exchange student to Korea, is buying pens in a small stationery shop near her Korean university. She is talking with the owner of the shop, a middle-aged man.

Annie: 안녕하세요? ... 이 볼펜 얼마예요?
 Shop Owner: 한 자루에 오백 원이에요.
 Annie: 두 자루 주세요.
 Shop Owner: 네. ... 학생이에요?
 Annie: 네? ... 아, 네. ... 네, 학생이에요.
 Shop Owner: 뭐 공부해요?
 Annie: 한국어 공부해요.
 Shop Owner: 아, 네. ... 한국어가 어려워요?
 Annie: 네, 조금 어려워요. 하지만, 재미 있어요.
 Shop Owner: 어느 나라에서 왔어요? 미국에서 왔어요?
 Annie: 아니오, 호주에서 왔어요.
 Shop Owner: 호주요? 호주 사람이예요? ... 호주 어디서 왔어요? 시드니에서 왔어요?
 Annie: 아니오. 캔버라에서 왔어요. ... 캔버라 아세요?
 Shop Owner: 그럼요. 캔버라 잘 알아요. ... 친구하고 같이 가봤어요. 브리스베인 근처 아니예요?
 Annie: 네? ... 아니오, 캔버라는 ... 아 ... 호주 수도예요. ... 아 ... 시드니 근처에 있어요.
 Shop Owner: 수도요? 호주 수도는 시드니가 아니예요?
 Annie: 아니오, 캔버라예요.
 Shop Owner: 아, 네. ... 자! 볼펜 여기 있어요. 천 원이에요.
 Annie: 감사합니다. 안녕히 계세요.
 Shop Owner: 네, 또 오세요.

Translation

Annie: Hello. ... How much are these pens?
 Shop Owner: They're five hundred won each.
 Annie: Can I have two, please?
 Shop Owner: Sure. ... Are you a student?
 Annie: Pardon? ... Oh! Yes! Yes, I'm a student.
 Shop Owner: What do you study?
 Annie: I study Korean.
 Shop Owner: I see. Is Korean difficult?
 Annie: Yes, a little bit. But, it's interesting.
 Shop Owner: Which country are you from? Are you from the US?
 Annie: No, I'm from Australia.
 Shop Owner: Australia? Are you Australian? ... Whereabouts in Australia are you from? Are you from Sydney?
 Annie: No, I'm from Canberra. ... Do you know Canberra?
 Shop Owner: Of course, I do. ... I once went there with my friends. Isn't it near Brisbane?
 Annie: Pardon? ... No, Canberra is ... umm ... Australia's capital. Umm ... it's ... it's near Sydney.
 Shop Owner: Did you say that Canberra is the capital city of Australia? Isn't the capital Sydney?
 Annie: No, the capital is Canberra.
 Shop Owner: I see ... Well, here are your pens. That'll be one thousand won, thanks.
 Annie: Thanks. Bye.
 Shop Owner: Bye.

Language Notes

- 네?: *I beg your pardon?*
- 아, 네: Similar to "Oh, I see." See Page 45 for more information.
- 한국어가 어려워요?: *Is Korean difficult?* Note that -가 (or -이) is the Subject marker. Use -가 after a noun ending in a vowel, and -이 elsewhere. The verb stem of 어려워요 is 어렵-. It is a description verb, which means that ... *is/are difficult*. See Page 54 below.
- 조금: *a little bit*
- 하지만: *But ...*
- 재미있어요: *It's interesting.*
- 어느 나라: *Which country ...*
- -에서: *from*
- 왔어요?: Literally, *Did you come ...?* See Unit 10 for Past Tense.
- 미국: *the US*
- 호주: *Australia*
- 호주요?: *Did you say ho-ju?* See Page 45 for more explanations.
- 호주 사람: *an Australian*
- 어디서 = 어디에서: *From where*
- 캔버라 아세요?: *Do you know Canberra?* The stem of 아세요 is 알- (*to know, to know about*).
- 그럼요: *Of course!* Note that 그럼요 is a 'full' sentence on its own.
- 친구: *friend(s)*
- -하고 같이: *together with ...*
- 가봤어요: *I visited ...* The stem is 가보- (*literally, go and see*). See Unit 10 for Past Tense.
- 브리스베인 근처: Literally, *in the vicinity of Brisbane*
- 아니예요?: *Isn't it ...?*
- 호주 수도예요.: *It's Australia's capital.* 수도 is the *capital city*.
- ...에 있어요: *It's located in/at/on ...*
- 자!: an interjection used to signal that the speaker is about to offer something good to the hearer, or about to invite the hearer to do something that the speaker thinks is good to the hearer.
- 또 오세요: Literally, "*Please come again!*". This is a standard Insa from shop keepers to customers who are taking their leave.

2 Some Countries and Continents

나라/-국	country, nation	호주/오스트레일리아	Australia
한국	Korea (ROK)	독일	Germany
북한/이북	North Korea	러시아	Russia
조선	Korea (DPRK)	프랑스/불란서	France
일본	Japan	이탈리아/이태리	Italy
중국	China	스페인	Spain
대만	Taiwan	영국	England, UK
몽고	Mongolia	미국	USA
베트남	Vietnam	아시아	Asia
태국	Thailand	오세아니아	Oceania
말레이시아	Malaysia	유럽	Europe
인도네시아	Indonesia	아메리카	America
인도/인디아	India	아프리카	Africa
파키스탄	Pakistan	외국	overseas
이란	Iran	어느 ...	which ...
이라크	Iraq	-에서	from

Korean names for countries

Korean names for countries usually reflect the historical period in which Korea first encountered those countries. Major Western Powers, for example, were first encountered in the mid to late 19th century, during the period of encroachment into China. So Korean terms for England and the US, for example, reflect Chinese practice at the time. Countries encountered later during the Japanese Colonial Period (1910-1945), such as Australia, are named according to Japanese practice. In the post-war era there has been an increasing tendency to simply name countries phonetically – the countries listed in Units 2 and 3 are examples of this.

The names for Korea

The term 한국 (Han-guk) refers to the Republic of Korea, South Korea (1947-), by South Koreans. The full official title of the Republic of Korea is 대한민국 (Dae-han-min-guk), or *Great Han Republic*. Han is an age-old term denoting the inhabitants of the central and southern part of the Korean Peninsula, and was originally revived in the late 19th century. The South Koreans usually refers to North Korea as either 북한 (Puk-han), literally 'Northern Han' or 이북 (I-buk), literally 'the North'.

조선 (Jo-seon) was the first kingdom of Koreans which was believed to exist until 108 BC in the South of the Liao He river and the northwestern part of the Korean peninsula, and the name was also used by Yi Dynasty which ruled the entire Korean peninsula from 1392 to 1910. These days 조선 is still in general use in North Korea, and appropriate changes would need to be made in a North Korean context: 조선 사람 (Jo-seon sa-ram) when referring to Korean people; 조선말 (Jo-seon-mal) when referring to the Korean language and so on. North Korea usually refers to South Korea as 남조선 (nam-jo-seon).

3 More Geography and Culture Words

동, 서, 남, 북	East, West, South, North	영어	English
동양	the East	불어	French
서양	the West	독어	German
중동	Middle East	스페인어	Spanish
동북아시아	Northeast Asia	아랍어	Arabic
동남아시아	Southeast Asia	페르시아어	Persian
남아메리카	South America	일본어	Japanese
수도	capital city	중국어	Chinese
사람/-인	person	글자	letter, alphabet
말/-어	language, words	한자	Chinese characters

Korea/Korean

There is no special adjectival form for Korean nouns – they combine freely with each other. Thus 한국말 (pronounced as Han-gung-mal) – the Korean language – is literally *Korea language*; 한국 사람 (Han-guk-sa-ram) – a Korean person – is literally *Korea person* and so on.

한국어 **and** 한국말

한국말 (Han-gung-mal) refers to the spoken language. 한국어 (Han-guk-eo) tends to refer to the language in both its spoken and written forms. -어 is usually employed when referring to languages such as English which are widely known in both their spoken and written forms.

The Expression 한- in 한자

The 한- in 한자 (han-ja) doesn't have the same meaning as the 한- in 한국. In fact it is the same *Han* as in the Chinese Han Dynasty, and by association with a major Chinese dynasty this term often means *Chinese* in Korea. Chinese herbal medicine, for example, is 한약 (Han-yak). The pronunciation and Hangeul are the same, but each is written with a different Chinese character.

4 Some More Useful Words

알-	know	덥-	be hot
-하고	and, (together) with	춥-	be cold
... 근처에	in the vicinity of ...	따뜻하-	be (nice and) warm
-(으)로 유명하-	be famous for	재미 있-	be interesting
여러 나라	many countries	재미 없-	be boring
가보-	visit (Literally: go and see)	조금	a little (bit)
많-	be numerous	SK Number - 층	n-th floor
적-	be small (in number)	일 층	Ground Floor
쉽-	be easy	몇 층에 ...?	On which floor ...?
어렵-	be difficult	화장실	toilette

5 Using Description Verbs

Korean lacks the class of description words we call adjectives in English. The counterparts in Korean of English adjectives are actually verbs: we will call them *Description Verbs*. To describe something we simply add the appropriate verb ending to the relevant description verb stem, just as we do with the verbs we studied in previous units. That is, the same rules apply. (See Page 23 for Polite Informal endings, and Page 42 for Polite Formal ones.)

With Polite Informal, if the final vowel in the verb stem is ㅏ or ㅑ we add -아요; for all other final vowels the ending is -어요. Of course, verb stems ending in 하- transform to 해요. Look at the following list to see these rules in action.

많-	add -아요 ⇒	많아요	<i>They're numerous.</i>
적-		적어요	<i>They're few.</i>
재미 있-	add -어요 ⇒	재미 있어요	<i>It's interesting.</i>
재미 없-		재미 없어요	<i>It's boring.</i>

We've already seen how 하- (*do*) can transform nouns into *Action Verb* stems, eg 공부하- (*to study*), 전화하- (*to telephone*), 숙제하- (*to do homework*), etc. But this is not the only way 하- is used. 하- can form the final syllable of description verb stems, eg 유명하- (*be famous*), 따뜻하- (*be warm*), etc. Whether the 하- verb is in fact an action or a description verb is usually clear, and can be judged from the context, and from the grammar of the sentence. Consider the following description verbs.

유명하-	하- changes to 해요 ⇒	유명해요	<i>They're famous.</i>
따뜻하-		따뜻해요	<i>It's (nice and) warm.</i>

Bear in mind that, with verb stems ending in ㅂ, the ㅂ changes to ㅍ, to which we then add -어요. We have met two such verb stems already: 반갑- (*be pleased* eg, to see you) and 고맙- (*be grateful*). Consider the following list of verbs.

반갑-	ㅂ changes to ㅍ, ⇒ then add -어요	반가워요	<i>I'm pleased.</i>
고맙-		고마워요	<i>I'm thankful.</i>
어렵-		어려워요	<i>It's difficult.</i>
쉽-		쉬워요	<i>It's easy.</i>
덥-		더워요	<i>It's hot.</i>
춥-		추워요	<i>It's cold.</i>

With the verbs 덥- (*be hot*), 춥- (*be cold*) and 따뜻하- (*be warm*), note that Korean doesn't describe a personal reaction with temperature, by saying 'I'm hot/cold,' but rather makes an object statement 'It's hot/cold.'

As for the Polite Formal style, adding the appropriate ending is indeed straightforward. We use -ㅂ니다 (for statements) and -ㅂ니까/-ㅅ니까 (for questions) when the verb stem ends in a vowel. When the stem ends in consonants, we use -습니다 (for statements) and -습니까/으ㅅ니까 (for questions). See Page 42 for more explanations.

6 Where Do You Come from?

We can ask this question by saying

어디서 왔어요?

To answer we can say

PLACE - 에서 왔어요.

and 저기서 (*from there, ie, far from us*). When **에서** is followed by an action verb that does not indicate motion it indicates the locality of the action indicated in the verb. This aspect of **에서** doesn't concern us at the moment, and will be covered in Unit 10.

NOTES: When followed by 오- (or indeed any other verb that indicates motion) **에서** is equivalent to the preposition 'from (a place)' in English. In normal conversation, the **에** is dropped when preceded by 어디 (*where*), 여기 (*here*), 거기 (*there, ie, near you*) and 저기 (*over there*), and thus 어디서 (*from where*), 여기서 (*from here*), 거기서 (*from there, ie, near you*),

EXAMPLES

유키코씨는 어디서 왔어요?
일본에서 왔어요.

Where does Yukiko come from?
She comes from Japan.

And we can ask, for example, *And where in Japan ...?* by saying:

일본 어디서 왔어요?

Where in Japan does she come from?

7 Which/What Country Are You from?

If we want to ask specifically which country someone or something comes from, we can use:

어느 나라 ...?

EXAMPLES

어느 나라에서 왔어요?
중국에서 왔어요.

What country are you from?
I'm from China.

어느 나라 사람이예요?
일본 사람이예요.

What country is (the) person (from)?
He's/She's Japanese.

어느 나라 말이에요?
페르시아말이에요.

What country is (the) language (from)?
It's Persian.

8 Where Is It Located?

To ask this question we can say:

...은/는 어디에 있어요?

To answer we can say:

...에 있어요.

-은/-는 = Topic Marker ; Use -은 after a noun ending in consonants, and -는 after a noun ending in a vowel.

EXAMPLES

타지 마할은 어디에 있어요?
인도에 있어요.

Where's Taj Mahal?
It's in India.

비디오 가게는 어디에 있어요?
역 근처에 있어요.

Where's the video shop?
It's near the station.