

# 14 전공이 뭐예요?

IN THIS UNIT ...

- Education
- I'm going to ...
- I want to ...
- Before/After ...
- The Particle -만 (only)



## WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?

In this unit we learn to talk about our educational experiences, looking back to the past, but also looking to further study and graduation. This often involves talking about our likes and dislikes, and so we learn how to express these as well.

### 1 A Story about 태우 ...



**태우예요.** 태우는 6 살 때 유치원에 들어갔어요. 7 살 때 유치원을 마치고 초등학교에 입학했어요. 13 살 때 초등학교를 졸업했어요. 그리고 중학교에 입학했어요. 16 살 때 중학교를 졸업하고 고등학교에 입학했어요. 19 살 때 고등학교를 졸업하고 대학교에 입학했어요. 22 살 때 대학교를 졸업할 거예요.



## 2 Education: Some Basic Expressions

유치원	kindergarten	PK 살	... years old
초등학교	primary school	... 때	the time when ...
중학교	junior high school (Years 7 - 9)	10살 때	at the age of ten
고등학교	senior high school (Years 10 - 12)	...을/를 다니-	attend (school, etc)
중고등학교	secondary school	...에 입학하-	enter school, matriculate
대학원	graduate school	...에 들어가-	go into
입학	school entry	...을/를 졸업하-	graduate
졸업	graduation	...을/를 나오-	come out of
졸업식	graduation ceremony	마치-	complete, finish

## Vocabulary Expansion: Guessing the meaning of words

나가-	go out of, leave a place	중학생	a middle-school student
나오-	come out of, appear, arrive	고등학생	a high school student
들어오-	come in	대학생	a university (undergraduate) student
들어가-	go in, enter	대학원생	a postgraduate student
입학식	an 'entrance' ceremony	졸업생	a graduate
졸업장	testamur, a diploma of graduate	입학생	a new student
초등학생	a primary school student	휴학	temporary absence from school

## 3 This weekend I'm going to ...

When we want to talk about our plans for the future, we usually say

**VST - (으)ㄹ 거예요.**

**NOTES:** (으) = inserted if VST ends in a consonant;  
ㄹ = indicates potential state; 거 = 것 = thing, situation; 예요 = is

### EXAMPLES

이번 주말에 책을 읽을 거예요.

I'm going to read books this weekend.

한국에는 언제 갈 거예요?

When are you going to (go to) Korea?

내년에 한국어를 공부할 거예요.

I'm going to study Korean next year.

22살 때 대학교를 졸업할 거예요.

I'm going to graduate from (my) university at the age of twenty-two.

### 4 Education: More Expressions

SK 학년	Year 1, 2, etc (Lit. class year)	성적	marks, results
(SK) 학기	semester/term (1, 2, etc)	학점	credit points
학기말	end of semester	(... 과목을) 듣-	undertake ...
중간 시험	mid-term/semester examination	학점이 안 나오-	fail (a subject)
시험을 잘 보-	do well in an exam	교육을 받-	receive education
시험을 못 보-	not do well in an exam	유학생	overseas student
방학	school holidays	하숙, 하숙집	boarding, boarding house
전공	a major	기숙사	university hall, dorm
부전공	a minor	아르바이트	part-time work
과목	subject of study	무슨 ...?	Which ...?

**Language Notes (Some Irregular Verbs):** The verb 듣- in 과목을 듣- literally means *to listen*. To make a Polite informal statement, or ask a question, with this verb stem, we change the syllable-final ㄷ to ㄹ and add 어요. Thus, we say, eg, 세 과목을 들어요 (*I undertake three subjects*).

**Language Notes (School Years):** We refer to a person's year of schooling as follows.

초등학교 5학년 (오)	year 5 of primary	고등학교 1학년 (오)	year 1 of senior high
초등학교 6학년 (육)	year 6 of primary	고등학교 3학년 (오)	year 3 of senior high
중학교 1학년 (일)	year 1 of junior high	대학교 1학년 (일)	year 1 of university
중학교 2학년 (이)	year 2 of junior high	대학교 4학년 (사)	year 4 of university

### 5 General

취직하-	enter the workforce, get a job	그 전에	before that
돈을 벌-	earn money	-후에	after ...
학원	private academy, coaching college	PK 시간 후에	after PK hours
경영을 하-	operate, run an organisation	SK일 후에	after SK days
먼저	first of all	그후에	after that
-전에	before ...	올해	this year
PK 시간 전에	before PK hours	작년	last year
SK 일 전에	before SK days	앞으로	in the future

## Vocabulary Expansion: Guessing the meaning of words

입학 시험	entrance exam (school)	대학교 3 (삼) 학년 때	at Year 3 of university
학기말 시험	end of semester exam	금년	this year
졸업 시험	graduation exam	내년	next year
취직 시험	entrance exam (company)	잊어버리-	forget
1 학기	Semester 1	모르-	not know

**Language Notes (Some Irregular Verbs):** In making a statement/question, if the verb stem ends in 르, and the syllable immediately before 르 ends in a vowel, we drop — and add ㄹ to the preceding syllable, and add -라요. To say "I don't know", we say 몰라요 in Korean. The verb stem is 모르-, and this is how we arrive 몰라요. Some other forms of 모르- include 몰랐어요 (*I didn't know*).

## 6 Subject of Study, Faculties

-학	... Studies	과학	Science
한국학	Korean Studies	인문과학	humanities
어학	Language Studies	사회과학	social sciences
문학	Literature	자연과학	natural sciences
언어학	Linguistics	공학	Engineering
영어영문학	English Language & Literature	수학	Mathematics
역사학	History	의학	Medicine
정치학	Political Science	-대학	Faculty of ...
경제학	Economics	문과대학	Arts Faculty
경영학	Business Studies	경영대학	Business Faculty
법학	Law	교육대학	Faculty of Education
교육학	Education	-과	teaching department
철학	Philosophy	한국학과	the Korean Department

## 7 The Particle -만 (only ...)

The particle -만(only) replaces -이/-가 and -을/-를, but is added to other particles.

도서관에는 태우씨만 갔어요.	Only Tae-U went to library.
저는 일본어를 안 배워요. 한국어만 배워요.	I don't learn Japanese. I only learn Korean.
커피는 집에서만 마셔요.	I drink coffee only at home.
맥주는 주말에만 마셔요.	I drink beer only at weekends.
교실에서는 한국말로만 질문하세요.	Ask questions only in Korean in the classroom.

## 8 I want to ...

When we want to express a strong desire we can say

**VST - 고 싶어요.**

### EXAMPLES

돈을 많이 벌고 싶어요.	I want to earn a lot of money.
내년에 한국에 가보고 싶어요.	I want to visit Korea next year.
한국음식을 먹어보고 싶어요.	I want to try Korean dishes.
선영씨와 결혼하고 싶습니다.	I want to marry you, Seon-Yeong.

But when talking about other people's desire we say:

**(...은/는) VST - 고 싶어해요.**

### EXAMPLES

태우씨는 돈을 많이 벌고 싶어해요.	Tae-U wants to earn a lot of money.
내년에 한국에 가보고 싶어해요.	They want to visit Korea next year.
카일리씨는 한국 음식을 먹어보고 싶어해요.	Kylie wants to try Korean dishes.
지수씨는 선영씨와 결혼하고 싶어해요.	Ji-Su wants to marry Seon-Yeong.

## 9 After ...

When we want to describe a sequence of events we can link them as follows.

**VST - (으)ㄴ 다음에 ...**

### EXAMPLES

책을 읽은 다음에 물을 마셨어요.	After reading a book I drank water.
한국말을 좀 배운 다음에 한국에 갈 거예요.	After I learn some Korean I will go to Korea.
시드니에서 고등학교를 마친 다음에 멜버른으로 이사갔어요.	After I finish my high school in Sydney I moved to Melbourne.
졸업한 다음에 취직할 거예요.	After I graduate I'll get a job.

## 10 Before ...

Another way of linking a sequence of events is as follows.

**VST - 기 전에 ...**

### EXAMPLES

물을 마시기 전에 책을 읽었어요.	Before drinking water I read a book.
한국에 가기 전에 한국말을 좀 배울 거예요.	I'll learn some Korean before I go to Korea.
멜버른으로 이사가기 전에 시드니에서 고등학교를 다녔어요.	Before moving to Melbourne, I attended a high school in Sydney.
식사하기 전에 맥주 한잔 어때요?	How about having a glass of beer before we eat?

## 11 Cultural Notes; Education

The South Korean education system follows a 6-3-3 pattern, comprising six years of primary school (초등학교), three years of middle school (중학교), and three years of high school (고등학교). Kindergartens and pre-schools (유치원) are not regarded as part of the formal education system. Primary education is compulsory and more or less free, and the curriculum includes subjects such as moral education, Korean language, social studies, mathematics, natural science, physical education, music, art and a foreign language (English). Upon completing primary school students enter middle school for Years 7–9 of their secondary education. Middle school students are usually aged between twelve and fourteen. For the final three years of secondary education, students enter high schools. In the mid-1980s, 96

For several years before high school graduation the life of the Korean student is dominated by the need to prepare for university admission examinations (수능시험). The exams mostly involve multiple choice-type answers to questions across a curriculum so broad as to require many hours of daily study during this period. The effort usually involves the whole household, with parents and other family members taking special care to ensure their children obtain the best possible result. The pressure is intense, often depriving the students of any real social life, the system is frequently criticised by Korean educationalists because of this, but the country remains locked into the system.

Alongside the undoubted down-side to the pressure, it should be mentioned that while there are more than a few casualties, successful Korean graduates approach working life with a strongly disciplined and well acculturated background, and the country's economic transformation could hardly have been achieved without the cohesive and talented professional class that this system has produced.

Most leading Korean universities and other institutes of higher education are private institutions, but come under the supervision of the Ministry of Education - as, of course, do the primary and secondary schools. Public universities, or National Universities as they are known, operate one to each province of the country, and tend to be the first choice of intending students over rival private institutions. Particularly noteworthy in this regard is Seoul National University (서울대학교, or 서울대 for short), whose graduates all but monopolise leading professions such as law, banking, education and the public service. While it is not always helpful to compare institutions, at least in the social sciences and humanities, SNU is universally regarded as pre-eminent. Other prominent institutions include Yonsei University (연세대학교, or 연대 for short), Korea University (고려대학교, or 고대 for short), and Sogang University (서강대학교, or 서강대 for short) in Seoul, and Pusan National University (부산대학교, or 부산대) in Pusan. In science and technology institutions such as the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and Pohang Institute of Science and Technology (Postech) are also highly regarded.

There are some significant differences between Korean and Western university life. As huge demand for tertiary places in a predominantly private system produces huge class sizes, courses comprising of mass lectures and no tutorials; there is little in the way of intellectual contact between staff and students. Also, extra-curricular activities assume greater significance. Students form their own little study groups, usually revolving around social, political or religious issues. A good deal of energy is also poured into sporting and hobby clubs and societies. The university thus becomes the centre of student social life even on weekends and in holiday periods, and the sense of attachment to alma mater is very strong. It is often observed that the achievement of the Korean education system is to be found, not in the education it impart, but in the socialisation process that Korean students go through (which is in part responsible for the intense pressure for entering a good university).