

20 한국에서 살기가 어때요?

WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING IN KOREA?

In this Unit we learn to say what the weather's like, what it's like to study Korean, on so on. We also look at how to form an adverb out of a verb, how to use pronouns, and what to say if we want the person we're speaking to to agree with what we're saying.

1 Weather & Climate

| | | | |
|----|---------|--------|------------------|
| 날씨 | weather | 기후 | climate |
| 봄 | spring | 여름 | summer |
| 가을 | autumn | 겨울 | winter |
| 비 | rain | 비가 오- | <i>It rains.</i> |
| 눈 | snow | 흐리- | cloudy |
| 계절 | season | 장마철 | rainy season |
| 바람 | wind | 바람이 불- | windy |

2 General

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| 영화 | movie, cinema | 별로 (+ neg) | not especially |
| 경치 | scenery | 빠르- | fast, quick |
| 몸 | body | 불편하- | inconvenient |
| 몸에 좋- | good for the body | 피곤하- | tired |
| 할 일 | things to do | 친절하- | kind |
| 아주 | very | 부지런하- | diligent |
| 너무 | too (much) | 같- | same |
| 물론 | of course | 다르- | different |
| 그리고 | ... And then ... | 사전 | dictionary |
| 그렇지만 | ... But ... | 한영사전 | Korean-English dictionary |

3 Learning Korean involves ...

| | | | |
|------|-----------|----|---------------|
| 말하기 | speaking | 듣기 | listening |
| 읽기 | reading | 쓰기 | writing |
| 받아쓰기 | dictation | 발음 | pronunciation |

Eating, studying, working etc

In fact the suffix -기, attached to the verb stem, is a productive device; it makes an ‘-ing’ noun from a verb. Some examples:

| | | | | | |
|----|----|---------|------|------|----------|
| 가- | 가기 | going | 살- | 살기 | living |
| 보- | 보기 | looking | 공부하- | 공부하기 | studying |
| 먹- | 먹기 | eating | 마시- | 마시기 | drinking |

It’s easy to ...

When we want to say that we find certain activities easy we can say

... VST-기(가) 쉬워요.

NOTES: The use of the subject particle is optional.

EXAMPLES

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 한국말은 배우기가 쉬워요. | It’s easy to learn Korean. |
| 더운 날에는 일하기가 힘들어요. | It’s hard to work on hot days. |
| 버스로 가기는 불편해요. | It’s inconvenient to go by bus. |
| 한국말은 혼자서 공부하기 어려운 것 같아요. It seems studying Korean by myself is hard. | |

I like/dislike doing ...

When we want to describe things we like, or dislike, doing we can say

VST-기(를) 좋아해요/싫어해요.

NOTES: The use of the object particle is optional.

EXAMPLES

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 주말에 친구하고 노래방에 가기를 좋아해요. | I like going to Noraebang (karaoke) with my friends on weekends. |
| 태우는 책 읽기를 좋아해요. | Tae-U likes reading books. |
| 아침에 일찍 일어나기를 싫어해요. | I dislike waking up early in the morning. |
| 외국어로 말하기는 좋아하지만 쓰기는 싫어해요. | I like speaking in a foreign language but I don’t like writing in it. |

We would like you to do ...

Another context in which you’ll hear the VST-기 regularly is in the construction ... 하시기 바랍니다. Public announcements – in airplanes, airport terminals and other public places, for example, usually request people to follow instructions in this way. 바라- means *desire, want*.

4 Adverbs

There are various ways to describe HOW an action was/is performed. Note that Korean use of adverbs of manner extends not only to the way in which an action is performed but to its outcome as well.

- With DVST that end in 하-, we replace the 하- with 히-:

| | | | |
|-------|----------|------|------------|
| 친절하- | kind | 친절히 | kindly |
| 부지런하- | diligent | 부지런히 | diligently |

- With DVST that end in 르 or 르, we replace the 르/르 with -르리:

| | | | |
|-----|-------------|----|----------|
| 빠르- | fast, quick | 빨리 | quickly |
| 멀- | (is) far | 멀리 | far away |

- With some DVST we add -이, but examples of their use are not so many in number that it's usually better to simply commit the adverb form to memory.

| | | | |
|----|---------|----|-----------------|
| 많- | many | 많이 | a lot/copiously |
| 같- | be same | 같이 | together |

- We can add -게 to the majority of DVSTs:

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 재미있- | be interesting | 재미있게 | interestingly |
| 맛있- | delicious | 맛있게 | deliciously |
| 나쁘- | bad | 나쁘게 | badly |
| 쉽- | easy | 쉽게 | easily |
| 예쁘- | pretty | 예쁘게 | prettily |
| 반갑- | glad | 반갑게 | gladly |
| 맵- | (chili) hot | 맵게 | with a lot of chili ('hotly') |
| 늦- | late | 늦게 | late |

Some examples:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 맛 있게 드세요! | Enjoy your food!/Bon appetit. |
| 여름방학을 재미있게 지냈어요. | I had a good time in the summer holidays. |
| 학생들이 교수를 나쁘게 말했어요. | The students spoke poorly of the professor. |
| 우리는 시장에서 옷을 싸게 샀어요. | We bought our clothes cheaply in the market. |
| 어머니는 김치를 맵게 만들었어요. | Mother made the Gimchi hot to the taste. |
| 선영씨는 한복을 언제나 예쁘게 입어요. | Seon-Yeong always wears Hanbok beautifully. |
| 늦게 와서 미안합니다. | I'm sorry I came late. |
| 시간 없어요. 빨리 갑시다. | We haven't got much time. Quick let's go. |
| 많이 드세요. | Bon appetit! (Lit. 'Take a lot'.) |

5 Personal pronouns

| Number | Person | Connotations | | |
|----------|--------|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | | HUMBLE | NEUTRAL | EXALTED |
| SINGULAR | I | 저/제 | 나/내 (I) | |
| | II | | 너/네 (you) | title/kinship term, eg, 선생님 |
| | III | | 이/그/저사람 (he/she), 이/그/저것(or 거) (it) | 이/그/저분 |
| PLURAL | I | 저희(들) | 우리(들) (we) | title/kinship term plus 들 |
| | II | | 너희(들) (you, pl) | 여러분 |
| | III | | 이/그/저사람들 (they), 이/그/저것들 (they, non-human) | 이/그/저분들 |

As you have noticed already, we usually don't put personal pronouns in a Korean sentence if the context is clear, ie, if you, the speaker, think that the hearer knows who you are talking about. If you are going to use personal pronouns, then you'll need to take note of the fact that, broadly speaking, Korean makes three kinds of distinctions in deciding which pronoun is appropriate.

Distinction A: whether the speaker is being self-deprecating and thus humble

In referring to ourselves 저 is used, 제 before the subject particle 가. Note also that 제 is the possessive form, ie, *my*, of 저.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 저는 선영이에요. | I'm Seon-Yeong. |
| 제 이름은 이선영이에요. | My name is I Seon-Yeong. |
| 제가 했어요. | I did it. |
| 저를 만나고 싶어했어요. | He wanted to see me. |

We can't refer to others in self-deprecating mode of course; they must be referred to in terms of neutrality or honour.

Distinction B: whether the speaker is striking a neutral tone

In referring to ourselves and others neutrally, that is, showing neither respect nor disrespect, we use the following pronouns.

First person

We use 나, and 내 before the subject particle 가 or when used as the possessive pronoun, ie, *my*.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 나는 선영이에요. | I'm Seon-Yeong. |
| 내 이름은 이선영이에요. | My name is I Seon-Yeong. |
| 내가 했어요. | I did it. |
| 나를 만나고 싶어했어요. | He wanted to see me. |

Second person

We use 너, 네 before the subject particle 가 or when used as the possessive pronoun, ie, *your*.

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 너는 밥 먹었니? | Have you eaten? |
| 네가 학교에 가니? | Are you going to school? |
| 너희들은 밥 먹었니? | Have you (pl) eaten? |

Note that the ending -니 is a question form used in the intimate speech style, called *panmal* (반말). *Panmal*, which we meet later on in this course, is used when the speakers have a well established, close personal relationship. We mention this here because 너, 네 or 너희 would always be used with *panmal*.

Third person

We use 이사람, 그사람 and 저사람 for humans, and 이것, 그것 and 저것 for inanimate objects. 이것, 그것 and 저것 are often shortened in everyday speech to 이거, 그거 and 저거 – we met 이거 already in Unit 6. Note also that when 이거, 그거 and 저거 are used together with the subject particle -이, they become further shortened: 이게, 그게 and 저게.

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 그사람은 누구예요? | Who is he/she? |
| 그것은 뭐예요? | What is it? |
| 이거 뭐예요? | What's this? |
| 이게 더 좋아요. | This is better. |

Distinction C: whether the speaker is showing honour to the person being referred to

Second person

Korean lacks a pronoun for *you, respected person*. We use a status referent, appropriate to the person we are talking about, such as 선생님, -씨 etc. In most cases, this is the same expression that we would use when addressing the person (to catch his/her attention). Regarding the usage of -씨, we normally use the person's full name with -씨 (eg, 이선영씨), but we can use the person's given name with -씨 if we feel that the person is close and familiar (eg, 선영씨). It would be taken as rude to just say 이씨.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 김선생님은 언제 오셨어요? | When did you (Mr Kim) come? |
| 이선영씨는 언제 오셨어요? | When did you (Miss I Seon-Yeong) come? |
| 선영씨는 언제 오셨어요? | When did you (Seon-Yeong) come? |
| 여러분은 지금 뭐 공부하세요? | What do you (pl, many respected people) study now? |

Third person: 이분, 그분, 저분

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 저분은 누구예요? | Who's that (respected person)? |
|-----------|--------------------------------|

6 Making exclamations

In listening to people speaking Korean you may often hear them adding extra emphasis to what they're saying by using the verb ending -네(요). Look at the following examples.

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 한국어가 재미 있네요! | Well, Korean is interesting! |
| 태우가 오네요! | Well, well – here comes Tae-U! |
| 김치가 아주 맵네요! | Well, well, this Gimchi's very spicy! |
| 오늘 날씨는 덥네요! | It's really hot today! |

Note that -네요 is one of the verb endings which indicate various attitudes of the speaker towards the message that he/she is conveying. For instance, in saying 한국어가 재미 있네요 the speakers presents it as a kind of surprise, discovery, and so on that Korean is interesting.

7 ... isn't it?/don't you think? etc

Another example for a verb ending which indicates some attitude of the speaker towards the message is -지요. In conversation, VST-지요, pronounced with a rising intonation, invites the person being spoken to agree with a comment on a third party. It softens the direct effect of a plain statement, and is similar to the English tag questions '..., isn't it?', '..., won't you?' etc.

VST-지요? ↗

EXAMPLES

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 한국말이 어렵지요? ↗ | Korean is difficult, don't you think? ↗ |
| 한국이 좋지요? ↗ | Korea's nice, don't you think? ↗ |
| 그 영화 봤지요? ↗ | You've seen the movie, haven't you? ↗ |
| 한국음식이 맵지요? ↗ | Korean food's hot, don't you think? ↗ |

But when VST-지요 is pronounced with falling intonation it doesn't invite agreement, but expresses confidence that the person being addressed sees things the same way. People usually don't disagree when others make observations such as

EXAMPLES

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 춥지요? | Cold, isn't it? |
| 요즘 바쁘시지요? | You're busy these days, aren't you? |
| 식사했지요? | You've eaten, haven't you? |
| 이야기 들었지요? | You heard the story, didn't you? |

Again, this reflects the practice in English, where a falling intonation on tag questions presumes agreement.

8 Some Useful Expressions

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 왜냐하면, ... | The reason is that ... | 반드시 그럴지는 않아요. | Not necessarily so. |
| 사실은 ... | In fact, ... | 여러가지 이유로 ... | For various reasons ... |
| 예를 들어서 ... | For example, ... | 어느것 말이에요? | Which one do you mean? |
| 그게 아니라 ... | That's not it./That's not the point. | 특히 | especially |
| 네, 맞아요. | Yes, that's right. | 혹시 ... | By any chance ... |
| 네, 그런 모양이에요. | Yes, it seems to be that way. | 뭐니뭐니 해도 ... | Whatever one says [about it] ... |

9 Cultural Notes: Korea's Climate

In this Unit we learn some ways of talking about weather and climate, so if you're not very familiar with Korea's climate the following notes may be of interest. There is relatively little internal variation in Korea's climate, and so while our description applies specifically to Seoul, it applies to all the significant population centres on the Peninsula as well.

Korea has a temperate climate, marked by hot, humid summers and long, cold, generally dry winters. It is also a continental climate, with the majority of its weather patterns the result of slow, stable development over continental North Asia. The day-to-day variation in weather patterns that most Australians, especially those who live on the east coast, are subject to is by and large absent from Korea's weather.

Running through the calendar year, the New Year finds Korea in the depth of winter. By and large the winter climate is clear and sunny with occasional snow, but although much of Korea is on the same latitude as the Mediterranean Sea, the winters are, by Australian standards, quite cold. This is mainly due to the continental climate pattern which brings in masses of cold air from west and north of the peninsula. Average temperature ranges for January would be about minus five to one or two degrees, and when the wind is from the north the chill factor can take the temperature down to minus twenty and further. There is little real change in this pattern until March, when things begin to warm up, although cold snaps can still occur in late March. These snaps can often kill spring buds, and so are called 꽃샘추위 (literally, the cold that envies the flowers). In April the weather warms up rapidly, and by May the daily temperature range is about fifteen to twenty-five degrees.

By late May the daily temperature is quite high, and for the next two months conditions remain hot and humid - low thirties in the day, mid twenties at night, with little in the way of relief, day or night. This is part of the build-up to the annual rainy season that usually lasts for three weeks or so, spread over June and July. After another burst of heat, temperatures begin to fall in mid September and the humidity subsides. The height of autumn lasts from mid September to the beginning of November, and is generally regarded as the finest time of the year, with cool, fine, crisp days and mild nights. Winter weather then begins to appear in November, and snow showers can occur from mid November onwards. By December winter has set in and sub-zero temperatures are regular.