

Learn Korean Ep. 118: How to Say “My”

“My” is more than just one word in Korean – we’ll need several words to properly say “my.”

저의

나의

First, to say “my” we need to say “I” or “me” – use 저 or 나 depending on who you’re speaking to.

With close friends who are the same age as you or younger, use 나.

With everyone else, use 저.

Then attach the possessive marker 의 – this works like an apostrophe in English – directly after 저 or 나.

저의 and 나의 both mean “my.”

저의 손은 깨끗해요.

나의 손은 깨끗해.

My hands are clean.

Most often 저의 and 나의 are shortened in regular conversation to just 제 (저의) and 내 (나의).

제 손은 깨끗해요.

내 손은 깨끗해.

My hands are clean.

However, 저의 (제) and 나의 (내) should only be used when you’re talking about something that you actually own, or something that’s your property. They should not be used when talking about **people** (such as family members) or **animals** (such as pets).

Saying 저의 동생 (literally, “my younger sibling”) would sound like you were saying “my younger sibling and not yours,” and would be unnatural.

우리

To say "my" when talking about a person or an animal, use 우리 ("we," "us") instead.

우리 동생은 귀엽고 똑똑해요.

My younger sibling is cute and smart.

우리 강아지 너무 예쁘죠?

My dog is so pretty, huh?

In addition to 우리, you can also use 우리 집 ("our house") and 우리 학교 ("our school") – among other options – to emphasize that something belongs to your entire family or your entire school.

I recommend using 우리 집 (instead of just 우리) before pets, since it's more commonly used. This adds more emphasis that the pet belongs to your whole house (your family), and not only to you.

우리 집 고양이가 맨날 쓰레기를 먹어요.

My cat eats trash every day.

우리 집 원숭이 이름은 찰스예요.

My monkey's name is Charles.

저희

저희 is the humble version of 우리. Or, if you're not familiar with politeness levels such as humble speech, just know that 저희 is a more polite way to say 우리. It can be used in the same way as 우리, and pairs together with other polite speech endings.

저희 아버지도 거기서 일하고 계세요.

Our father is working there too.

Conclusion

If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message through my web site or on YouTube. Good luck in your studies!

