

Learn Korean Ep. 125: Saying "Each" Using 에 & 씩

The particle 에 and 씩 are often used together to mean "each." Let's talk about each of them in detail.

Noun + 에

The particle 에 (in addition to being used to mean "to/at/in" a location) can also be used after a noun to mean "each," or "per," or "a."

For example, to say "I eat ten grapefruits *each* day" or "ten grapefruits *per* day" or "ten grapefruits *a* day."

However you translate it in English is up to you, but it can be used in this way after any sort of countable noun – not only *things* like grapefruits, but also *time*, or *money*.

하루에 2 시간 공부해요.

"I study 2 hours each/per/a day."

아보카도는 두 개에 3 천 원이에요.

"It's 3,000 Won for 2 avocados."

In this sentence above, translating it as "each" or "per" or "a" don't really fit, since it's for *two* avocados. So literally, "each two avocados," if it helps to think of it like this.

You can even flip the sentence around, and put the amount first, and get a similar meaning. For example, instead of saying "3,000 Won for 2 avocados, you could say this.

아보카도는 3 천 원에 두 개를 살 수 있어요.

"You can buy two avocados for 3,000 Won."

So when the particle 에 is used like this, "for" will also sometimes be a good way to translate it.

Just keep in mind that how you translate this is up to you, and that the meaning in Korean doesn't change. Here's one more example.

한 번에 천 원입니다.

"It's 1,000 Won each time."

Or literally the above sentence can also be "It's 1,000 Won for one time."

Counter Noun + 씩

씩 is often used together with the particle 에. It can also attach onto the end of a word – usually this will be a *counter word* (for example, 시간 "hour," 개 for objects or things, 명 "person," et cetera).

씩 will often attach onto the end of whatever counter word is used together with the particle 에. This means you'll often find sentences that use 에 after a noun, followed by a counter noun somewhere in the sentence that ends with 씩.

씩 also means "each." And it's *usually* optional.

Attaching 씩 onto the end of a counter word adds *emphasis* to the meaning of "each" in the sentence.

Although it's optional, I recommend it whenever possible because it really makes the meaning of "each" stronger and therefore clearer.

To better understand why, remember that the particle 에 is already used for other things in Korean (such as "to/at/in" a location), so to make it really clear that you mean "each," and not something else I recommend attaching 씩 whenever possible.

For example, here's one of our sentences from earlier, with 씩 added.

하루에 2 시간씩 공부해요.

"I study 2 hours each day."

Attaching 씩 *emphasizes* that meaning of "each." So instead of just "2 hours a day," it feels more like "2 hours each and *every* day." The overall meaning is still the same as before, but the nuance changes.

Here are a few more examples.

30 분에 한 번씩 손을 씻으세요.

"Wash your hands once each 30 minutes."

While this sentence would also work without 씩, adding it makes it clear you mean *every* 30 minutes.

일주일에 책을 몇 권씩 읽으세요?

"How many books do you read each week?"

고등어를 이렇게 3 개씩 팔아요.

"We sell mackerel like this, 3 each."

Using **씩** Without **에**

씩 can also be used in sentences that do not use the particle **에**, and still mean "each."

When you do this, **씩** still adds the meaning of "each" or "every," although without specifying how often or what it's for (which is what the particle **에** would specify). Here's a quick example.

만 원씩이에요.

"They're 10,000 Won each."

You can also do this after an amount of time. When doing this, what **씩** does is adds the feeling that something is happening *multiple times* over some period of time. The specific amount of time is unknown without adding **에**.

이 약은 다섯 개씩 먹어야 돼요.

"I have to take five of this medicine."

Here in this sentence above, we can assume that it's five, every time they take it – so they're taking five, multiple times over some unknown period of time.

저는 한 번씩 피부과에 가요.

"I go to the dermatologist every one time?"

Remember that the action is happening multiple times over some period of time, so you can instead translate this as "I go to the dermatologist *every once in a while*."

In summary, you can attach **씩** after a counter noun to add the meaning of "each."

조금씩 & 가끔씩

You might also see **씩** attached onto certain *adverbs*, like **조금** or **가끔**. This adds more emphasis to these words, like attaching the feeling of "each" to their meaning. You can simply memorize these two words as-is.

조금 means "a little" and **조금씩** means "little by little" or "gradually."

조금씩 배우고 있어요.

"I'm learning little by little."

This meaning is different than without using **씩**.

조금 배우고 있어요.

"I'm learning a little."

가끔 means "sometimes," and 가끔씩 means "sometimes (but not often)."

영화는 가끔씩 봐요.

"I watch movies sometimes."

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!

