

## Learn Korean Ep. 23: “에” and “에서”

In a previous lesson, I went over how to say “to” and “from” a person (see Episode 8). Today we’ll learn how to say “to” and “from” a location, as well as “to” and “from” a time. While doing so, we’ll also learn how to use the particles “에” and “에서.”

### 에

1. You can use “에” to mean “to,” as in “to a location,” but not “to a person.”

저는 학교**에** 가요.

“I go to school.”

빨리 집**에** 와요.

“Come home quickly.” Or literally, “Come to home quickly.” Although English can sometimes leave out “to,” Korean will not leave out “에” after a destination.

2. You can also use “에” to show the location of where something or someone exists, such as with the verbs “있다” (“to exist”) and “없다” (“to not exist”). This can translate to “at” or “in.”

저는 학교**에** 있어요.

“I am at school.” Or, “I am in school.” Literally it means, “I exist in (or at) school.”

사무실**에** 연필이 없어요.

“There are no pencils in the office.”

“사무실” means “office,” and “연필” means “pencil.”

Note that you can’t use the verb “이다” with “에” like this, since “이다” means “to be,” as in “to be equal to.” The sentence “저는 학교**에** **있어요**” would be correct, but “저는 학교**에** **이에요**” would be wrong.

## 에서

1. You can use "에서" to mean "from," as in "*from a location*," but not "from a person."

저는 미국**에서** 왔어요.

"I'm from America." Or literally, "I came from America."

"...병원**에서** 집에..."

"...from the hospital to home..."

2. You can also use "에서" to mean "at" or "in" a location, *whenever the verb following it is an action verb* – for example, you might say "I study **at** school," or "I study **in** the library." Here, "study" is an action verb, so you use "에서" to show where the action is taking place.

저는 도서관**에서** 공부해요.

"I study in the library."

그는 학교**에서** 밥을 먹어요.

"He eats at school."

철수는 주방**에서** 요리합니다.

"Cheolsoo cooks in the kitchen."

"주방" means "kitchen."

그 사람은 L.A.**에서** 살아요.

"That person lives in L.A."

Although the verb "살다" ("to live") is an action, you can also use it with "에" – this is just a special case that only applies to this verb, so it's optional.

그 사람은 LA.**에** 살아요.

"That person lives in L.A."

This means the same thing as the sentence above with "에서."

## #시부터 #시까지

Using this form, you can say "to" and "from" a time. Just replace the "#" sign with a Korean number.

"부터" is another word that you can use to mean "from," but only when referring to a location or a time, and not a person. "까지" means "until" or "(up) to."

1시부터 3시까지. ("1시" = "한시" / "3시" = "세시")  
"From one o'clock until/to three o'clock."

2시부터 10시까지. ("2시" = "두시" / "10시" = "열시")  
"From two o'clock until/to ten o'clock."

## Conclusion

The best way to get good at using "에" and "에서," as well as "부터" and "까지," is by practicing. Practice what you learn every day by making your own sentences, or by practicing speaking with a conversation partner.

