Learn Korean Ep. 25: Plurals

In English we can say "cat" when we mean "one cat," or "cats" when we mean "more than one cat." Korean also has a way to make nouns plural, and it's even easier.

noun + 들

Simple, huh!

사람	"a person"
사람들	"people
친구	"a friend"
친구들	"friends"
장난감	"a toy"
장난감들	"toys"
공부할 것	"something to study"
공부할 것들	"some things to study"

In English, it's required to use plurals when the quantity is more than one. In Korean, **"들" is only used to make a plural noun when you want to *stress* that there is more than one**. All other times, it's not necessary to change a noun into a plural, since *all Korean singular nouns can already act as plurals*.

머리카락   "a hair" or "hairs" (or "hair" as a plural)
머리카락이 많이 빠졌어요.
"I lost a lot of <u>hair</u>."
"빠지다" means "to fall out."

원숭이   "a monkey" or "monkeys"
나는 **원숭이**를 좋아해.
"I like <u>monkeys</u>."

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지우개   "an eraser" or "erasers"

지우개를 몇개 샀어요?

"How many <u>erasers</u> did you buy?"

Notice that in these examples, it's perfectly clear that the speaker means the plural. It wouldn't be necessary to say "I lost a lot of *hairs*." It would be strange to say "I like a *monkey*." Or, "How many *eraser* did you buy?" **It's not necessary to change regular nouns into plurals unless you want to stress that there are more than one in your sentence**.

However, any time you want to emphasize that there are more than one, feel free to use "들" to make a noun a plural.

Conclusion

Learn how to use "들" to change a noun into a plural, but only use it when you think it's necessary to show that there are more than one of something. However, don't be afraid to use it – it's still used often. But practice with it and you'll be using it in your Korean conversations in no time.

그럼, 다음에 또 봐!

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