

## Learn Korean Ep. 61: How to say "you" in Korean

You'd think that this lesson would consist of only one word, but actually there are many ways to say "you" in Korean, and all of them can be correct.

The correct way to say "you" in Korean depends entirely on the situation you're in, who you're talking to, your own status, and how you want to sound.

If you're a first time learner, and want a really quick answer without watching the entire video, then here you go: you don't need to say "you" in Korean at all. If you're asking a question to a person, it's assumed that you're already talking to them, so you don't need to say "you."

But sometimes, you really do need to say "you." What if you ask a question, and the person asks you who you're talking to? Or what if you're speaking to a group of people, and want to specifically talk to one person? How about if you just want to say "you" when asking a question anyway, even if it's not necessary?

Let's go over a few common ways you can use.

### Using Names

A simple way is by saying the other person's name. For example, to your friend 김철수, you can simply use his name 철수 in a sentence.

철수도 그렇게 생각해?

Do you think so too? (to 철수)

Also, if you use this method, you'll need to know that if your friend's name ends in a vowel, as does 철수, you can use it on its own like in the example sentence. However, if their name ends in a consonant, you'll need to add 이 after in order to use it in a sentence.

지민이도 그렇게 생각해?

Do you think so too? (to 지민)

GO! Billy Korean

But this method can only be used with friends. If you're not close friends, you can add a 씨 after their name, which means "Mr." or "Mrs." You can also add a 씨 after their last name.

김 씨

Mr. Kim

## Using Titles

But what if you don't know the other person's name, or what if you don't want to call someone by their name? In these cases, you'll want to use a person's title.

A title can be anything from 누나, for an older sister, to 선생님, a teacher, or even 사장님, a boss. Of course, use the appropriate word depending on who you're speaking to. If you're a male speaking to an older female friend, you'd use 누나, but if you're a female you'd use 언니, and so forth.

Here are a few examples:

누나도 가요?

Are you going too? (As a male, to an older female friend)

오빠도 가요?

Are you going too? (As a female, to an older male friend)

선생님이 언제 오세요?

When are you coming? (To a teacher)

Also, if speaking to someone older, you can use 선생님 to an older man, which translates as "Sir," or 아저씨 to an older man, or 아줌마 to an older woman. In addition, to an elderly woman, you can use 할머니, which means grandmother, or 할아버지, which means grandfather (even if they're not your own grandmother and grandfather).

Essentially, what you want to do is use the person's *name* who you're referring to, if they're a good friend of yours, or use their *title*, if they're someone who you should show respect to, such as a boss or a teacher or someone older than you.

## 너

If you're just talking with friends, however, you also have another option that you can use to say "you."

However, be careful. 너 is okay to use with close friends who are the same age as you or younger, but not to people who are older than you, even if you're friends with them. Using 너 is extremely rude in any other situation.

넌 왜 안 가?

Why aren't you going?

넌 is a shortening of 너는.

But what if you don't know the person you're saying "you" to at all? What if you don't know their name, or their title, or their age, or anything about them that would let you know the best way to refer to them? Well in that case, here are two more words you can use.

## 당신

당신 is the most common word for "you" that you will find in *textbooks*. However, it's not used commonly in speech. But if you really have no idea how to refer to a stranger, and you feel that you need to emphasize "you" in a sentence, you can use this. Other times, besides textbooks, you might hear this word used between married couples, in which case it could translate as "dear." Because of that, and because although 당신 isn't rude, it isn't polite either, it's probably best to avoid using this one.

## 그쪽

A better word you can use, when you don't know how to refer to a stranger, is 그쪽. 그쪽 literally means "that side," and it's a polite, safe way to say "you" to a stranger.

그쪽은 한국 사람이세요?

Are you a Korean?

However, as soon as you know the other person's name, or title, or anything about them that would let you know how to call them, it's best to switch away from using 그쪽.

## 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!

