

제 1 과 인사

(Lesson One: Greetings)

OVERVIEW (개요)

Objective - To arm any beginner Korean student with the understanding and confidence to introduce one's self to a stranger in a polite and formal manner.

Tense - Present

Speech Level - Formal (존댓말)

Context - Kim Eunsoh arrives from Japan at Incheon airport, South Korea, where he meets Mohammed from India. Kim Eunsoh formally introduces himself to Mohammed.

DIALOGUE (대화 내용)

김영수 - 안녕하세요? (Hello, how are you?)

- 처음 뵙겠습니다. (It's nice to meet you.)

- 저는 김은서입니다. (I'm Eunsoh Kim.)

EXPLANATION (표현 문장)

- **안녕하세요?** This is the most common greeting used in Korean to say hello and it can be used in a variety of settings. Although there are more formal forms, this form can be used in most situations, whether speaking to your boss or your friend. This greeting is used anytime of the day.

- **처음 뵙겠습니다** A greeting used when meeting somebody for the first time. It literally means 'nice to meet you for the first time'. It is used in formal situations when meeting people who are older, of a higher status or strangers.
- **저는 김은서입니다** A formal way of telling someone your name.

GRAMMAR AND DEFINITIONS (문법과 정의)

Nouns (명사)

Proper nouns (고유명사)

- **김영수** A typical Korean name. 김 is a very common family name and 은서 is a male or female's first name.
 - 김은서 어디에 있어요? *'Where is Kim Eunsoh?'*
 - 이 친구는 김은서입니다. *'This is my friend Kim Eunsoh.'*

Pronouns (대명사)

- **저** Refers to one's self. It translates to 'I' or 'me' in English. 저 is formal and polite.
 - 저는 인도 사람입니다. *'I am an Indian.'*
 - 저의 이름은 홍길동입니다. *'My name is Hong Gildong.'*

Verbs (동사)

- **하다** This is the Korean equivalent to the English verb 'to do'. Like all Korean verbs, conjugation is generally required in order to produce the tone necessary for the situation.

Note - The honorific polite form **세요** will be covered in future lessons.

- 청소를 하다. *'Clean up.'*
- 뭐 하세요? *'What are you doing?'*

- **봬다** A humble verb which means 'to meet' (see). Again, like all Korean verbs, it generally needs to be conjugated.

Note - The future formal polite verb stem **봬습니다** will be covered in future lessons.

- 선생님을 **봬**고있다. 'I'm meeting my teacher.'
- 내일 **봬**겠습니다. 'I'll see you tomorrow.'

Adjectives (형용사)

Copula (연결사)

- **이다** The positive copula meaning 'to be'. Found after a noun, it can be used for such words as 'is, are and am'. It is usually conjugated with each conjugation expressing a different tone. In this lesson the conjugation studied will be the formal polite form - conjugating **이다** into **입니다**.

- 이것은 책상**이다**. 'This is a desk.'
- 저는 영어 선생**님**입니다. 'I am an English teacher.'

Adverbs (부사)

- **처음** For the first time, the initial, commencement, the very beginning.
 - 언제 **처음** 만났어요? 'When did you first meet?'
 - **처음**부터... 'From the beginning...'

Interjections (감탄사)

- **안녕** In the form of a noun, **안녕** literally means peace, tranquility, or wellness. However, as an interjection, it simply means 'Hi'. Be aware that greeting someone with **안녕** only and not including **하세요** afterwards could be considered very rude in some contexts. **안녕** only (without including **하세요**) should be spoken only in informal situations, to younger children or to equal friends.

- 할머니 안녕하세요? *'Hi Grandma, how are you?'*
- 안녕 친구! *'Hi buddy!'*

Particles (조사)

- **은/는** These are topic particles. They indicate that the noun they follow is the topic. These markers can also be used as contrast markers but this will be explained in a later lesson.

- 저는 김은서입니다. *'I am Eunsoh Kim.'*
- 케이크는 맛있습니다. *'The cake is delicious.'*

GRAMMAR IN FOCUS (문장해부)

Sentence Structure (Word Order) – Subject/Object/Verb – Korean, like Japanese, is a verb or adjective final language. Generally, statements begin with the subject followed by the object and end with a verb. However, during speech, if the subject is obvious to those engaged, then it can be omitted. Korean has also been known as a free word order language depending on the situation, the emotions conveyed etc. But generally, the SOV structure is common. Here is an example of how Korean's word order differs from the word order of English –

English	I	ride	my bike
	SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT
Korean	I	my bike	Ride
	SUBJECT	OBJECT	VERB

More Examples –

English – We like to sing / This is a pencil / My Mom is a Chinese lady

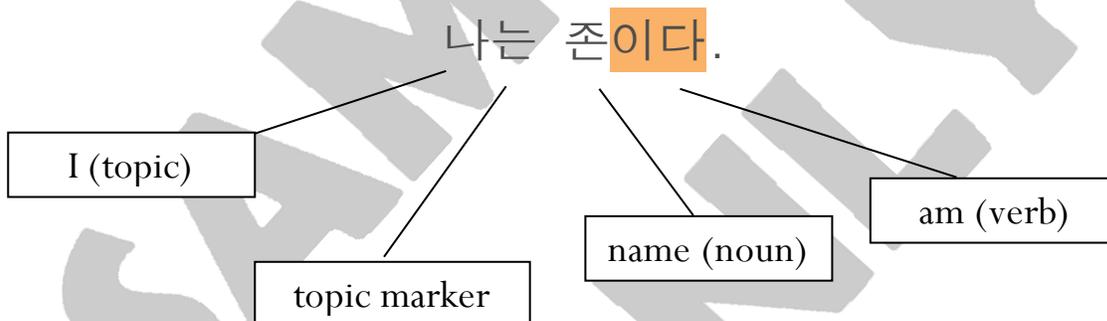
Korean – We to sing like / This a pencil is / My Mom a Chinese lady is

Copula (Noun + 이다) - The copula 이다 (a kind of adjective) denotes definition, equation, or identification and it can be translated into the English verb 'to be' - is, are, am etc. But unlike English, 이다 does not change for the first, second or third person subjects.

이다 is only attached to nouns or noun phrases. Verbs or adjectives don't require it in order to function. Because Korean has a Subject, Object, Verb order, 이다 is usually found at the end of a sentence. Take a look at the example -

English - I am John.

Korean - 나는 존이다.



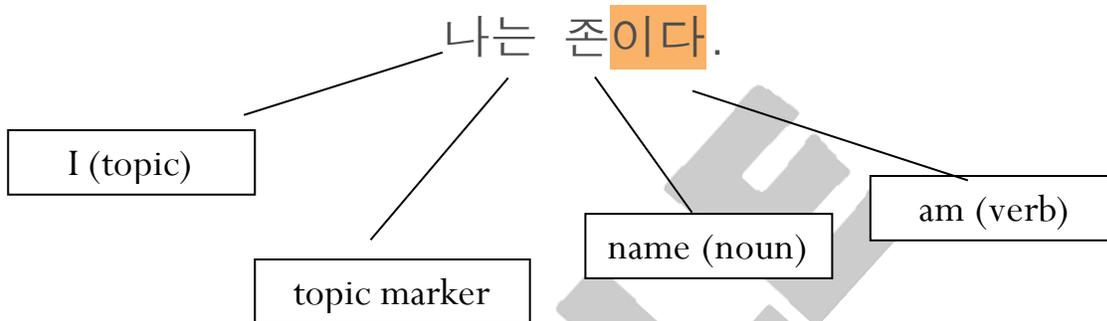
이다 is the absolute base form or dictionary form. The Korean language has many different forms of speech for different situations so like 이다, Korean verbs must be conjugated relevant to the situation. For example, if the speaker, who is an adult teacher, is talking to a younger student, the teacher's speech will be less formal and polite than the child's speech. Similarly, if someone meets another for the first time, they should speak in a formal polite tone by conjugating 이다 into 입니다.

입니다 - This is the (differential style) formal polite and present tense conjugation of 이다.

This conjugation is often used in formal settings, news broadcasts, public lectures, when speaking with elders or when meeting someone for the first time. 입니다 is used after a

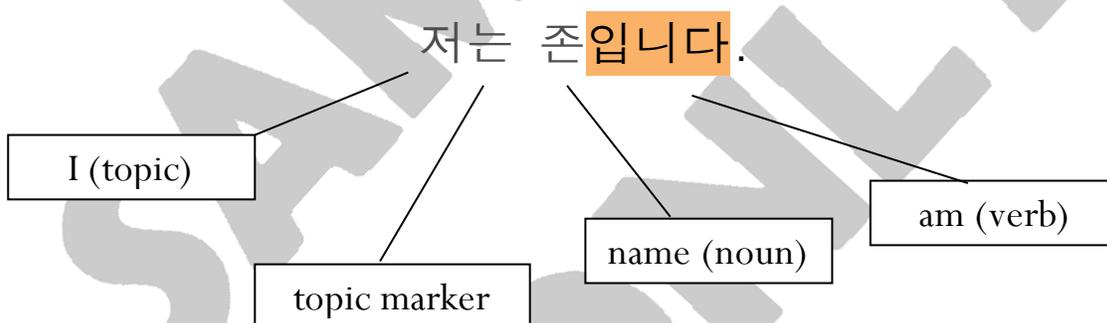
consonant and ㅂ니다 after a vowel. So, in contrast to the above 이다 example, the 입니다 conjugation looks like this -

Base /Dictionary form -



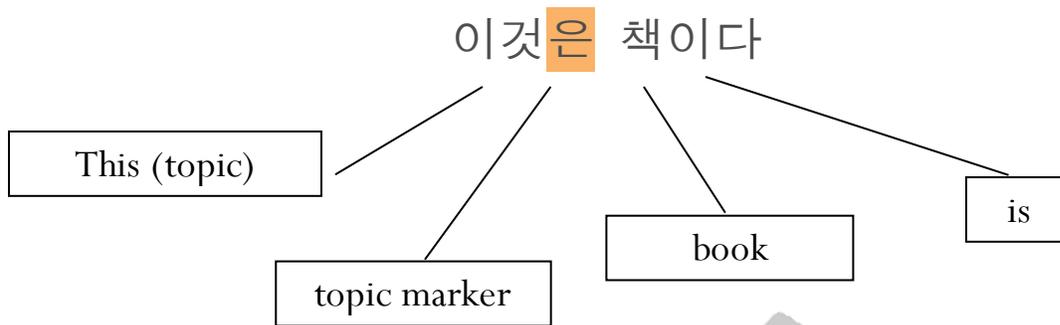
Formal polite and present tense form -

Note - 나 needs to change to 저 for the polite form.



All Korean verbs in their base or dictionary form end with 다 - 가다 - go, 먹다 - eat, 보다 - see.

Topic Particles (Markers) (Noun + 은/는) - Unlike the copula verb 이다 which is found after a noun at the end of a sentence, the topic particles are found after a noun at the beginning of the sentence. These markers can be translated into English as 'in regards to' or 'as for'. Basically, their job is to let the listener know what the speaker will be talking about. They set the topic for the following statement. Take a look at the example below -



‘This is a book’

As apparent in this example, the topic marker is always attached to the noun or topic so there shouldn't be any space in between the two words. In order to simplify the pronunciation, 는 is used when the noun ends with a vowel and 은 is used when the noun ends in a consonant. The topic particle is very common in the Korean language but it can also be difficult to grasp in some situations. Even native Korean speakers can find it confusing sometimes. But it does do exactly what it says – it sets the word/s before it as the topic of the sentence letting the listener know what the speaker will be talking about.

EXTRA (더하기)

- 인사 - (noun) greeting, say hello, bow, greet

인사 하세요 *‘please say hello’*

- 만나다 - (verb) to meet someone

친구를 만났어요 *‘I met my friend’*

- 반말 - (noun) casual language, crude language, impolite language

반말 하지마라! *‘don't talk down to me!’*

- 낮춤말 - (noun) familiar, plain speech, humble

안녕하세요의 낮춤말은 무엇입니까 *'what is the casual translation for hello?'*

- 존댓말 - (noun) honorific, polite form of speech

존댓말 쓰세요 *'please use polite language'*

- 모음 - (noun) a vowel

한글에는 10 개의 모음이 있다 *'the Korean language has ten vowels'*

- 자음 - (noun) a consonant

한글에는 14 개의 자음이 있다 *'the Korean language has fourteen consonants'*

- 받침 - (noun) The final consonant/s in a Korean syllable

그 받침은 틀렸어요 *'that's the wrong consonant'*

CULTURAL TIPS (표현 문장)

Korean names (이름) consist of a family/surname(성) and a given name(이름). Koreans generally don't have middle names. 성 always comes first followed by 이름, whether written or spoken. So Michael Jackson would be referred to as Jackson Michael, if he was Korean. It is considered rude to address someone by their 이름 unless the person is younger or the same age. 성 usually consists of one syllable while 이름 usually consists of two.

There are only about 250 Korean family names being used today and of those 250, the four most common family names - 김, 이, 박 and 최 make up almost fifty percent of the population.

Bowing (인사 법) usually accompanies a Korean greeting unless the recipient of the bow is a junior or

of a lower status. Whether arriving or departing, bowing is a polite and acceptable greeting. The degree of the bow is determined by the situation. The more formal the situation, the further bent the head and waist should be – about 45° for upmost formal situations. However, friends or those of a



similar status may simply nod their head. It is not uncommon for men to shake hands after bowing, but in a Korean manner – left hand supporting the right hand as seen in the picture.

Speech Formality (대화 법) plays a very important role in everyday Korean speech with different levels of formality depending on the situation. In relation to the Confucian stronghold in Korean society – status, age, and relations are just a few attributes which affect the formality of the words chosen by a Korean speaker. For example – a teacher, a boss or a mother-in-law speak with a different formality to a student, an employee or a daughter-in-law and vice versa. So it is easy to offend somebody by not adding a suffix on to the end of a word which is why lesson one and the following lessons intend to instruct a high degree of formal speech from the beginning – a great way to impress any native Korean speaker. However, nonnative speakers don't need to worry too much as Koreans are extremely gracious towards speakers who are foreign to the language and they understand how difficult it is to learn a new language.

Confucianism (유교) is a stronghold and the back bone of Korean society. It has shaped everything from the legal system to social relations. Confucianism reveals it's face in a lot of different aspects in the Korean society including the way one dresses, the way one speaks, social order, status and more. So in order to understand Korean culture, a study

into the nature of Confucianism is vital. It will also help a student who is foreign to the Korean language understand why certain linguistic rules exist.

SAMPLE ONLY