

Survival Korean Starter Checklist

Useful Korean phrases for your first week in Korea.
No grammar pressure. Just practical phrases.

Start with 5 phrases

Hello · Thank you · Sorry · Please · It's okay

안녕하세요

annyeonghaseyo

Hello

감사합니다

gamsahamnida

Thank you

죄송합니다

joesonghamnida

Sorry

주세요

juseyo

Please give me

괜찮아요

gwaenchanayo

It's okay

Pattern: item + 주세요 · 물 주세요 = Water, please.

Cafe And Restaurant

Order, pay, and ask for simple things politely.

이거 주세요

igeo juseyo

This one, please

물 주세요

mul juseyo

Water, please

매장에서 먹을게요

maejang-eseo meogeulgeyo

For here

포장할게요

pojanghalgeyo

To go

계산할게요

gyesanhalgeyo

I'll pay

Tip: In many cafes, you order and pay first, then pick up your drink.

Transportation

Useful phrases for transit cards, stations, and simple directions.

이거 맞아요?

igeo majayo?

Is this correct?

어디에서 타요?

eodieseo tayo?

Where do I get on?

충전해 주세요

chungjeonhae juseyo

Please top it up

얼마예요?

eolmayeyo?

How much is it?

여기에서 내려요?

yeogieseo naeryeoyo?

Do I get off here?

Tip: Tap your transit card when entering and leaving many transit systems.

Convenience Store And Shopping

Short phrases for checkout counters and small purchases.

봉투 주세요

bongtu juseyo

Bag, please

카드 돼요?

kadeu dwaeyo?

Can I pay by card?

현금 돼요?

hyeongeum dwaeyo?

Can I pay in cash?

이거 얼마예요?

igeo eolmayeyo?

How much is this?

영수증 괜찮아요

yeongsujeung gwaenchanayo

No receipt needed

Tip: Cards are widely accepted, but it helps to know card and cash.

Help And Emergency

Simple phrases for help situations.
Use local emergency services if needed.

도와주세요

dowajuseyo

Please help me

영어 할 수 있어요?

yeongeo hal su isseoyo?

Can you speak English?

병원 어디예요?

byeongwon eodiyeoyo?

Where is the hospital?

경찰서 어디예요?

gyeongchalseo eodiyeoyo?

Where is the police station?

길을 잃었어요

gireul ireosseoyo

I'm lost

Safety note: This checklist is only a language aid, not emergency advice.

Etiquette Reminders And Next Step

Small habits make practical Korean easier to use in real life.

1 Return trays where signs ask you to return them.

2 Keep calls quiet in quiet cafes and public transport.

3 Let people get off the subway before boarding.

4 Use two hands in more formal situations.

5 Short polite phrases are enough.

Where to go next

Cafe phrases · Restaurant phrases · Convenience store phrases
Public transport phrases · How to read Hangul in 7 days