

한국어

KOREAN FOR SOCIAL LIFE

# Out & About

한국어 · 편의점 · 식당 · 술집

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From the convenience-store counter to buying someone a drink.  
Short, polite phrases for shops, restaurants and bars — order,  
pay, and open a conversation.

LESSON 6 OF 7

# 1 Convenience Store 편의점

The shop counter is the lowest-stakes conversation in the country — a few set phrases and a smile do the whole thing. Nail these and you'll never freeze when the cashier rattles something off.

KOREAN	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
이거 얼마예요?	<i>igeo eolmayeyo?</i>	How much is this?	Point at the item
이거 <i>igeo</i> this 얼마 <i>eolma</i> how much 예요 <i>yeyo</i> is it?			
이거 주세요	<i>igeo juseyo</i>	This one, please	Point and nod
이거 <i>igeo</i> this 주세요 <i>juseyo</i> please give			
봉투 주세요	<i>bongtu juseyo</i>	A bag, please	bongtu = bag
봉투 <i>bongtu</i> bag 주세요 <i>juseyo</i> please give			
카드 돼요?	<i>kadeu dwaeyo?</i>	Can I pay by card?	Card works everywhere
카드 <i>kadeu</i> card 돼요 <i>dwaeyo</i> is it okay?			
봉투 괜찮아요	<i>bongtu gwaenchanayo</i>	No bag, thanks	
봉투 <i>bongtu</i> bag 괜찮아요 <i>gwaenchanayo</i> it's fine (no thanks)			
데워 주세요	<i>dewo juseyo</i>	Heat it up, please	For instant food
데워 <i>dewo</i> heat it 주세요 <i>juseyo</i> please			

## JUST POINT AND PAY

You almost never need a full sentence at a counter. Set your item down, say the short phrase, and let the cashier guide you — a nod handles everything you didn't catch.

## 2 Ordering 주문

Pointing plus one polite word gets you fed anywhere. You don't need the menu memorised — “this one, please” and a finger covers most of it, and asking what's good opens an actual chat.

KOREAN	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
두 명이요   두 <i>du</i> two 명 <i>myeong</i> (people) 이요 <i>iyō</i> (polite)	<i>du myeong-iyō</i>	Table for two	Hold up two fingers
이거 주세요   이거 <i>igeo</i> this 주세요 <i>juseyo</i> please give	<i>igeo juseyo</i>	This one, please	Point at the menu
뭐가 맛있어요?   뭐가 <i>mwoga</i> what 맛있어요 <i>masisseoyo</i> is delicious?	<i>mwoga masisseoyo?</i>	What's good?	Opens a chat
같은 걸로 주세요   같은 <i>gateun</i> the same 걸로 <i>geollo</i> as (that one) 주세요 <i>juseyo</i> please give	<i>gateun geollo juseyo</i>	The same, please	Order what they had
물 주세요   물 <i>mul</i> water 주세요 <i>juseyo</i> please give	<i>mul juseyo</i>	Water, please	Usually free
저기요! 	<i>jeogiyo!</i>	Excuse me! (calling staff)	How you flag the server

### A FINGER IS FLUENT

Point at the dish — on the menu, on the next table, on your phone — and add the polite word. Staff would much rather you point than stay silent.

### 3 Paying 계산

Asking for the bill and paying cleanly is its own tiny social skill. Get it smooth and you walk out looking like you've done it a hundred times — and “it's on me” is a warm little offer.

KOREAN	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
계산해 주세요	<i>gyesanhae juseyo</i>	The bill, please	Or just “gyesanyo”
계산해 <i>gyesanhae</i> settle the bill    주세요 <i>juseyo</i> please			
따로 계산할게요	<i>ttaro gyesanhalgeyo</i>	We'll pay separately	
따로 <i>ttaro</i> separately    계산할게요 <i>gyesanhalgeyo</i> (we'll) pay			
제가 살게요	<i>jega salgeyo</i>	It's on me	A warm offer
제가 <i>jega</i>   살게요 <i>salgeyo</i> will treat/buy			
카드 돼요?	<i>kadeu dwaeyo?</i>	Can I pay by card?	Almost always yes
카드 <i>kadeu</i> card    돼요 <i>dwaeyo</i> is it okay?			
잘 먹었습니다	<i>jal meogeosseumnida</i>	Thanks for the meal	Say it on the way out
잘 <i>jal</i> well    먹었습니다 <i>meogeosseumnida</i> (I) ate			
맛있었어요	<i>masisseosseoyo</i>	It was delicious	Always appreciated

#### NO TIPPING HERE

The price is the price — no tipping expected. Card is accepted almost everywhere, even for the tiniest amounts.

## 4 At the Bar 술집

The bar is where a phrase becomes a moment. “What are you having?” and “may I buy you a drink?” are tiny lines that can open a whole evening — say them light, smile, and let the drink do the rest.

KOREAN	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
뭐 마세요?	<i>mwo masyeoyo?</i>	What are you drinking?	Easy opener
뭐 <i>mwo</i> what 마세요 <i>masyeoyo</i> (do you) drink			
한 잔 사도 돼요?	<i>han jan sado dwaeyo?</i>	May I buy you a drink?	Light and warm
한 <i>han</i> one 잔 <i>jan</i> glass 사도 <i>sado</i> even if (I) buy 돼요 <i>dwaeyo</i> is it okay?			
한 잔 더?	<i>han jan deo?</i>	One more?	
한 <i>han</i> one 잔 <i>jan</i> glass 더 <i>deo</i> more			
건배!	<i>geonbae!</i>	Cheers!	Glasses up
자주 와요?	<i>jaju wayo?</i>	Do you come here often?	Classic, and it works
자주 <i>jaju</i> often 와요 <i>wayo</i> (do you) come			
여기 분위기 좋네요	<i>yeogi bunwigi jonneyo</i>	Nice vibe here	A shared observation
여기 <i>yeogi</i> here 분위기 <i>bunwigi</i> atmosphere 좋네요 <i>jonneyo</i> is nice			

### OFFER, DON'T PRESSURE

“May I buy you a drink?” lands as a light, easy offer — not a transaction. Ask, smile, and be just as happy with a no. The relaxedness is the attractive part, not the drink.

**YOU**

뭐 마셔요?

*mwo masyeoyo?*

What are you drinking?

**HER**

맥주요.

*maekjuyo.*

Beer.

**YOU**

한 잔 사도 돼요?

*han jan sado dwaeyo?*

May I buy you a drink?

**HER**

어, 고마워요.

*eo, gomawoyo.*

Oh, thanks.

**YOU**

건배! 여기 자주 와요?

*geonbae! yeogi jaju wayo?*

Cheers! Do you come here often?

## ★ Pocket Lines 한마디

When your brain blanks, these are the words that still come out. One or two syllables each — impossible to fumble. Keep them on the tip of your tongue.

KOREAN	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	WHEN TO USE IT
이거	<i>igeo</i>	This one	Point and you're understood
같은 걸로	<i>gateun geollo</i>	Same for me	Order what they had
같은 <i>gateun</i> the same    걸로 <i>geollo</i> as (that one)			
얼마예요?	<i>eolmayeyo?</i>	How much?	Works anywhere
얼마 <i>eolma</i> how much    예요 <i>yeyo</i> is it?			
건배!	<i>geonbae!</i>	Cheers!	Glasses up
맛있어요!	<i>masisseoyo!</i>	Yum!	Say it mid-bite
저기요!	<i>jeogiyoy!</i>	Excuse me!	Flag staff anywhere

### SMALL WORDS, BIG EASE

One confident word with a smile beats a perfect sentence mumbled. These six get you through almost any counter, table or bar — lean on them when your mind goes blank.

Korean for Social Life · Lesson 6 — Out & About · Point, pay, and offer a drink. The counter is the easiest conversation there is.