

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

ESSENTIAL KOREAN PHRASES

Basic greetings and phrases

Hello:

An-nyoung-ha-se-yo (**안녕하세요**)

This is the standard way to greet someone. Traditionally this phrase is said while bowing your head as a sign of respect to the other person. If you are speaking with a friend or someone you are close with, you can simply say "an-nyoung".

Nice to meet you:

Bahn-gab-seub-ni-da (**반갑습니다**)

Traditionally said while bowing and/or shaking hands.

My name is:

Jeh-ee-reum-eun _____ib-ni-da (**제 이름은 _____입니다**)

If your name is Janet, for example, you would say, "Jeh ee-reum-eun Janet ib-ni-da".

I don't speak Korean:

Hanguk-mahl-moht-heh-yo (**한국말 못 해요**)

Do you speak English?

Young-uh-ha-seh-yo (**영어 하세요?**)

Thank you:

Go-mab-seub-ni-da (**고맙습니다**)

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

contact@meridianlinguistics.com

Another way to express your thanks is by saying, "gam-sa-hab-ni-da".

You're welcome:

Cheon-mahn-eh-yo (**천만에요**)

This isn't as commonly used but if you want to be extra polite, you can say it.

I'm sorry:

Mi-an-hab-ni-da (**미안합니다**)

If you want to express deep remorse, you can say, "jweh-song-hab-ni-da".

One moment please:

Jahm-shi-mahn-yo (**잠시만요**)

Can be said if you need a minute or if you want to ask for someone's attention.

Excuse me:

Shil-leh-hab-ni-da (**실례합니다**)

A phrase you can say if you accidentally bump into someone or if you're passing someone. But don't be surprised if a Korean doesn't say anything when they bump into you, in Korea these incidents are considered a normal hazard of daily life, and not deserving of any kind of apology.

Yes/No:

Neh/Ah-nee-yo (**네/아니요**)

Goodbye:

An-nyoung-hee-geh-seh-yo or an-nyoung-hee-gah-seh-yo (**안녕히 계세요** or **안녕히 가세요**)

Saying goodbye is different depending on if you are leaving or the other party is leaving. If someone is leaving they will say the first sentence while the person still remaining would say the second sentence. If both parties are parting and going their respective ways, you both would say the second sentence.

See you later:

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

contact@meridianlinguistics.com

Eeh-ddah bwah-yo (**이따 봐요**)

Where is _____?:

_____ Uh-dee-eh-yo? (**어디예요?**)

If you're asking for the bathroom, for example, you would simply insert the word for bathroom (hwa-jang-shil **화장실**) and say, "Hwa jang shil uh dee eh yo?"

At a restaurant:

Please give me _____:

_____ joo-seh-yo (**주세요**)

Insert whatever you are asking for in front of the sentence. For example, "Bulgogi joo seh yo" would mean, "Please give me the bulgogi". You could also ask for water by saying, "Mool (water) joo seh yo".

Do you take reservations?:

Yeh-yak bahd-nah-yo (**예약 받나요?**)

Is this spicy?:

Meh-wuh-yo? (**매워요?**)

Korean dishes can be fiery at times. If you're sensitive to spice, this is a useful phrase to know when ordering.

Please leave out _____:

_____ Bbeh-joo-seh-yo (**빼주세요**)

Say this sentence if there are certain ingredients you do not or cannot eat. "Cheese bbeh-joo-seh-yo", for example, would mean, "please omit the cheese".

I have an allergy:

Allergy iss-uh-yo (**알레르기 있어요**)

If you want to express specifically what you are allergic to, you can say, "_____" (insert the ingredient or food) allergy iss-suh-yo."

I'm a vegetarian:

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

contact@meridianlinguistics.com

Cheh-shik-joo-ee-jah eep-ni-da (**채식주의자입니다**)

Do note that while there are plenty of vegetarian dishes in Korean cuisine, certain food like stews and soups may be made from animal-based stock.

Please give me more of _____:

_____ duh-joo-seh-yo (**_____ 더 주세요**)

One of the best things about Korean restaurants is that side dishes (called "banchan" in Korean) can be refilled at no extra cost. If you particularly like a certain side dish, say this phrase to the server.

Said before eating:

Jahl-muk-gyess-seub-ni-da (**잘 먹겠습니다**)

Literally meaning, "I will eat well", this is said before eating and has similar connotations to "bon appetit!"

Said after eating:

Jahl-mug-uss-seub-ni-da (**잘 먹었습니다**)

Literally meaning, "I ate well", this is a polite phrase to say after eating.

Please wrap this up (to-go):

Ssah-joo-seh-yo (**싸주세요**)

Use this sentence if you have leftovers from a meal that you'd like to take with you.

It's delicious:

Maht-iss-suh-yo (**맛있어요**)

I'm hungry:

Bae-go-pah-yo (**배고파요**)

I'm thirsty:

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

contact@meridianlinguistics.com

Mok-mahl-lah-yo (**목말라요**)

I'm full:

Bae-bull-luh-yo (**배불러요**)

Shopping

How much is this?:

Uhl-mah-yeh-yo? (**얼마예요?**)

Do you have _____?:

_____ iss-suh-yo?

It's too expensive:

Nuh-moo-bi-ssah-yo (**너무 비싸요**)

Do you accept credit cards?:

Card baht-nah-yo? (**카드 받나요?**)

Please give me a refund:

Hwan-bool-heh-joo-seh-yo (**환불해 주세요**)

Please give me an exchange:

Gyo-hwan-heh-joo-seh-yo (**교환해 주세요**)

Other phrases:

Please help me:

Doh-wah-joo-seh-yo (**도와 주세요**)

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

I'm fine:

Gwen-chan-ah-yo (**괜찮아요**)

You can also use this phrase to ask someone if they are okay.

Please say that one more time:

Han-bun duh mahl-heh joo-seh-yo (**한번 더 말해 주세요**)

I don't understand:

Eeh-heh ahn-dweb-ni-da (**이해 안됩니다**)

Please speak slowly:

Cheon-cheon-hee mahl-hae joo-seh-yo (**천천히 말해 주세요**)

Please write it down

Jeog-uh joo-seh-yo (**적어 주세요**)

Do you have WiFi?:

WiFi iss-uh-yo (**와이파이 있어요?**)

Luckily most restaurants and popular attractions in Korea have free WiFi available.

How do I get to _____?:

_____ uh-dduh-geh gah-yo? (**_____ 어떻게 가요?**)

When asking for directions, insert the place in front of the sentence. "Ji-ha-chul-yeok uh-dduh-geh-gah-yo?" would mean, "how do I get to the subway station."

How long does it take?

Uhl-mah-nah gul-lyuh-yo? (**얼마나 걸려요?**)

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

contact@meridianlinguistics.com

Can be said to ask how long it takes to get somewhere or how long you have to wait for something (such as a line).

I like it/I don't like it

Joh-ah-yo/Shil-uh-yo (**좋아요/싫어요**)

If you want to specify what you like or don't like, insert the noun in front of the phrase. E.g- "Bulgogi joh-ah-yo" would mean, "I like bulgogi".

I'm cold/I'm hot:

Choo-wuh-yo/Duh-wuh-yo (**추워요/더워요**)

I'm tired:

Pee-gohn-heh-yo (**피곤해요**)

I lost my _____:

_____ il-uh-buh-ryuss-uh-yo (_____ **잃어버렸어요**)

Hopefully you won't have to use this phrase!

I am in pain:

Ah-puh-yo (**아파요**)

Another phrase you hopefully won't have to use. If you want to be specific, say where it hurts before the phrase. "Bae ah-puh-yo" would mean "my stomach hurts".

It's fun:

Jeh-mi-eess-uh-yo (**재미있어요**)

I love you:

Sarang-heh-yo (**사랑해요**)

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

Useful vocabulary:

Subway:

Ji-ha-cheol (**지하철**). "Ji-ha-cheol-yeok" is "subway station" (**지하철역**)

Airport:

Gong-hahng (**공항**)

Bus stop:

Jeong-ryu-jang (**정류장**)

Train:

Gi-cha (**기차**). "Train station" is "gi-cha-yeok" (**기차역**)

Shop/store:

Ga-gye (**가게**)

Supermarket:

Shoo-puh (**슈퍼**)

This word is the shortened version of "supermarket"

Hospital:

Byeong-won (**병원**)

Pharmacy:

Yahk-guk (**약국**)

Medicine:

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

contact@meridianlinguistics.com

Yahk (약)

Convenience store:

Pyeon-eeh-jeom (편의점)

Restaurant:

Shik-dahng (식당)

Movie theater:

Young-hwa-gwan (영화관)

Swimming pool:

Soo-young-jang (수영장)

Shopping mall:

Baek-hwa-jeom (백화점)

Police:

Gyeong-chahl (경찰)

Restroom:

Hwa-jang-shil (화장실)

Nursing room:

Mo-yoo-soo-yoo-shil (모유수유실)

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS
TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING
MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong
contact@meridianlinguistics.com

Bank:

Eun-haeng (은행)

Currency exchange center:

Hwan-jeon-soh (환전소)

Umbrella:

Woo-sahn (우산)

Battery charger:

Choong-jeon-gi (충전기)

This/that:

Eeh-guh/juh-guh (이거/저거)

Here/there:

Yuh-gi/juh-gi (여기/저기)

Right/left:

Oh-reun-jjok/Wehn-jjok (오른쪽/왼쪽)

Up/down

Wee/ah-reh (위, 아래)

Straight (direction):

Jik-jin (직진)

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

Counting

1 Ha-na (하나)

2 Dool (둘)

3 Set (셋)

4 Net (넷)

5 Da-sut (다섯)

6 Yuh-sut (여섯)

7 Il-gop (일곱)

8 Yuh-dul (여덟)

9 Ah-hob (아홉)

10 Yul (열)

100 Baek (백)

1000 Cheon (천)

10,000 Mahn (만)

These numbers are used when counting or expressing things like age or sums of things.

However, things are counted different monetarily

1 Il (일)

2 Yi (이)

3 Sam (삼)

4 Sah (사)

5 Oh (오)

6 Yook (육)

Need some extra help communicating in Korea? Send us a message at contact@meridianlinguistics.com, we've got you covered!

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS CONSULTING

MERIDIAN LINGUISTICS 25/F Workington Tower, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

contact@meridianlinguistics.com

7 Chil (칠)

8 Pal (팔)

9 Gu (구)

10 Shib (십)

Hundred, thousand, and ten thousand are said the same (baek, cheon, mahn).

If you wanted to say, "15,900" for example, you would say, "mahn(10,000) oh-cheon(5,000) gu-baek (900)".
The number "3,540" would be "sahm-cheon (3000) oh-baek (500) sah-shib (40)".

Even if your pronunciation isn't perfect, Koreans will love that you are trying. Just remember -- practice makes perfect!