

# 8 오후에 시간 있어요?

IN THIS UNIT ...

- Fixing times to meet people
- Telling and asking the time
- Days of the Week
- ‘Shall we ...?’ and ‘Let’s ...’
- ‘How about ...?’
- Using Negatives



## ARE YOU FREE THIS AFTERNOON?

In this Unit we continue to look at ways of asking for basic information in Korean, especially fixing times to meet people, and talking about the things we do on a daily basis.

Note also that from this Unit on we do not provide romanisations for Hangeul. We assess that they should not be necessary by now.

### 1 Conversation

지수, a Korean student, is trying to find a time to exchange language lessons with David.

지수: 안녕하세요? 데이비드씨.  
 데이비드: 네, 안녕하세요? 지수씨.  
 지수: 저, ... 오늘 오후에 시간 있어요?  
 데이비드: 미안합니다. 오늘 오후에는 시간 없어요. 수업  
 있어요. 내일은 어때요?  
 지수: 아, ... 오전은 안 돼요. 약속  
 있어요. 오후 두 시 어때요?  
 데이비드: 글썽요. ... 세 시는 어때요?  
 지수: 세 시 괜찮아요.  
 데이비드: 그럼, 세 시에 만날까요?  
 지수: 네, 좋아요.

 A black and white line drawing of two men standing and talking. The man on the left is wearing a striped shirt and the man on the right is wearing a dark shirt. They are both looking towards each other.

#### Translation

- Ji-su: Hi, David, how's things?  
 David: Hi, Ji-su. Yeah, fine, thanks.  
 Ji-su: Er, are you free this afternoon?  
 David: Not this afternoon, sorry – I've got classes. What about tomorrow?  
 Ji-su: The morning's no good – I've got an appointment. What about two in the afternoon?  
 David: Mmm. ... What about three?  
 Ji-su: Three's OK.  
 David: Well then, shall we meet at three?  
 Ji-su: Sure.

**Notes for Conversation**

- 저, ...: This is a polite form of hesitation, similar to *Er ...* or *Um ...* in English.
- 오늘: *today*
- 오후: *p.m.*
- 오늘 오후: *this afternoon*. Notice the ordering *오늘 오후*, not *오후 오늘*.
- 시간: *period of time, hour*
- 수업: *class*
- 내일: *tomorrow*
- 오전: *a.m.*
- 아, ...: This expression indicates that the speaker is deciding what to say. It's similar to *Um ...*
- 안 돼요: ... *is no good*. This is the standard phrase to indicate that some course of action or arrangement won't work.
- 약속: *appointment, date*
- 글썽요: This expression indicates that the speaker is hesitant to accept – it is similar to *we-ell*.
- 어때요?: *How (is it)?*
- 그럼, ...: *well, then*
- 만날까요?: *Shall we meet?*; here the stem is

만나- (*to meet*), and the ending -(으)르까요 (*shall we do ...*). See below.

- 좋아요: *Good*. This indicates that the speaker is happy to accept what's been said – similar to *Sure*.
- 은/는: Topic Marker. During this course, we'll gradually become familiar with the particle 은/는. Instead of just explaining its grammatical function we prefer to show you how it works in context, so that you can develop a *feel* for it. In asking when David was free in the conversation, 지수's question specified *this afternoon*. What David wants to convey by saying *오늘 오후에는* is that although this afternoon isn't possible, other times are. So he gives special emphasis to the ensuing phrase *내일은 ...*, where the particle 은 invites 지수 to focus away from this afternoon to other times. Likewise, when David would prefer three o'clock to two o'clock, he reacts non-committally to 지수, and then invites 지수 to focus on three o'clock – hence he says *세 시는 ...*

**2 Fixing Times to Meet People**

**Some Useful Words**

오늘	today	-분	minute
내일	tomorrow	-전	before
오전	a.m.	반	half
오후	p.m.	시간	hour, time
지금	now	수업	class
-시	o'clock	한국어 수업	Korean class
몇 시 ...?	What time ...?	약속	appointment, date

**Asking and Telling the Time: Hours and Minutes**

To ask the time in Korean we can say:

**지금 몇 시예요?**

**NOTES:** 지금 = now; 몇 = how many; 시 = o'clock





To answer:


**PK 시예요. or  
PK 시 SK 분이에요.**

**NOTES:** PK stands for *Pure Korean Number*, and SK *Sino-Korean Number*.

**Examples**

We use Pure Korean numbers for the *hours* and Sino-Korean numbers for the *minutes*. (See the Cultural Note below on Page 49.) Notice that -시 in “지금 몇 시예요?” is a counter. While in English we say: *What time is it?*, the Korean equivalent is literally: *How many points in time (of the clock) is it?* We thus shorten the numbers 하나 (*one*), 둘 (*two*), 셋 (*three*) and 넷 (*four*) to 한, 두, 세 and 네 respectively when adding -시 to these Pure Korean numbers (see Page 35).

 <p>한 시 십 분이에요. not <u>하나</u> 시 십 분 이예요.</p>	 <p>두 시 십 분이에요. not <u>둘</u> 시 십 분 이예요.</p>	 <p>세 시예요. not <u>셋</u> 시예요.</p>
 <p>네 시 십 분이에요. not <u>넷</u> 시 십 분 이예요.</p>	 <p>다섯 시 십 분이에요.</p>	 <p>여섯 시 십 분이에요.</p>



세 시 삼십 분이에요.  
or 세 시 반이에요.

If the time is half past three, you can say either *It's thirty (minutes) past three* or *It's half past three* by adding 반 (*half*) to the hour. That is:

**세 시 반이에요.**



세 시 십오 분이에요.

No equivalent expression for *quarter* is used in telling the time in Korean. If the time is a quarter past three, you simply say:

**세 시 십오 분이에요.**


Also, if the time is 12:45, you say:

**열두 시 사십오 분이에요.**

Alternatively, you can say:

**한 시 십오 분전이에요.**

which means literally *It's 'fifteen minutes' to one*. Here 전 means *before*. The same goes for any minutes between 31 and 59.



열두 시 사십오 분이에요.  
or 한 시 십오 분전이에요.

**Days of the Week**

월요일	Monday	금요일	Friday
월요일에	on Monday	토요일	Saturday
화요일	Tuesday	일요일	Sunday
수요일	Wednesday	일요일 오후 1시에	on Sunday one p.m.
목요일	Thursday	주말에	on the weekend

**Pronunciation Notes:** The liaison rule applies when you say 월요일 and 일요일; they are pronounced respectively as wo-ryo-il and i-ryo-il. Note also that 목요일 and 금요일 are pronounced as mo-gyo-il and geu-myo-il respectively.

**Shall we ...?**

When we want to propose doing something we can say:

**VST - (으)르까요?**

**NOTE:** If the VST ends in a consonant, add 으.

월요일 오후 한 시에 만날까요?	Shall we meet at one o'clock Monday afternoon?
자, 시작할까요?	OK. Shall we start?
커피 한 잔 마실까요?	Shall we have a cup of coffee?
여기 앉을까요?	Shall we sit here?

**NOTE:** Unlike in English, to say one p.m., you put 오후 first and then 한 시, not the other way around.

If we want to respond positively, we can say:

**네, VST - (으)버시다.**

*Yes, let's ...*

**NOTE:** If the VST ends in a consonant, add 으.

The -(으)버시다 ending carries masculine connotations, and thus female speakers tend to use:

**네, VST - 아요/어요/...해요.**

*Yes, we ...*

A: 내일 만날까요?	Shall we meet tomorrow?
B1: 네, 내일 만납시다. or	Yes, let's meet tomorrow.
B2: 네, 내일 만나요.	Yes, let's meet tomorrow. (Literally: <i>Yes, we meet tomorrow.</i> )

We can also give a short answer as follows.

A: 내일 오후에 극장에 갈까요?	Shall we go to a movie tomorrow afternoon?
B: 네, 그럼시다. or 네, 그래요.	Yes, let's do that.

And to say *No*, it is polite to use a non-committal expression such as below to show hesitation, rather than giving a direct refusal.

**글쎄요 ...**

*We-ell ...*

**How about ...?**

When we want other people to consider what we have in mind, we can say:

**NOUN** 어때요?      *How about NOUN?*

**NOTE:** The question literally means *How is/are NOUN?*

**EXAMPLES**

월요일 오후 어때요?	How about Monday afternoon?
내일 오전 열한 시 어때요?	How about eleven tomorrow morning?
지금 어때요?	How about now?
맥주 한 잔 어때요?	How about a beer?

To respond positively, we can say:

**NOUN** 괜찮아요 / 좋아요.      *NOUN is OK / good.*

And to respond negatively, we can say:

**NOUN** 안 돼요.      *NOUN is no good.*

**EXAMPLES**

A: 월요일 오후 세 시 어때요?	How about Monday three p.m.?
B1: 월요일 오후 세 시 괜찮아요. or	Monday three p.m. is OK.
B2: 월요일 오후 세 시 좋아요.	Monday three p.m. is good.
A: 수요일 어때요?	How about Wednesday?
B: 수요일 안 돼요. 수업 있어요.	Wednesday's no good. I've got classes.

**3 Using Negatives**

There are three points we should bear in mind. First, as we've learnt, the negative counterpart of the verb *있-* (*there is/are; to have*) is *없-* (*there isn't/aren't; to not have*).

**EXAMPLES**

시간 있어요?	Do you have time?
아니요, 시간 없어요.	No, I don't have time.
맛 있습니까?	Is it tasty?
글쎄요, 맛 없습니다.	Well, it's not tasty.

Second, the negative counterpart of “**NOUN-예요/이에요** (*am/are/is a NOUN or NOUNs*)” is “**NOUN-(이)가 아니예요** (*am/are/is not a NOUN or NOUNs*)”. Unlike its positive counterpart, *아니예요* takes a grammatical complement that is optionally marked with the particle *-이* or *-가*. (As we will study in Unit 10, *-이* and *-가* are two variant forms of the Subject marker.) You use the particle *-이* with a noun that ends in consonants, and *-가* with one that ends in a vowel.

Note that the verbs *이-* (*to be*) and *아니-* (*to not be*) don't follow the rules we studied on Page 25. We suggest you treat them as exceptions. Note also that *예요/이에요* and *아니예요* change to *입니다* and *아닙니다* in Polite Formal statements respectively.

EXAMPLES

이거 녹차예요?	Is this green tea?
아니요, 그거 녹차 아니예요.	No, that's not green tea.
아니요, 그거 녹차가 아니예요.	No, that's not green tea.
책이에요?	Is it a book?
아니요, 책이 아니예요.	No, it's not a book.
책입니까?	Is it a book?
아니요, 책 아닙니다.	No, it's not a book.

Third, to say *I/you/they etc don't do such-and-such*, you add the negative adverb **안** with a space before the verb. Note that with verbs ending in **하-** (*to do*), the **안** is placed directly in front of the **하-**.

EXAMPLES

집에 가요?	Are you going home?
아니요, 집에 안 가요.	No, I'm not going home.
주말에 운동해요?	Do you exercise on the weekend
아니요, 주말에 운동 안 해요.	No, I don't exercise on the weekend
지금 한국어 공부합니까?	Are you studying Korean now?
아니요, 지금 한국어 공부 안 합니다.	No, I'm not studying Korean now.

**4 Cultural Note: Numbers**

The co-existence of two sets of numbers in Korean reflects the co-existence of these two major spheres in Korean culture – the native Korean and the Sino-Korean. The influence of Chinese culture on Korea over the centuries has been profound and perhaps nowhere is this more apparent than in the spoken and written language, where almost 50% of the total Korean lexicon is derived from Chinese, more precisely, Classical Chinese.

We know very little about the shape of Korean civilisation prior to the penetration of Chinese culture into the peninsula, a process that began in earnest about 2,000 years ago. However, it is clear from the depth of the Chinese borrowings that there were many areas, such as art, science, technology, statecraft, and religion, in which the Koreans recognised technological, metaphysical and aesthetic accomplishment and strove to apply Chinese norms to their own environment.

The norms of Chinese civilisation did not enter Korea through invasion. Although the Chinese had a colony in the northwestern part of the peninsula between the first century BC and the fourth century AD, they were not spread among the people of the peninsula by force. Rather, they seeped in over the centuries and were adopted by a people who were strongly attracted to the grandeur and sophistication of many aspects of Chinese civilisation. Of course, they were nonetheless Korean for avidly responding in this way, just as Australians are nonetheless Australian for responding to the attractions of much of European civilisation.

In practice, although Korean has two sets of numbers, rarely, if ever, is there any doubt about which set to use. If we were to describe the difference in a nutshell, it would be that in referring to the hours of the day – a unit of measurement that can more or less be reckoned with a tilt of the head up to the sun in the sky – we use Pure Korean numbers, whereas in referring to the minutes of the hour – a unit of measurement that can only be reckoned with reference to a relatively sophisticated measuring device – we use Sino-Korean numbers. As we saw above (see Page 35), this theme of technology extends to all foreign units of measurement. The Sino-Korean system is used in referring to units of distance, weight and quantity in the Western metric system.