

Korean in everyday situations

Module 4: Photos on the wall

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Korean

Read & listen
online



우리 가족 / 아홉 살

우리 가족, 우리 엄마 and 우리 집 are natural Korean phrases even when English says my. 제 가족 is also a polite way to describe your own family. The noun has no grammatical gender.

Ages commonly use native numbers plus 살: 아홉 살, 열 살, 서른 살. Before 살, use 한, 두, 세, 네 and 스무: 스무 살. A formal profile can use 세 with Sino-Korean numbers, but ordinary conversation here uses 살.

Use 씨 after a peer's name and a suitable title for an older adult. Our landlady is 최 선생님. Refer to the doctor as 의사 선생님. Courtesy does not require using the English word you.

7월 10일 / 형, 오빠, 누나, 언니

Male Speaker	Female Speaker	Meaning
형	오빠	my older brother
누나	언니	my older sister
남동생	남동생	my younger brother
여동생	여동생	my younger sister

Dates use Sino-Korean numbers with **년**, **월** and **일**. **7월 10일** is July tenth. June is **유월**, not **육월**; October is **시월**, not **십월**. **에** marks a date for an event: **7월 10일에**.

For your older brother, a male speaker says **형** and a female speaker says **오빠**. For an older sister, a male speaker says **누나** and a female speaker says **언니**. Younger siblings are **남동생** and **여동생**. These are relationships from the speaker's perspective, not grammatical noun gender.

생일이 언제예요? asks when a birthday is. For turning ten, learn **열 살이 돼요**. **돼요** is the ordinary polite form of **되다**. A family count uses a native number plus **명**.

키가 커요 / 눈이 갈색이에요

키가 커요 means is tall, literally the height is big. **머리가 길어요** means has long hair. Give a body part as the subject of the description; there is no need to translate every English has with a possession verb.

Colour names can act as nouns: **눈이 갈색이에요**. Describing verbs end the clause: **키가 커요**. Do not add **이에요** to **커요** or **길어요**.

친구가 많아요 means has many friends. A plural marker is usually unnecessary when the quantity is clear. You can keep descriptions separate instead of creating a long chain before a noun.

큰 것 / 작은 것 / 반씩

Form	Example	Meaning
크다	큰 것	the big one
작다	작은 것	the small one
길다	긴 머리	long hair
짧다	짧은 머리	short hair

To put a description before a noun, many describing stems take **은** after a consonant or **ㄴ** after a vowel: **작은 스케치북**, **큰 스케치북**.
With an understood item, use **것**: **큰 것**, **작은 것**. In conversation **거** is common.

초록색 can come directly before a noun as a colour label: **초록색 스케치북**. For now choose with a short phrase rather than building several clauses. Remember that **큰** is not **크는**.

반씩 means half each. **만 사천 원씩** means fourteen thousand won each. **씩** attaches to the quantity; it does not change the currency noun into a plural.

이었어요 / 였어요 / 있었어요

Form	Example	Meaning
학생 이었어요	학생 이었어요 .	was a student
의사 였어요	의사 였어요 .	was a doctor
있었어요	집에 있었어요 .	was at home
없었어요	시간이 없었어요 .	had no time

For was/were with a noun, use **이었어요** after a consonant and **였어요** after a vowel: **학생이었어요, 의사였어요**. These endings are the same for every person. They describe a past identity, not a completed action.

있었어요 means was/were there or had; **없었어요** means was/were not there or did not have. Learn these frequent state forms now. **아니었어요** says was not when denying an identity.

Time words such as **그때** and **어제** place a short sentence in the past. Productive past action verbs come in module 7. Until then, recognise these useful forms as a small, fixed group.

GRAMMAR**G1) SPOT THE PATTERNS AGAIN**

Underline the highlighted form described in this unit.

- 1 지우는 아홉 살이에요.

Meaning: Jiwoo is nine years old.

- 2 생일은 7월 10 일이에요.

Meaning: My birthday is July tenth.

- 3 키가 커요.

Meaning: He/she is tall.

- 4 큰 스케치북 주세요.

Meaning: The big sketchbook, please.

- 5 6월은 유월이에요.

Meaning: The sixth month is yuwol.

- 6 눈이 갈색 이에요.

Meaning: He/she has brown eyes.

G2) CHOOSE THE FRIENDLY POLITE FORM

Choose the form that fits the English meaning and the polite sentence.

- 1 Lukas: 저는 루카스예요. 지우는 아홉 _____ 이에요.

- Ⓐ 살
Ⓑ 명
Ⓒ 원

Meaning: I am Lukas. Jiwoo is nine years old.

2 Lena: 저는 레나예요. 지우는 아홉 _____ 이에요.

- ☐ A 살
- ☐ B 명
- ☐ C 원

Meaning: I am Lena. Jiwoo is nine years old.

3 Lukas: 저는 루카스예요. 생일은 7월 10 _____ 이에요.

- ☐ A 살
- ☐ B 일
- ☐ C 명

Meaning: I am Lukas. My birthday is July tenth.

4 Lena: 저는 레나예요. 생일은 7월 10 _____ 이에요.

- ☐ A 살
- ☐ B 명
- ☐ C 일

Meaning: I am Lena. My birthday is July tenth.

5 키가 _____.

- ☐ A 크다
- ☐ B 커요
- ☐ C 커요예요

Meaning: He/she is tall.

6 _____ 스케치북 주세요.

- ☐ A 크는
- ☐ B 크어요
- ☐ C 큰

Meaning: The big sketchbook, please.

7 지훈 씨는 학생_____.

- ☐ A 였어요
- ☐ B 예요
- ☐ C 이었어요

Meaning: Jihun was a student.

8 동생은 _____ 살이에요.

- Ⓐ 이십 분
- Ⓑ 스물
- Ⓒ 스무

Meaning: My younger sibling is twenty.

9 6월은 _____ 이에요.

- Ⓐ 유월
- Ⓑ 육월
- Ⓒ 육일

Meaning: The sixth month is yuwol.

10 눈이 갈색_____.

- Ⓐ 를
- Ⓑ 이에요
- Ⓒ 예요

Meaning: He/she has brown eyes.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

커요예요 커요

키가 _____.

Meaning: He/she is tall.

크는 큰

_____ 스케치북 주세요.

Meaning: The big sketchbook, please.

였어요 이었어요

지훈 씨는 학생_____.

Meaning: Jihun was a student.

스물 스무

동생은 _____살이에요.

Meaning: My younger sibling is twenty.

육월 유월

6월은 _____이에요.

Meaning: The sixth month is yuwol.

예요 이에요

눈이 갈색_____.

Meaning: He/she has brown eyes.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

- 1 네. 키가 루카스예요. 저는 커요.

Meaning: I am Lukas. Yes. He/she is tall.

- 2 저는 커요. 네. 레나예요. 키가

Meaning: I am Lena. Yes. He/she is tall.

3 주세요. 루카스예요. 저는 스케치북 큰

Meaning: I am Lukas. The big sketchbook, please.

4 스케치북 저는 주세요. 큰 레나예요.

Meaning: I am Lena. The big sketchbook, please.

5 지훈 씨는 학생이었어요.

Meaning: Jihun was a student.

6 동생은 스무 살이에요.

Meaning: My younger sibling is twenty.

- 7 유월이에요. 6월은 네.

Meaning: Yes. The sixth month is yuwol.

- 8 네. 눈이 갈색이에요.

Meaning: Yes. He/she has brown eyes.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Jiwoo is nine years old. You say:

- (A) 지우는 아홉 명이에요.
(B) 지우는 아홉 살이에요.

- 2 My birthday is July tenth. You say:

- (A) 생일은 7월 10살이에요.
(B) 생일은 7월 10일이에요.

3 He/she is tall. You say:

- Ⓐ 키가 커요.
- Ⓑ 키가 커요예요.

4 The big sketchbook, please. You say:

- Ⓐ 크는 스케치북 주세요.
- Ⓑ 큰 스케치북 주세요.

5 The sixth month is yuwol. You say:

- Ⓐ 6월은 육월이에요.
- Ⓑ 6월은 유월이에요.

6 He/she has brown eyes. You say:

- Ⓐ 눈이 갈색예요.
- Ⓑ 눈이 갈색이에요.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ① 지훈 씨는 학생이었어요. | ① A Jihun was a student. |
| ② 6월은 유월이에요. | ② B My younger sibling is twenty. |
| ③ 눈이 갈색이에요. | ③ C The big sketchbook, please. |
| ④ 생일은 7월 10일이에요. | ④ D My birthday is July tenth. |
| ⑤ 키가 커요. | ⑤ E The sixth month is yuwol. |
| ⑥ 동생은 스무 살이에요. | ⑥ F He/she is tall. |
| ⑦ 큰 스케치북 주세요. | ⑦ G He/she has brown eyes. |
| ⑧ 지우는 아홉 살이에요. | ⑧ H Jiwoo is nine years old. |