KR

KOREAN LESSON

# Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 6 · Your Job

# 💼 Talking About Your Job — 직업

*In this chapter you learn to ask what someone does, say what you do, and say where you work or study. You will also meet the respectful **님** that Koreans attach to job titles, and see how work titles are used in place of names. It builds on **이에요/예요** from Chapter 2 and on **에서** from Chapter 4.*

**eo** = ㅓ (short, open "uh")  **eu** = ㅡ (unrounded "oo")  **ae** = ㅐ (like the vowel in "bed")

**[ ]** = how the word is actually said, where it differs from the spelling

## ① What Do You Do? — 무슨 일을 하세요?

**A:**

무슨 일을 하세요?

*Museun il-eul haseyo?*

What do you do for a living?

**B:**

저는 회사원이에요. 서울에서 일해요.

*Jeoneun hoesawon-ieyo. Seoul-eseo ilhaeyo.*

I'm an office worker. I work in Seoul.

**A:**

아, 그래요? 일이 재미있어요?

*A, geuraeyo? Il-i jaemiisseoyo?*

Oh, really? Is the work interesting?

**B:**

네, 재미있어요.

*Ne, jaemiisseoyo.*

Yes, it is.

## ② A Student — 대학생이에요

**A:**

직업이 뭐예요?

*Jigeobi mwoyeyo?*

What's your occupation?

**B:**

저는 학생이에요. 대학교에 다녀요.

*Jeoneun haksaeng-ieyo. Daehakgyo-e danyeoyo.*

I'm a student. I go to university.

**A:**

무슨 공부를 해요?

*Museun gongbu-reul haeyo?*

What do you study?

**B:**

컴퓨터 공부를 해요.

*Keompyuteo gongbu-reul haeyo.*

I study computing.

### ③ A Teacher — 선생님이세요?

**A:**

무슨 일을 하세요?

*Museun il-eul haseyo?*

What do you do?

**B:**

학교에서 영어를 가르쳐요.

*Hakgyo-eseo yeongeo-reul gareuchyeoyo.*

I teach English at a school.

**A:**

아, 선생님이세요?

*A, seonsaengnim-iseyo?*

Oh, you're a teacher?

**B:**

네, 선생님이에요.

*Ne, seonsaengnim-ieyo.*

Yes, I am.

### ④ Working With Computers — 컴퓨터 회사에서

**A:**

무슨 일을 하세요?

*Museun il-eul haseyo?*

What do you do?

**B:**

컴퓨터 회사에서 기술 지원 일을 해요.

*Keompyuteo hoesa-eseo gisul jiwon il-eul haeyo.*

I work in technical support at a computer company.

**A:**

바쁘세요?

*Bappeuseyo?*

Are you busy?

**B:**

네, 아주 바빠요. 그래도 재미있어요.

*Ne, aju bappayo. Geuraedo jaemiisseoyo.*

Yes, very busy. But it's fun.

### ⑤ At a Business Meeting (formal) — 명함을 주고받을 때

**A:**

어디에서 일하십니까?

*Eodi-eseo ilhasimnikka?*

Where do you work?

**B:**

무역 회사에서 일합니다. 영업팀 과장입니다.

*Muyeok hoesa-eseo ilhamnida. Yeongeopteam gwajang-imnida.*

I work at a trading company. I'm a section chief in the sales team.

### ⑥ Two Friends (casual) — 친구끼리

**A:**

너 무슨 일 해?

*Neo museun il hae?*

What do you do?

**B:**

나 은행에서 일해.

*Na eunhaeng-eseo ilhae.*

I work at a bank.

**A:**

은행원이야? 멋있다!

*Eunhaengwon-iya? Meositda!*

**A:**

아, 과장님이십니까? 만나서 반갑습니다.

*A, gwajangnim-isimnikka? Mannaseo bangapseumnida.*

Oh, you're a section chief? Nice to meet you.

A bank clerk? Cool!

**B:**

응. 너는?

*Eung. Neoneun?*

Yeah. And you?

## 🔑 Key Phrases — 중요한 표현

*Use the polite column with people you don't know well. The casual column is for friends your own age or younger, and for understanding what you hear.*

| SITUATION | POLITE | CASUAL |
|---|---|---|
| What do you do? | 무슨 일을 하세요?<br>*museun il-eul haseyo?* | 무슨 일 해?<br>*museun il hae?* |
| What's your occupation? | 직업이 뭐예요?<br>*jigeobi mwoyeyo?*<br>(formal: 직업이 무엇입니까?) | 직업이 뭐야?<br>*jigeobi mwoya?* |
| I'm a ... | 저는 ...이에요 / ...예요<br>*jeoneun ...ieyo / ...yeyo* | 나는 ...이야 / ...야<br>*naneun ...iya / ...ya* |
| I work as a ... (job + work) | 저는 간호사 일을 해요<br>*jeoneun ganhosa il-eul haeyo* | 나는 간호사 일을 해<br>*naneun ganhosa il-eul hae* |
| I work at a ... | 병원에서 일해요<br>*byeongwon-eseo ilhaeyo* | 병원에서 일해<br>*byeongwon-eseo ilhae* |
| Where do you work? | 어디에서 일하세요?<br>*eodi-eseo ilhaseyo?* | 어디에서 일해?<br>*eodi-eseo ilhae?* |
| I'm a student | 학생이에요. 대학교에 다녀요.<br>*haksaeng-ieyo. daehakgyo-e danyeoyo.* | 학생이야. 대학교에 다녀.<br>*haksaeng-iya. daehakgyo-e danyeo.* |

| SITUATION | POLITE | CASUAL |
|---|---|---|
| What do you study? | 무슨 공부를 해요?<br>*museun gongbu-reul haeyo?* | 무슨 공부 해?<br>*museun gongbu hae?* |
| Are you a teacher? (respectful) | 선생님이세요?<br>*seonsaengnim-iseyo?* | (not used) |

## 🔤 Three Verbs You Can Already Use — 동사

*The verbs for work and study: **일하다** (to work), **다니다** (to attend, to go regularly to a school or workplace) and **가르치다** (to teach).*

| VERB | EVERYDAY POLITE (-요) | FORMAL (-ㅂ니다) | CASUAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| to work (일하다) | 일해요<br>*ilhaeyo* | 일합니다<br>*ilhamnida* | 일해<br>*ilhae* |
| to attend (다니다) | 다녀요<br>*danyeoyo* | 다닙니다<br>*danimnida* | 다녀<br>*danyeo* |
| to teach (가르치다) | 가르쳐요<br>*gareuchyeoyo* | 가르칩니다<br>*gareuchimnida* | 가르쳐<br>*gareuchyeo* |

## 👨‍💼 Jobs and Workplaces — 직업과 일터

### Jobs

| JOB | KOREAN | SAY IT |
|---|---|---|
| student | 학생 | *hak-ssaeng* |
| teacher | 선생님 | *seon-saeng-nim* |
| professor | 교수 | *gyo-su* |

| JOB | KOREAN | SAY IT |
|---|---|---|
| doctor | 의사 | *ui-sa* |
| nurse | 간호사 | *gan-ho-sa* |
| office worker | 회사원 | *hoe-sa-won* |
| bank clerk | 은행원 | *eun-haeng-won* |
| civil servant | 공무원 | *gong-mu-won* |
| engineer | 엔지니어 | *en-ji-ni-eo* |
| (software) developer | 개발자 | *gae-bal-jja* |
| cook; chef | 요리사 | *yo-ri-sa* |
| police officer | 경찰 | *gyeong-chal* |
| singer | 가수 | *ga-su* |
| actor | 배우 | *bae-u* |
| journalist | 기자 | *gi-ja* |
| writer | 작가 | *jak-kka* |

Many job words end in the same handful of syllables: **-원** means a member or worker (회사원, 은행원, 공무원), **-사** a trained professional (의사, 간호사, 요리사), **-자** a person who does something (개발자, 기자) and **-가** a specialist or artist (작가). Spotting these helps you guess new words.

## Places of work and study

| PLACE | KOREAN | I WORK/STUDY THERE |
|---|---|---|
| company | 회사 *hoesa* | 회사에서 일해요 |

| PLACE | KOREAN | I WORK/STUDY THERE |
|---|---|---|
| hospital | 병원 *byeongwon* | 병원에서 일해요 |
| bank | 은행 *eunhaeng* | 은행에서 일해요 |
| school | 학교 *hakgyo* | 학교에서 일해요 |
| restaurant | 식당 *sikdang* | 식당에서 일해요 |
| university | 대학교 *daehakgyo* | 대학교에 다녀요 |

## 🏢 Titles at Work and Respectful Forms — 직함과 존댓말

In a Korean office a colleague or boss is usually addressed by **surname + job title + 님**, not by name. The **님** is a respectful suffix and shouldn't be left out for someone senior.

| TITLE | ROUGH MEANING | EXAMPLE |
|---|---|---|
| 사장님 *sajangnim* | company president | 박 사장님 |
| 부장님 *bujangnim* | department head | 김 부장님 |
| 팀장님 *timjangnim* | team leader | 이 팀장님 |
| 과장님 *gwajangnim* | section chief; manager | 최 과장님 |
| 대리님 *daerinim* | assistant manager | 정 대리님 |

When you ask a respected person whether they hold a job, the copula changes too: **이에요/예요** becomes **이세요/세요**.

| PLAIN | RESPECTFUL |
|---|---|
| 선생님이에요? (after a consonant) | 선생님이세요? *seonsaengnim-iseyo?* |
| 의사예요? (after a vowel) | 의사세요? *uisa-seyo?* |

| PLAIN | RESPECTFUL |
|---|---|
| 과장님입니다 / 과장님이에요 | 과장님이십니까? *gwajangnim-isimnikka?* (formal question) |

## 📖 Vocabulary — 어휘

*20 key words. Read the Korean first, then check the romanization and the "Say it" column.*

| # | KOREAN | SAY IT | ENGLISH | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 직업 | *ji-geop* | occupation; job | noun |
| 2 | 일 | *il* | work; job; task | noun |
| 3 | 회사 | *hoe-sa* | company | noun |
| 4 | 회사원 | *hoe-sa-won* | office worker | noun |
| 5 | 학생 | *hak-ssaeng* | student | noun |
| 6 | 대학교 | *dae-hak-kkyo* | university | noun |
| 7 | 선생님 | *seon-saeng-nim* | teacher | noun |
| 8 | 의사 | *ui-sa* | doctor | noun |
| 9 | 간호사 | *gan-ho-sa* | nurse | noun |
| 10 | 은행원 | *eun-haeng-won* | bank clerk | noun |
| 11 | 엔지니어 | *en-ji-ni-eo* | engineer | noun |
| 12 | 개발자 | *gae-bal-jja* | developer | noun |
| 13 | 공부 | *gong-bu* | study | noun |
| 14 | 일하다 | *il-ha-da* | to work | verb |
| 15 | 다니다 | *da-ni-da* | to attend; to go regularly to | verb |

| # | KOREAN | SAY IT | ENGLISH | TYPE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 가르치다 | *ga-reu-chi-da* | to teach | verb |
| 17 | 무슨 | *mu-seun* | what (kind of) | question word |
| 18 | 사장님 | *sa-jang-nim* | company president; boss | title |
| 19 | 팀장님 | *tim-jjang-nim* | team leader | title |
| 20 | 과장님 | *gwa-jang-nim* | section chief; manager | title |

### Two Ways to Ask — and to Answer

To ask what someone does, **무슨 일을 하세요?** ("what work do you do?") is the standard polite question. **직업이 뭐예요?** ("what's your occupation?") is polite and a little more direct, like a form; the very formal version is 직업이 무엇입니까? You can answer with just the job: 저는 간호사예요, or by naming the work: 저는 간호사 일을 해요 ("I do nurse's work"). To add where, put the place and **에서** in front: 병원에서 일해요 (Korean Grammar 1, chapter 4).

### Titles Replace Names

In Korean companies people are called by **surname** + **title** + **님**, such as 김 부장님. It would sound rude to call a senior colleague by their first name. The same pattern covers other roles: 교수님 (professor), 기사님 (driver or technician). Newer or junior staff are, according to one source, often addressed by name + 님 or 씨 instead of a rank; rank titles are also being questioned in some companies today, so listen to what colleagues around you say. Outside work, a shop or restaurant owner is often called 사장님 too.

### As Heard in Dramas — 드라마에서

Office dramas show the ladder in action: **팀장님**, **과장님**, **부장님** and **사장님** or **대표님** (the head of a company) are used in nearly every scene, with polite endings (**-세요**, **-ㅂ니다**). Juniors reply **네, 알겠습니다** ("yes, understood"). Away from the office the same characters switch to casual speech with friends. Students often say they **알바** ("part-time job") on the side.

### Grammar Pointer

> **이에요/예요** is explained in Korean Grammar 1, chapter 5; the particle **에서** (where an action happens) in Korean Grammar 1, chapter 4; the polite endings and the respectful **-세요** in Korean Grammar 1, chapter 10; and how verbs like 일해요 are built in Korean Grammar 1, chapter 6.

## ✍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

*Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.*

**1.** Say "I'm a student" and "I'm a doctor" politely.

▼ Show answer

저는 학생이에요. and 저는 의사예요.

**2.** Ask a stranger what they do for a living (polite), and then a friend (casual).

▼ Show answer

무슨 일을 하세요? and 무슨 일 해?

**3.** Say "I work at a bank."

▼ Show answer

은행에서 일해요. (Eunhaeng-eseo ilhaeyo.)

**4.** Say "I'm a teacher and I teach English at a school."

▼ Show answer

저는 선생님이에요. 학교에서 영어를 가르쳐요.

**5.** How do you address Mr Kim, a department head, politely?

▼ Show answer

김 부장님 (surname + title + 님).

**6.** Choose 이에요 or 예요: 회사원___, 의사___, 선생님___, 개발자___.

▼ Show answer

회사원이에요, 의사예요, 선생님이에요, 개발자예요.