KR

KOREAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 2 · Chapter 11 · Opinions

Korean Basic Conversation 2

Chapter 11 · Giving Opinions & Preferences

💭 Giving Opinions & Preferences — 의견과 취향

*Real conversation is mostly opinions: which film was better, which city you prefer, whether you agree. This chapter gives you the tools to **ask for and give an opinion**, to **compare** (A is more than B), to say what is **the most** something, and to **agree or disagree politely**, which in Korean means knowing how to soften. It finishes with the vocabulary for talking about **shows and films**. Dialogs carry a **Hard words** note, and the tables keep the "Say it" column.*

eo = ㅓ (short, open "uh") **eu** = ㅡ (unrounded "oo")

kk, tt, pp, ss, jj = tense (tight, unaspirated) consonants

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

① Asking for an Opinion — 어떻게 생각해요?

A:

이 영화 어떻게 생각해요?

What do you think of this film?

B:

제 생각에는 정말 재미있는 것 같아요.

I think it's really good.

A:

저도 그렇게 생각해요. 특히 음악이 좋았어요.

I think so too. The music was especially good.

B:

맞아요. 배우들 연기도 아주 잘했어요.

Right. The actors' performances were great too.

Hard words: 어떻게 생각해요 eo-tteo-ke saeng-ga-kae-yo · 제 생각에는 je saeng-ga-ge-neun · 것

② Comparing Cities — 서울이 부산보다 더 커요

A:

서울하고 부산 중에서 어디가 더 좋아요?

Between Seoul and Busan, which do you like more?

B:

저는 부산이 서울보다 더 좋아요. 바다가 있고 사람들이 친절해요.

I like Busan more than Seoul. It has the sea and the people are friendly.

A:

그런데 서울이 부산보다 더 편해요. 교통이 좋아요.

But Seoul is more convenient than Busan. The transport is good.

B:

같아요 geot ga-ta-yo · 특히 teu-ki · 연기 yeon-gi · 맞아요 ma-ja-yo

그건 맞아요.

That's true.

Hard words: 중에서 jung-e-seo · 보다 bo-da · 더 deo · 바다 ba-da · 교통 gyo-tong · 그건 geu-geon

③ Preferences — 커피보다 차를 더 좋아해요

A:

커피하고 차 중에서 뭘 더 좋아해요?

Between coffee and tea, which do you like more?

B:

저는 커피보다 차를 더 좋아해요.

I like tea more than coffee.

A:

왜요?

Why?

B:

커피를 마시면 잠이 안 와요. 그런데 아침에는 커피가 제일 좋아요.

If I drink coffee I can't sleep. But in the morning coffee is the best.

Hard words: 차 cha · 마시면 ma-si-myeon ("if I drink") · 잠이 안 와요 ja-mi an wa-yo ("I can't sleep") · 제일 je-il

④ Politely Disagreeing — 글쎄요

A:

한국어가 영어보다 어려운 것 같아요.

I think Korean is harder than English.

B:

글쎄요. 저는 조금 생각이 달라요. 문법은 어렵지만 발음은 쉬워요.

Well. I think a little differently. The grammar is hard, but the pronunciation is easy.

A:

아, 그렇군요!

Oh, I see!

B:

그런데 단어는 정말 어려워요.

But the vocabulary really is hard.

A:

맞아요! 그건 저도 동의해요.

Right! I agree with that.

Hard words: 글쎄요 geul-sse-yo · 달라요 dal-la-yo · 문법 mun-beop · 발음 ba-reum · 그렇군요 geu-reo-kun-yo · 동의해요 dong-ui-hae-yo

⑤ About a Drama — 그 드라마 어땠어요?

A:

어제 그 드라마 봤어요?

Did you watch that drama yesterday?

⑥ Two Friends (casual) — 그건 인정!

A:

치킨이랑 피자 중에 뭐가 더 좋아?

Which do you like more, chicken or pizza?

B:

네, 봤어요. 줄거리가 슬퍼요. 제 생각에는 감동적인 것 같아요.

Yes. The story is sad. I think it's moving.

A:

저는 별로였어요. 조금 지루했어요.

I wasn't keen on it. It was a little boring.

B:

그래요? 결말은 어땠어요?

Really? How was the ending?

A:

결말은 괜찮았어요. 그래도 저는 코미디가 더 좋아요.

The ending was OK. Still, I prefer comedies.

Hard words: 줄거리 jul-geo-ri · 슬퍼요 seul-peo-yo · 감동적인 gam-dong-jeo-gin · 별로였어요 byeol-lo-yeo-sseo-yo · 지루했어요 ji-ru-hae-sseo-yo · 결말 gyeol-mal · 코미디 ko-mi-di

B:

음... 둘 다 좋은데, 치킨이 더 좋아!

Hmm... both are good, but chicken is better!

A:

나도! 근데 제일 좋은 건 떡볶이야!

Same! But my favourite of all is tteokbokki!

B:

오, 그건 인정!

Oh, fair enough, I agree with that!

Hard words: 중에 jung-e · 둘 다 dul da · 근데 geun-de (casual 그런데) · 떡볶이 tteok-bok-ki · 인정 in-jeong

🔑 Key Phrases — 중요한 표현

SITUATION	POLITE	CASUAL
What do you think?	어떻게 생각해요? *eo-tteo-ke saeng-ga-kae-yo?*	어떻게 생각해? *eo-tteo-ke saeng-ga-kae?*
I think ...	제 생각에는 ...(ㄴ) 것 같아요. *je saeng-ga-ge-neun ...(n) geot ga-ta-yo.*	내 생각에는 ...(ㄴ) 것 같아. *nae saeng-ga-ge-neun ...(n) geot ga-ta.*
Which do you like more?	뭐가 더 좋아요? *mwo-ga deo jo-a-yo?*	뭐가 더 좋아? *mwo-ga deo jo-a?*
I agree. / I think so too.	저도 그렇게 생각해요. *jeo-do geu-reo-ke saeng-ga-kae-yo.*	나도 그렇게 생각해. *na-do geu-reo-ke saeng-ga-kae.*

SITUATION	POLITE	CASUAL
Well, I see it a bit differently.	글쎄요. 조금 생각이 달라요. *geul-sse-yo. jo-geum saeng-ga-gi dal-la-yo.*	글쎄. 나는 좀 달라. *geul-sse. na-neun jom dal-la.*
That's true.	맞아요. *ma-ja-yo.*	맞아. / 인정! *ma-ja. / in-jeong!*

🔤 Three Words for Opinions — 동사

WORD	EVERYDAY POLITE (-요)	FORMAL (-ㅂ니다)	CASUAL
to think (생각하다)	생각해요 *saeng-ga-kae-yo*	생각합니다 *saeng-ga-kam-ni-da*	생각해 *saeng-ga-kae*
to be different (다르다)	달라요 *dal-la-yo*	다릅니다 *da-reum-ni-da*	달라 *dal-la*
to be right; to fit (맞다)	맞아요 *ma-ja-yo*	맞습니다 *mat-sseum-ni-da*	맞아 *ma-ja*

다르다 belongs to a small group of "르-irregular" words: before -아/어 the 르 turns into **ㄹ라/ㄹ러**, so 다르다 → 달라요. The same pattern gives 모르다 → 몰라요 ("I don't know"), 빠르다 → 빨라요 ("fast") and 부르다 → 불러요 (the 노래를 불러요 of Chapter 2). Before a consonant ending, nothing changes: 다릅니다.

🧱 Five Tools for Opinions

1. "I think / it seems" — -(으)ㄴ 것 같아요

Koreans soften opinions with **것 같아요** ("it seems that"). Put the describing word before 것 in the form you learned in Chapter 4 (-ㄴ/-은; -는 for 있다/없다 words), then add **같아요**: 재미있는 것 같아요 ("I think it's fun"), 비싼 것 같아요 ("it seems expensive"), 학생인 것 같아요 ("he seems to be a student"). For a present action use **-는 것 같아요**: 비가 오는 것 같아요 ("it looks

like it's raining"). Saying "I think" this way is also humble: even people who are sure often add it to avoid sounding blunt.

WORD	...것 같아요	MEANING
좋다	좋은 것 같아요 *jo-eun geot ga-ta-yo*	it seems good
어렵다	어려운 것 같아요 *eo-ryeo-un geot ga-ta-yo*	it seems difficult
맛있다	맛있는 것 같아요 *ma-sin-neun geot ga-ta-yo*	it seems tasty
오다	오는 것 같아요 *o-neun geot ga-ta-yo*	it seems to be coming

2. Comparing — 보다 더

보다 after a noun means "than", and **더** means "more": 서울이 부산보다 더 커요 ("Seoul is bigger than Busan"). The order can be switched: 부산보다 서울이 더 커요. Add **훨씬** for "much more" and **조금 더** for "a bit more". The question is A하고 B 중에서 뭐가 더 좋아요? ("which do you like more, A or B?"). To say what you prefer: 저는 커피보다 차를 더 좋아해요.

KOREAN	SAY IT	MEANING
더 / 덜	*deo / deol*	more / less
훨씬 더	*hwol-ssin deo*	much more
비슷해요	*bi-seu-tae-yo*	it's similar
똑같아요	*ttok-ga-ta-yo*	it's exactly the same
둘 다	*dul da*	both

3. The best — 제일 and 가장

Put **제일** (everyday) or **가장** (a little more formal) before the describing word: 이 중에서 제일 맛있어요 ("this is the tastiest of them"), 무슨 계절을 제일 좋아해요? (Chapter 6). The

"among" word is **중에서** (casually **중에**). If the answer is "none of them", use 별로 + a negative: 별로 안 좋아해요 ("I don't like it much").

4. Agreeing and disagreeing — 동의와 반대

STRENGTH	KOREAN	SAY IT	MEANING
strongly agree	완전 맞아요!	*wan-jeon ma-ja-yo*	totally right!
agree	저도 그렇게 생각해요.	*jeo-do geu-reo-ke saeng-ga-kae-yo*	I think so too.
acknowledge	아, 그렇군요.	*a, geu-reo-kun-yo*	Oh, I see.
hesitate	글쎄요.	*geul-sse-yo*	Well… (not sure)
mild disagreement	조금 생각이 달라요.	*jo-geum saeng-ga-gi dal-la-yo*	I see it a bit differently.
disagree	그렇지 않아요.	*geu-reo-chi a-na-yo*	That's not so.
strong disagreement	전혀 아니에요.	*jeon-hyeo a-ni-e-yo*	Not at all.

The polite pattern is: **agree first, then add your difference**. 맞아요. 그런데 저는… sounds much gentler than a flat 아니요. The ending **-지 않아요** is the written/formal way to say "doesn't": 좋지 않아요.

5. Talking about shows and films — 드라마와 영화

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
fun; interesting	재미있어요	*jae-mi-i-sseo-yo*
boring; not fun	재미없어요 / 지루해요	*jae-mi-eop-sseo-yo / ji-ru-hae-yo*
moving	감동적이에요	*gam-dong-jeo-gi-e-yo*

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
sad	슬퍼요	*seul-peo-yo*
funny	웃겨요	*ut-kkyeo-yo*
scary	무서워요	*mu-seo-wo-yo*
famous	유명해요	*yu-myeong-hae-yo*
acting	연기	*yeon-gi*
plot; storyline	줄거리	*jul-geo-ri*
ending	결말	*gyeol-mal*

📖 Vocabulary — 어휘

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	생각	*saeng-gak*	thought; opinion	noun
2	의견	*ui-gyeon*	opinion; view	noun
3	이유	*i-yu*	reason	noun
4	문법	*mun-beop*	grammar	noun
5	발음	*ba-reum*	pronunciation	noun
6	단어	*da-neo*	word; vocabulary	noun
7	교통	*gyo-tong*	transport; traffic	noun
8	줄거리	*jul-geo-ri*	plot; storyline	noun
9	결말	*gyeol-mal*	ending	noun
10	연기	*yeon-gi*	acting; performance	noun

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
11	더	*deo*	more	adverb
12	제일	*je-il*	the most; best	adverb
13	가장	*ga-jang*	the most (more formal)	adverb
14	훨씬	*hwol-ssin*	far more; much	adverb
15	별로	*byeol-lo*	not particularly (with a negative)	adverb
16	둘 다	*dul da*	both	phrase
17	생각하다	*saeng-ga-ka-da*	to think	verb
18	다르다	*da-reu-da*	to be different	adjective
19	맞다	*mat-tta*	to be right; to fit	verb
20	동의하다	*dong-ui-ha-da*	to agree	verb

Softening an Opinion

Direct disagreement can feel confrontational in Korean, especially with someone older or senior. Good polite habits: begin with 글쎄요 or 맞아요, then use 그런데; add 제 생각에는 and 것 같아요 to your own view; and say 조금 ("a little") before 달라요. A chain like 맞아요. 그런데 제 생각에는 조금 다른 것 같아요 is both honest and polite.

보다: Two Words, One Spelling

보다 is both the verb "to see; to watch" (영화를 봐요) and the comparison particle "than" (영화보다 드라마가 더 좋아요). The particle is attached to the noun with no space and always goes with 더 or a comparison. Context tells them apart: 드라마를 봐요 (I watch a drama) versus 드라마보다 영화가 더 좋아요 (I like films more than dramas).

Opinions on Shows: Taste Words

A fan says 취향 저격! ("it hit my taste exactly"). When opinions about something are split, Koreans say 호불호가 갈려요 ("likes and dislikes divide"), a polite way to say a show is controversial. And if a critic says 연기가 아쉬워요 ("the acting left something to be desired"), that is also a gentle way to be negative: 아쉽다 (Chapter 9) again.

As Heard in Dramas — 드라마에서

Friends settle debates with 인정! ("fair enough, I agree") and ㅇㅈ in chat (the same word, Chapter 10 style). A character who disagrees may say 아닌 것 같은데? ("I don't think so...?") using the same 것 같아요 pattern, with a rising tone.

Grammar Pointer

The describing-word forms before a noun (-ㄴ/-은/-는) are from Chapter 4, the ㅂ-irregular words (어려운, 쉬워요, 무서워요) from Chapter 6, the past tense (좋았어요, 지루했어요) from Chapter 9, and -(으)면 from Chapter 10. The new 르-irregular group (다르다 → 달라요) is introduced here. Chapter 12 is the last one: when things go wrong.

✍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

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

1. Ask "What do you think of this film?"

▼ Show answer

이 영화 어떻게 생각해요?

2. Say "I think it's really fun."

▼ Show answer

제 생각에는 정말 재미있는 것 같아요.

3. Say "Seoul is bigger than Busan."

▼ Show answer

서울이 부산보다 더 커요.

4. Say "I like tea more than coffee."

▼ Show answer

저는 커피보다 차를 더 좋아해요.

5. Disagree politely: "Well... I see it a little differently."

▼ Show answer

글쎄요. 저는 조금 생각이 달라요.

6. Ask a friend casually, "Which do you like more, chicken or pizza?"

▼ Show answer

치킨이랑 피자 중에 뭐가 더 좋아?