KR

KOREAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 2 · Chapter 12 · When Things Go Wrong

Korean Basic Conversation 2

Chapter 12 · When Things Go Wrong: Delays, Lost Items & Emergencies

🚨 When Things Go Wrong — 문제가 생겼을 때

Every trip has a day when something goes wrong: the train is late, the wallet vanishes, or worse. This last chapter of Korean Basic Conversation 2 gives you the language for exactly those moments: ***explaining a problem, asking for help, reporting a loss or a theft, and calling for emergency help****. Two new patterns carry it all:* ***-아/어야 해요*** *("I have to...") and* ***-(으)ㄹ 수 있어요*** *("I can..."). Dialogs carry a* ***Hard words*** *note, and the tables keep the "Say it" column. A* ***Course Complete*** *recap closes the chapter.*

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 A Delayed Train — 기차가 지연됐어요

A:

안내 방송 들었어요? 기차가 삼십 분 지연됐어요.

Did you hear the announcement? The train is delayed by thirty minutes.

B:

정말요? 그럼 약속에 늦을 것 같아요.

Really? Then I think I'll be late for my appointment.

A:

친구한테 연락해야 해요.

You have to contact your friend.

B:

네, 지금 카톡할게요.

Yes, I'll message them now.

② Lost — 길을 잃었어요

A:

죄송합니다. 길을 잃었어요. 여기가 어디예요?

Excuse me. I'm lost. Where is this?

B:

강남역 근처예요. 어디에 가세요?

It's near Gangnam Station. Where are you going?

A:

호텔에 가야 해요. 지도 좀 봐 주세요.

I have to get to my hotel. Please look at the map for me.

B:

저쪽으로 쭉 가세요. 오 분쯤 걸려요.

Go straight that way. It takes about five minutes.

Hard words: 안내 방송 an-nae bang-song · 지연됐어요 ji-yeon-dwae-sseo-yo · 늦을 것 같아요 neu-jeul geot ga-ta-yo · 연락해야 해요 yeol-la-kae-ya hae-yo · 친구한테 chin-gu-han-te

Hard words: 길을 잃었어요 gi-reul i-reo-sseo-yo · 가야 해요 ga-ya hae-yo · 지도 ji-do · 봐 주세요 bwa ju-se-yo · 저쪽 jeo-jjok · 쭉 jjuk

③ Lost and Found — 지갑을 잃어버렸어요

A:

지갑을 잃어버렸어요.

I've lost my wallet.

B:

어디에서 잃어버렸어요?

Where did you lose it?

A:

지하철에서요. 오늘 아침에 두고 내렸어요.

On the subway. I left it behind this morning when I got off.

B:

어떻게 생겼어요?

What does it look like?

A:

검은색이고 작아요. 안에 여권도 있어요.

It's black and small. My passport is inside too.

B:

찾으면 연락드릴게요. 연락처를 써 주세요.

If we find it, I'll contact you. Please write down your contact details.

Hard words: 잃어버렸어요 i-reo-beo-ryeo-sseo-yo · 두고 내렸어요 du-go nae-ryeo-sseo-yo · 어떻게 생겼어요 eo-tteo-ke saeng-gyeo-sseo-yo · 여권

④ Theft — 가방을 도둑맞았어요

A:

도와주세요! 가방을 도둑맞았어요!

Help! My bag has been stolen!

B:

진정하세요. 언제 도둑맞았어요?

Please calm down. When was it stolen?

A:

방금요. 지하철에서 소매치기를 당했어요.

Just now. I was pickpocketed on the subway.

B:

경찰서에 신고해야 해요. 카드도 정지해야 해요.

You have to report it to the police. You also have to suspend your cards.

Hard words: 도둑맞았어요 do-dung-ma-ja-sseo-yo · 진정하세요 jin-jeong-ha-se-yo · 방금 bang-geum · 소매치기 so-mae-chi-gi · 신고 sin-go · 정지 jeong-ji

yeo-kkwon · 찾으면 cha-jeu-myeon · 연락드릴게요 yeol-lak-deu-ril-ge-yo

⑤ An Emergency Call — 119입니다

A:

119입니다. 무슨 일이세요?

119. What's the emergency?

B:

사고가 났어요! 사람이 다쳤어요!

There's been an accident! Someone is hurt!

A:

위치가 어디예요?

Where are you?

B:

강남역 앞이에요. 의식은 있어요. 그런데 다리가 많이 아파요.

In front of Gangnam Station. They are conscious. But their leg hurts a lot.

A:

구급차가 곧 갑니다. 거기에서 기다려 주세요.

An ambulance is on its way. Please wait there.

Hard words: 사고가 났어요 sa-go-ga na-sseo-yo · 다쳤어요 da-chyeo-sseo-yo · 위치 wi-chi · 의식 ui-sik · 구급차 gu-geup-cha · 곧 got

⑥ Two Friends (casual) — 어떡해!

A:

어떡해! 휴대폰을 잃어버렸어!

Oh no! I've lost my phone!

B:

진짜? 걱정하지 마. 같이 찾아 보자.

Really? Don't worry. Let's look for it together.

A:

마지막으로 카페에서 봤어.

I last saw it at the café.

B:

카페에 두고 왔을 수도 있어. 전화해 볼게!

You might have left it there. I'll try calling!

Hard words: 어떡해 eo-tteo-kae · 걱정 geok-jjeong · 찾아 보자 cha-ja bo-ja · 마지막으로 ma-ji-ma-geu-ro · 두고 왔을 수도 있어 du-go wa-sseul su-do i-sseo · 전화해 볼게 jeon-hwa-hae bol-ge

🔑 Key Phrases — 중요한 표현

SITUATION	POLITE	CASUAL
Help!	도와주세요! *do-wa-ju-se-yo!*	도와줘! *do-wa-jwo!*

SITUATION	POLITE	CASUAL
I'm lost.	길을 잃었어요. *gi-reul i-reo-sseo-yo.*	길을 잃었어. *gi-reul i-reo-sseo.*
I've lost my …	…을/를 잃어버렸어요. *…eul/reul i-reo-beo-ryeo-sseo-yo.*	…을/를 잃어버렸어. *…eul/reul i-reo-beo-ryeo-sseo.*
My … was stolen.	…을/를 도둑맞았어요. *…eul/reul do-dung-ma-ja-sseo-yo.*	…을/를 도둑맞았어. *…eul/reul do-dung-ma-ja-sseo.*
Can you speak English?	영어 할 수 있어요? *yeong-eo hal su i-sseo-yo?*	영어 할 수 있어? *yeong-eo hal su i-sseo?*
What should I do?	어떻게 해야 해요? *eo-tteo-ke hae-ya hae-yo?*	어떡해? *eo-tteo-kae?*

🔤 Three Verbs for Trouble — 동사

VERB	EVERYDAY POLITE (-요)	FORMAL (-ㅂ니다)	CASUAL
to miss (a bus); to let slip (놓치다)	놓쳐요 *no-chyeo-yo*	놓칩니다 *no-chim-ni-da*	놓쳐 *no-chyeo*
to look for; to find (찾다)	찾아요 *cha-ja-yo*	찾습니다 *chat-sseum-ni-da*	찾아 *cha-ja*
to report (신고하다)	신고해요 *sin-go-hae-yo*	신고합니다 *sin-go-ham-ni-da*	신고해 *sin-go-hae*

🧱 Five Tools for Trouble

1. "I have to…" — -아/어야 해요

Take the same -아/어 stem you use for the polite ending, add **-야 해요**: 가요 → 가야 해요 ("I have to go"), 먹어요 → 먹어야 해요, 해요 → 해야 해요, 찾아요 → 찾아야 해요. The

question 어떻게 해야 해요? ("what should I do?") is the most useful sentence in this chapter.

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
I have to go to the police station.	경찰서에 가야 해요.	*gyeong-chal-sseo-e ga-ya hae-yo*
I have to call the bank.	은행에 전화해야 해요.	*eun-haeng-e jeon-hwa-hae-ya hae-yo*
I have to get off here.	여기에서 내려야 해요.	*yeo-gi-e-seo nae-ryeo-ya hae-yo*
You have to report it.	신고해야 해요.	*sin-go-hae-ya hae-yo*

2. "I can / I can't" — -(으)ㄹ 수 있어요 / 없어요

After a vowel stem add **-ㄹ 수 있어요**; after a consonant stem add **-을 수 있어요**. The negative is **수 없어요**: 영어 할 수 있어요? ("can you speak English?"), 도와주실 수 있어요? ("could you help me?"), 갈 수 없어요 ("I can't go", the same idea as 못 가요 from Chapter 9). The "maybe" version, **-(으)ㄹ 수도 있어요**, expresses possibility: 두고 왔을 수도 있어요 ("I might have left it behind").

3. What went wrong? — 문제 표현

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
I'm late.	늦었어요.	*neu-jeo-sseo-yo*
I missed the bus.	버스를 놓쳤어요.	*beo-seu-reul no-chyeo-sseo-yo*
The train is delayed.	기차가 지연됐어요.	*gi-cha-ga ji-yeon-dwae-sseo-yo*
The flight was cancelled.	비행기가 취소됐어요.	*bi-haeng-gi-ga chwi-so-dwae-sseo-yo*
It's broken.	고장 났어요.	*go-jang na-sseo-yo*

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
I lost my wallet.	지갑을 잃어버렸어요.	*ji-ga-beul i-reo-beo-ryeo-sseo-yo*
I left it behind.	두고 왔어요. / 두고 내렸어요.	*du-go wa-sseo-yo / du-go nae-ryeo-sseo-yo*
It was stolen.	도둑맞았어요.	*do-dung-ma-ja-sseo-yo*
There's been an accident.	사고가 났어요.	*sa-go-ga na-sseo-yo*
There's a fire.	불이 났어요.	*bu-ri na-sseo-yo*

Words ending in **-되다** (지연되다, 취소되다) describe things that "get done" to the subject: 취소됐어요 ("it was cancelled"). **도둑맞다** and **소매치기를 당하다** both mean you suffered a theft.

4. Things you might lose — 물건

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
wallet	지갑	*ji-gap*	mobile phone	휴대폰	*hyu-dae-pon*
passport	여권	*yeo-kkwon*	bag	가방	*ga-bang*
card	카드	*ka-deu*	key	열쇠	*yeol-soe*
ID card	신분증	*sin-bun-jjeung*	umbrella	우산	*u-san*

The staff will ask 어디에서 잃어버렸어요? (where), 언제 잃어버렸어요? (when) and 어떻게 생겼어요? ("what does it look like?"). Your answer: colour (검은색이에요), size (작아요), contents (안에 …이/가 있어요).

5. Emergency numbers and places — 긴급 전화

NUMBER OR PLACE	FOR	SAY IT
119 (일일구)	fire and ambulance	*i-ril-gu*
112 (일일이)	police	*i-ri-ri*
1330 (일삼삼공)	Korea Travel Helpline, for visitors	*il-sam-sam-gong*
경찰서	police station	*gyeong-chal-sseo*
응급실	emergency room	*eung-geup-sil*
분실물 센터	lost-property office	*bun-sil-mul sen-teo*
영국 대사관	the British embassy (your own country's embassy: 대사관)	*yeong-guk dae-sa-gwan*

On the phone, say what happened, where you are, and who is hurt: 사고가 났어요. 강남역 앞이에요. 한 명이 다쳤어요. If you cannot explain, say 저는 외국인이에요. 한국어를 잘 못해요. ("I'm a foreigner. I don't speak Korean well.") and 영어 하는 사람 있어요? ("is there someone who speaks English?"). Check the current numbers and the helpline before you travel.

📖 Vocabulary — 어휘

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	지갑	*ji-gap*	wallet	noun
2	여권	*yeo-kkwon*	passport	noun
3	열쇠	*yeol-soe*	key	noun
4	분실물	*bun-sil-mul*	lost property	noun
5	경찰서	*gyeong-chal-sseo*	police station	noun
6	대사관	*dae-sa-gwan*	embassy	noun

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
7	응급실	*eung-geup-sil*	emergency room	noun
8	구급차	*gu-geup-cha*	ambulance	noun
9	사고	*sa-go*	accident	noun
10	소매치기	*so-mae-chi-gi*	pickpocket; pickpocketing	noun
11	지연	*ji-yeon*	delay	noun
12	신고	*sin-go*	report (to the authorities)	noun
13	잃어버리다	*i-reo-beo-ri-da*	to lose (an item)	verb
14	놓치다	*no-chi-da*	to miss (a bus, a chance)	verb
15	찾다	*chat-tta*	to look for; to find	verb
16	다치다	*da-chi-da*	to get hurt	verb
17	도와주다	*do-wa-ju-da*	to help	verb
18	늦다	*neut-tta*	to be late	verb
19	걱정하다	*geok-jjeong-ha-da*	to worry	verb
20	어떡해	*eo-tteo-kae*	what do I do?! (exclamation)	phrase

Numbers Worth Memorising

119 for fire and ambulance, **112** for the police, and **1330** for the Korea Travel Helpline, which is set up to help visitors. Put them in your phone before you travel. At a station, the quickest help for a lost item is the station staff or the **분실물 센터**. Keep a photo of your passport and a note of your embassy's number (**대사관**) in a separate place.

어떡해 vs 어떻게

These are easy to mix up. **어떻게** means "how" (어떻게 가요?, "how do I get there?"), while **어떡해** is a contraction of 어떻게 해 and means "what do I do?!", a cry of panic: 어떡해! Spelling matters: ㅎ + ㅐ is "hae", but the ㅋ sound in 어떡해 comes from the ㄱ in 떡 meeting the ㅎ.

Stay Calm, Stay Polite

Even in trouble, use polite speech to strangers: 죄송합니다만… ("I'm sorry to trouble you, but…"), 도와주실 수 있어요? ("could you help me?"). If someone tells you 진정하세요 ("please calm down"), take a breath and say the key facts again: what, where, who. Say 천천히 말씀해 주세요 (Chapter 10) if you need them to slow down.

As Heard in Dramas — 드라마에서

Crisis scenes have their own phrases: **큰일 났다!** ("we're in big trouble!"), **정신 차려!** ("pull yourself together!", "come to!"), **괜찮아? 어디 다쳤어?** ("are you OK? are you hurt anywhere?") and the unforgettable **어떡해, 어떡해…**. Knowing these makes the most dramatic moments in a K-drama easy to follow.

Grammar Pointer

The -아/어 stem is the same one used for the polite ending and the past (Chapter 9). -(으)면 ("if") is from Chapter 10, -지 마세요 ("don't") from Chapter 8, and -아/어 주세요 and 못 from Chapters 7 and 9. The new patterns here, -아/어야 해요 ("must") and -(으)ㄹ 수 있어요 ("can"), return in Korean Basic Conversation 3.

🏁 Course Complete — Korean Basic Conversation 2

*Congratulations. You have finished all twelve chapters of Korean Basic Conversation 2. In Course 1 you learned phrases for situations; now you can **talk about your own life**: your day, your hobbies, your plans, your home, the weather, the past, and what you think, and you can cope when things go wrong.*

CHAPTER	YOU CAN NOW…
1 · Your Daily Routine	describe your day with times, frequency words and -고

CHAPTER	YOU CAN NOW…
2 · Hobbies & Free Time	say what you like, how often you do it and how well
3 · Making Plans & Invitations	suggest, invite, accept and decline with -(으)ㄹ까요, -(으)ㄹ래요 and -(으)ㄹ 거예요
4 · Describing People & Things	describe appearance, character and colours, and join descriptions with -지만
5 · Your Home & Neighbourhood	describe your home, floors, rent and what is nearby
6 · Weather & Seasons	talk about the weather and seasons, using the ㅂ-irregular pattern
7 · Eating Out	order, explain what you cannot eat, complain politely and pay
8 · At the Doctor & the Pharmacy	say where it hurts and follow a doctor's or pharmacist's instructions
9 · Talking About the Past	use the full past tense and 안 / 못, and tell a story in order
10 · Phone Calls & Making Appointments	make calls, book, change and cancel, and message on KakaoTalk
11 · Giving Opinions & Preferences	ask for and give opinions, compare, and agree or disagree politely
12 · When Things Go Wrong	explain a problem, report a loss, and call for help

> **What Comes Next — Korean Basic Conversation 3**
>
> Korean Basic Conversation 3 builds on this course with longer conversations and more complex situations. Until then, the best practice is to watch Korean dramas with Korean subtitles, to message a friend in Korean, and to say aloud what you did today using the past tense.

✍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

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

1. Say "I missed the bus, so I'm late."

▼ Show answer

버스를 놓쳤어요. 그래서 늦었어요.

2. Say "I've lost my wallet. My passport was inside."

▼ Show answer

지갑을 잃어버렸어요. 안에 여권이 있었어요.

3. Say "I have to go to the police station."

▼ Show answer

경찰서에 가야 해요.

4. Ask someone "Can you speak English?"

▼ Show answer

영어 할 수 있어요?

5. Shout for help and ask someone to call 119.

▼ Show answer

도와주세요! 119에 전화해 주세요!

6. Tell a friend casually, "What do I do?! I've lost my phone!"

▼ Show answer

어떡해! 휴대폰을 잃어버렸어!