KR

KOREAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 2 · Chapter 7 · Eating Out

Korean Basic Conversation 2

Chapter 7 · Eating Out: Restaurants, Dietary Needs & Complaints

🍽️ Eating Out — 외식

Korean Basic Conversation 1, Chapter 8 got you through a café. A Korean restaurant is a bigger challenge: shared dishes, a table full of free side dishes, a grill in the middle of the table, and rules about who eats first. This chapter gives you the words to ***order, explain what you cannot eat, send a dish back politely and pay****. Dialogs have a short* ***Hard words*** *note instead of romanization; 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 Arriving — 몇 분이세요?

A:

어서 오세요. 몇 분이세요?

Welcome. How many people?

B:

두 명이에요.

Two.

A:

이쪽으로 오세요. 메뉴 여기 있습니다.

This way, please. Here's the menu.

B:

감사합니다. 저기요, 물 좀 주세요.

Thank you. Excuse me, could I have some water?

Hard words: 어서 오세요 eo-seo o-se-yo · 몇 분 myeot bun · 이쪽 i-jjok · 메뉴 me-nyu · 저기요 jeo-gi-yo

② Ordering — 추천해 주세요

A:

뭐가 맛있어요? 추천해 주세요.

What's good? Please recommend something.

B:

불고기가 맛있어요. 인기가 많아요.

The bulgogi is good. It's very popular.

A:

그럼 불고기 이 인분하고 공기밥 두 개 주세요.

Then two portions of bulgogi and two bowls of rice, please.

B:

네, 알겠습니다. 음료는요?

Certainly. And to drink?

Hard words: 추천 chu-cheon · 불고기 bul-go-gi · 인기 in-kki · 인분 in-bun · 공기밥 gong-gi-bap · 음료 eum-nyo

③ Dietary Needs — 저는 채식주의자예요

A:

저는 채식주의자예요. 고기를 안 먹어요.

I'm a vegetarian. I don't eat meat.

B:

아, 그래요? 해산물은요?

Oh, really? What about seafood?

A:

해산물도 못 먹어요. 그리고 땅콩 알레르기가 있어요.

I can't eat seafood either. And I'm allergic to peanuts.

B:

알겠습니다. 비빔밥에서 고기를 빼 드릴까요?

Understood. Shall I take the meat out of the bibimbap?

Hard words: 채식주의자 chae-sik-ju-ui-ja · 해산물 hae-san-mul · 땅콩 ttang-kong · 알레르기 al-le-reu-gi · 빼 드릴까요 ppae deu-ril-kka-yo

④ At the Barbecue — 반찬 좀 더 주세요

A:

저기요, 반찬 좀 더 주세요.

Excuse me, could we have more side dishes?

B:

네, 바로 가져다 드릴게요.

Of course, I'll bring them right away.

A:

고기는 어떻게 먹어요?

How do you eat the meat?

B:

상추에 싸서 드세요. 마늘하고 쌈장도 같이요.

Wrap it in lettuce. With garlic and ssamjang (dipping paste) too.

Hard words: 반찬 ban-chan · 가져다 드릴게요 ga-jyeo-da deu-ril-ge-yo · 상추 sang-chu · 싸서 ssa-seo ("wrapping it and") · 쌈장 ssam-jang · 드세요 deu-se-yo

⑤ A Complaint — 이거 안 시켰어요

A:

저기요, 이거 안 시켰어요.

Excuse me, I didn't order this.

B:

죄송합니다. 어떤 걸 시키셨어요?

I'm sorry. What did you order?

A:

⑥ Two Friends (casual) — 반반 내자!

A:

잘 먹었다! 진짜 맛있었어.

That was great! It was really tasty.

B:

응, 나도! 계산은 내가 할게.

Yeah, me too! I'll pay.

A:

된장찌개를 시켰어요. 그리고 이 음식은 너무 식었어요.

The soybean-paste stew. And this dish has gone cold.

B:

죄송합니다. 바로 바꿔 드리겠습니다.

I apologise. I'll change it for you straight away.

Hard words: 시켰어요 si-kyeo-sseo-yo · 된장찌개 doen-jang-jji-gae · 식었어요 si-geo-sseo-yo · 바꿔 ba-kkwo · 드리겠습니다 deu-ri-get-sseum-ni-da

아니야, 같이 내자. 더치페이!

No, let's pay together. Go Dutch!

B:

그래, 그럼 반반 내자!

OK, then let's split it half and half!

Hard words: 잘 먹었다 jal meo-geot-tta · 계산 gye-san · 더치페이 deo-chi-pe-i · 반반 ban-ban · 내자 nae-ja

🔑 Key Phrases — 중요한 표현

SITUATION	POLITE	CASUAL
Two people.	두 명이에요. *du myeong-i-e-yo.*	두 명이야. *du myeong-i-ya.*
Menu, please. / Excuse me!	메뉴 좀 주세요. / 저기요! *me-nyu jom ju-se-yo. / jeo-gi-yo!*	메뉴 좀 줘. / 저기요! *me-nyu jom jwo. / jeo-gi-yo!*
What do you recommend?	뭐가 맛있어요? 추천해 주세요. *mwo-ga ma-si-sseo-yo? chu-cheon-hae ju-se-yo.*	뭐가 맛있어? *mwo-ga ma-si-sseo?*
I can't eat spicy food.	매운 거 못 먹어요. *mae-un geo mot meo-geo-yo.*	매운 거 못 먹어. *mae-un geo mot meo-geo.*
Please make it not spicy.	안 맵게 해 주세요. *an maep-ge hae ju-se-yo.*	안 맵게 해 줘. *an maep-ge hae jwo.*
The bill, please.	계산해 주세요. *gye-san-hae ju-se-yo.*	계산할게. *gye-san-hal-ge.*

🔤 Three Verbs for the Restaurant — 동사

VERB	EVERYDAY POLITE (-요)	FORMAL (-ㅂ니다)	CASUAL
to order (시키다)	시켜요 *si-kyeo-yo*	시킵니다 *si-king-ni-da*	시켜 *si-kyeo*
to come out; to be served (나오다)	나와요 *na-wa-yo*	나옵니다 *na-om-ni-da*	나와 *na-wa*
to pay; to put out (내다)	내요 *nae-yo*	냅니다 *naem-ni-da*	내 *nae*

🧱 Five Tools for the Restaurant

1. Counting people and portions

Restaurants count people, portions and drinks, each with its own counter (see also Korean Basic Conversation 1, Chapter 8). People use native numbers + **명**, or the respectful **분** when the server asks you: 몇 분이세요? — 두 명이에요. Meat is ordered by the **인분** (portion), with Sino-Korean numbers.

COUNTER	FOR	EXAMPLE	SAY IT
명 (native numbers)	people	세 명이에요	*se myeong-i-e-yo*
인분 (Sino-Korean)	portions of meat etc.	삼겹살 이 인분 주세요	*sam-gyeop-ssal i in-bun ju-se-yo*
병 (native numbers)	bottles	맥주 한 병 주세요	*maek-ju han byeong ju-se-yo*
잔 (native numbers)	glasses; cups	물 두 잔 주세요	*mul du jan ju-se-yo*

COUNTER	FOR	EXAMPLE	SAY IT
개 (native numbers)	things; bowls of rice	공기밥 두 개 주세요	*gong-gi-bap du gae ju-se-yo*

2. What you can and cannot eat

Say what you are with **-이에요/예요**: 저는 채식주의자예요 ("I'm a vegetarian"). Say what you do not eat with **안** (a choice) or **못** (you are unable to): 고기를 안 먹어요 ("I don't eat meat"), 매운 거 못 먹어요 ("I can't eat spicy food"). Allergies: 땅콩 알레르기가 있어요 ("I have a peanut allergy"). Ask for a change with **-아/어 주세요**: 고기 빼 주세요 ("please leave out the meat"), 안 맵게 해 주세요 ("please make it mild"). Chapter 9 teaches the difference between 안 and 못 in full.

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
vegetarian	채식주의자	*chae-sik-ju-ui-ja*
meat	고기	*go-gi*
seafood	해산물	*hae-san-mul*
egg	계란 / 달걀	*gye-ran / dal-gyal*
peanut	땅콩	*ttang-kong*
allergy	알레르기	*al-le-reu-gi*

3. Taste words

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
delicious	맛있어요	*ma-si-sseo-yo*
not tasty	맛없어요	*ma-deop-sseo-yo*
spicy	매워요	*mae-wo-yo*

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
salty	짜요	*jja-yo*
bland; not salty enough	싱거워요	*sing-geo-wo-yo*
sweet	달아요	*da-ra-yo*
bitter	써요	*sseo-yo*
very hot (to the touch)	뜨거워요	*tteu-geo-wo-yo*
cold (to the touch)	차가워요	*cha-ga-wo-yo*

Several of these are ㅂ-irregular from Chapter 6 (매워요, 싱거워요, 뜨거워요, 차가워요). Add **너무** ("too") to complain: 너무 짜요 ("it's too salty").

4. Complaining politely

A complaint is a statement of fact plus a request. Start with **저기요** or **죄송하지만** ("sorry, but..."). Describe the problem with the past tense you met in Chapter 4: 이거 안 시켰어요 ("I didn't order this"), 음식이 아직 안 나왔어요 ("the food hasn't come yet"), 음식이 식었어요 ("the food has gone cold"). Then ask: 바꿔 주세요 ("please change it"), 확인해 주세요 ("please check"). If the bill is wrong: 계산이 잘못됐어요. The server will answer 죄송합니다 and fix it.

5. Table phrases — 식사 표현

WHEN	KOREAN	MEANING
Before eating	잘 먹겠습니다. *jal meok-get-sseum-ni-da*	"I will eat well" (thanks for the food)
From the host or server	맛있게 드세요. *ma-sit-ge deu-se-yo*	"Enjoy your meal"
After eating	잘 먹었습니다. *jal meo-geot-sseum-ni-da*	"I ate well" (thanks for the meal)

WHEN	KOREAN	MEANING
Offering to pay	제가 낼게요. *je-ga nael-ge-yo*	"I'll pay"
Treating someone	제가 살게요. *je-ga sal-ge-yo*	"It's my treat"

📖 Vocabulary — 어휘

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	메뉴	*me-nyu*	menu	noun
2	반찬	*ban-chan*	side dishes	noun
3	인분	*in-bun*	portion; serving	counter
4	명	*myeong*	person (counter)	counter
5	고기	*go-gi*	meat	noun
6	해산물	*hae-san-mul*	seafood	noun
7	채식주의자	*chae-sik-ju-ui-ja*	vegetarian	noun
8	알레르기	*al-le-reu-gi*	allergy	noun
9	계산	*gye-san*	bill; paying	noun
10	음식	*eum-sik*	food; dish	noun
11	추천	*chu-cheon*	recommendation	noun
12	시키다	*si-ki-da*	to order	verb
13	나오다	*na-o-da*	to come out; be served	verb
14	내다	*nae-da*	to pay; to put out	verb
15	바꾸다	*ba-kku-da*	to change; exchange	verb

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
16	식다	*sik-tta*	to get cold (food)	verb
17	짜다	*jja-da*	to be salty	adjective
18	싱겁다	*sing-geop-tta*	to be bland	adjective
19	맵다	*maep-tta*	to be spicy	adjective
20	너무	*neo-mu*	too; very	adverb

Wait for the Eldest

At a table with elders or seniors, it is polite to wait until the oldest person has picked up their spoon before you start. Say 잘 먹겠습니다 before eating, and 잘 먹었습니다 when you finish. When someone pours you a drink, receive the glass with two hands, and turn slightly away from an elder when you drink.

Free Refills, No Tipping

The side dishes (**반찬**) that come with the meal are usually free, and you can ask for more with 반찬 더 주세요. Many tables have a **call button** for the server; otherwise call out 저기요 or 여기요. Tipping is not expected in Korea. At a barbecue restaurant, staff will often cut the meat with kitchen scissors (**가위**) at your table.

Hidden Meat and Fish

Being vegetarian in Korea takes explaining: soups and stews are often made with anchovy or beef stock, and kimchi is usually made with fish sauce or salted shrimp. Say clearly what you avoid (고기도 해산물도 안 먹어요), and ask if the broth also contains it. **사찰 음식** (Buddhist temple food) is plant-based and a good place to eat in peace.

As Heard in Dramas — 드라마에서

In Korean the greeting 밥 먹었어요? ("have you eaten?") means roughly "how are you?" and shows that someone cares. Characters also celebrate with **치맥**, fried chicken (**치킨**) with beer (**맥주**), and after work with a **회식** (company dinner, see Korean Basic Conversation 2, Chapter 1).

Grammar Pointer

못 and **안** are taught in full in Korean Basic Conversation 2, Chapter 9; the ㅂ-irregular words are from Chapter 6, and the future-style -(으)ㄹ게요 ("I'll do it") appeared in Chapter 3 (갈게요) and Chapter 6 (살게). Counters for people and drinks are in Korean Basic Conversation 1, Chapter 8, and numbers in Korean Grammar 1, chapter 9.

✍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

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

1. The server asks how many you are. Answer "Three people."

▼ Show answer

세 명이에요.

2. Call the server and ask for the menu.

▼ Show answer

저기요, 메뉴 좀 주세요.

3. Say "I'm a vegetarian. I don't eat meat or seafood."

▼ Show answer

저는 채식주의자예요. 고기도 해산물도 안 먹어요.

4. Say "I can't eat spicy food. Please make it mild."

▼ Show answer

매운 거 못 먹어요. 안 맵게 해 주세요.

5. Complain: "Excuse me, I didn't order this. And it's too salty."

▼ Show answer

저기요, 이거 안 시켰어요. 그리고 너무 짜요.

6. Tell a friend casually, "That was great! Let's split the bill."

▼ Show answer

잘 먹었다! 반반 내자!