KR

KOREAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 2 · Chapter 8 · Doctor

🏥 At the Doctor & the Pharmacy — 병원과 약국

*Being ill in a foreign language is stressful, so this chapter is built to be **useful before it is perfect**. You will learn to say where it hurts, what you feel and since when, to understand a doctor's instructions (do this, don't do that), and to follow a pharmacist's directions for taking medicine. Dialogs have a **Hard words** note under them; the tables keep the "Say it" column. If you have a serious emergency, see Chapter 12 for the numbers to call.*

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 Not Feeling Well — 어디가 안 좋으세요?

A:

어디가 안 좋으세요?

What seems to be the problem?

B:

머리가 아프고 열이 나요.

I have a headache and a fever.

A:

언제부터 아팠어요?

Since when have you been feeling ill?

B:

어제부터 아팠어요.

Since yesterday.

Hard words: 안 좋으세요 an jo-eu-se-yo · 열이 나요 yeo-ri na-yo · 아프고 a-peu-go · 언제부터 eon-je-bu-teo · 아팠어요 a-pa-sseo-yo

② Registration — 접수 도와 드릴게요

A:

처음 오셨어요?

Is this your first visit?

B:

네, 처음이에요.

Yes, it's my first time.

A:

여기에 이름하고 연락처를 쓰세요. 보험증 있으세요?

Please write your name and contact number here. Do you have your insurance card?

B:

네, 여기 있어요.

Yes, here it is.

Hard words: 접수 jeop-ssu · 오셨어요 o-syeo-sseo-yo · 연락처 yeol-lak-cheo · 보험증 bo-heom-jjeung · 쓰세요 sseu-se-yo

③ The Examination — 목이 부었네요

A:

입을 벌려 보세요. 목이 많이 부었네요.

Please open your mouth. Your throat is very swollen.

B:

감기예요?

Is it a cold?

A:

네, 감기에 걸렸어요. 주사를 맞고 약을 드세요.

Yes, you've caught a cold. Have an injection and take the medicine.

B:

알겠습니다. 감사합니다.

Understood. Thank you.

Hard words: 벌려 보세요 beol-lyeo bo-se-yo · 부었네요 bu-eon-ne-yo · 걸렸어요 geol-lyeo-sseo-yo · 주사 ju-sa · 맞고 mat-kko

④ Doctor's Orders — 술을 마시면 안 돼요

A:

술을 마시면 안 돼요.

You must not drink alcohol.

B:

운동은요? 해도 돼요?

And exercise? May I do it?

A:

운동도 하지 마세요. 푹 쉬세요.

Don't exercise either. Rest well.

B:

물은 많이 마셔도 돼요?

May I drink plenty of water?

A:

네, 물은 많이 드세요.

Yes, drink plenty of water.

Hard words: 안 돼요 an dwae-yo · 해도 돼요 hae-do dwae-yo · 하지 마세요 ha-ji ma-se-yo · 푹 puk · 드세요 deu-se-yo

⑤ At the Pharmacy — 하루에 세 번 드세요

A:

처방전 가지고 왔어요.

I've brought a prescription.

B:

네, 약 드릴게요. 하루에 세 번, 식후 삼십 분에 드세요.

Yes, here's your medicine. Take it three times a day, 30 minutes after meals.

A:

⑥ Two Friends (casual) — 빨리 나아!

A:

너 안색이 안 좋아. 어디 아파?

You look pale. Are you ill?

B:

응, 배가 너무 아파. 어제 매운 걸 많이 먹었어.

Yeah, my stomach really hurts. I ate lots of spicy food yesterday.

A:

한 번에 몇 알이에요?

How many tablets each time?

B:

한 알이에요. 오 일 동안 드세요. 빨리 나으세요!

One tablet. Take it for five days. Get well soon!

Hard words: 처방전 cheo-bang-jeon · 가지고 왔어요 ga-ji-go wa-sseo-yo · 식후 sik-hu · 알 al · 동안 dong-an · 나으세요 na-eu-se-yo

병원에 가 봐!

Go and see a doctor!

B:

약국부터 갈게. 고마워.

I'll start with the pharmacy. Thanks.

A:

푹 쉬어! 빨리 나아!

Rest well! Get well soon!

Hard words: 안색 an-saek · 배가 아파 bae-ga a-pa · 가 봐 ga bwa · 약국부터 yak-guk-bu-teo · 나아 na-a

🔑 Key Phrases — 중요한 표현

SITUATION	POLITE	CASUAL
Where does it hurt?	어디가 아파요? *eo-di-ga a-pa-yo?*	어디가 아파? *eo-di-ga a-pa?*
My ... hurts.	...이/가 아파요. *...i/ga a-pa-yo.*	...이/가 아파. *...i/ga a-pa.*
I don't feel well.	몸이 안 좋아요. *mo-mi an jo-a-yo.*	몸이 안 좋아. *mo-mi an jo-a.*
Since when have you been ill?	언제부터 아팠어요? *eon-je-bu-teo a-pa-sseo-yo?*	언제부터 아팠어? *eon-je-bu-teo a-pa-sseo?*
Are you OK?	괜찮으세요? *gwaen-cha-neu-se-yo?*	괜찮아? *gwaen-cha-na?*
Get well soon!	빨리 나으세요! *ppal-li na-eu-se-yo!*	빨리 나아! *ppal-li na-a!*

🔤 Three Words for Illness — 동사

WORD	EVERYDAY POLITE (-요)	FORMAL (-ㅂ니다)	CASUAL
to hurt; to be ill (아프다)	아파요 *a-pa-yo*	아픕니다 *a-peum-ni-da*	아파 *a-pa*
to get better (낫다)	나아요 *na-a-yo*	낫습니다 *nat-sseum-ni-da*	나아 *na-a*
to catch (a cold); to take (time) (걸리다)	걸려요 *geol-lyeo-yo*	걸립니다 *geol-lim-ni-da*	걸려 *geol-lyeo*

아프다 follows the ㅡ-drop rule from Chapter 4 (아프 + 아요 → 아파요). **낫다** is a "ㅅ-irregular" verb: the ㅅ disappears before a vowel (나아요, 나으세요) but stays before a consonant (낫습니다). Learn it as the verb for "getting well".

🧱 Five Tools for the Doctor

1. Where does it hurt? — 이/가 아파요

In Korean, you do not "have" a headache; the part of the body *hurts*: 머리가 아파요, 배가 아파요, 목이 아파요. Doctors ask 어디가 아파요? or the more polite 어디가 안 좋으세요? You can also simply point and say 여기가 아파요 ("it hurts here").

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
head	머리	*meo-ri*	stomach; belly	배	*bae*
face	얼굴	*eol-gul*	(lower) back	허리	*heo-ri*
eye	눈	*nun*	back	등	*deung*
nose	코	*ko*	arm	팔	*pal*
mouth	입	*ip*	hand	손	*son*
ear	귀	*gwi*	leg	다리	*da-ri*

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
throat; neck	목	*mok*	foot	발	*bal*
shoulder	어깨	*eo-kkae*	tooth	이	*i*

2. Symptoms — 증상

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
I have a fever.	열이 나요.	*yeo-ri na-yo*
I have a cough.	기침이 나요.	*gi-chi-mi na-yo*
I have a runny nose.	콧물이 나요.	*kon-mu-ri na-yo*
I've caught a cold.	감기에 걸렸어요.	*gam-gi-e geol-lyeo-sseo-yo*
I feel dizzy.	어지러워요.	*eo-ji-reo-wo-yo*
I have an upset stomach.	배탈이 났어요.	*bae-ta-ri na-sseo-yo*
I've hurt myself.	다쳤어요.	*da-chyeo-sseo-yo*

To say *since when*, add **부터** after a time word: 어제부터 (since yesterday), 이틀 전부터 (since two days ago), 아침부터 (since the morning). **어지러워요** is another ㅂ-irregular word (Chapter 6).

3. Doing and not doing — three endings you will hear

ENDING	MEANING	EXAMPLE	SAY IT
-(으)세요	please do (instruction)	푹 쉬세요	*puk swi-se-yo*
-지 마세요	please don't	운동하지 마세요	*un-dong-ha-ji ma-se-yo*

ENDING	MEANING	EXAMPLE	SAY IT
-(으)면 안 돼요	you must not	술을 마시면 안 돼요	*su-reul ma-si-myeon an dwae-yo*
-아/어도 돼요	you may; it's OK to	물을 마셔도 돼요	*mu-reul ma-syeo-do dwae-yo*

For -(으)면 안 돼요, add **-면** to a vowel stem and **-으면** to a consonant stem: 하다 → 하면, 먹다 → 먹으면. In the doctor's office the polite word for "eat/drink" is **드세요** (물을 많이 드세요, "drink plenty of water"), the honorific of 먹다/마시다.

4. Taking medicine — 약 먹는 방법

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
three times a day	하루에 세 번	*ha-ru-e se beon*
after meals	식후에	*si-ku-e*
before meals	식전에	*sik-jeo-ne*
30 minutes after meals	식후 삼십 분에	*si-ku sam-sip bu-ne*
one tablet at a time	한 번에 한 알	*han beo-ne han al*
for five days	오 일 동안	*o il dong-an*
before bed	자기 전에	*ja-gi jeo-ne*

The frequency pattern is the one from Chapter 2 (하루에 세 번 = "three times a day"). **알** is the counter for pills and small round things, with native numbers: 한 알, 두 알.

5. Places and people — 병원, 약국

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
hospital; clinic	병원	*byeong-won*

ENGLISH	KOREAN	SAY IT
pharmacy	약국	*yak-guk*
internal medicine (general illness)	내과	*nae-kkwa*
ear, nose and throat	이비인후과	*i-bi-in-hu-gwa*
orthopaedics (bones, joints)	정형외과	*jeong-hyeong-oe-gwa*
dentist	치과	*chi-gwa*
painkiller	진통제	*jin-tong-je*
digestive medicine	소화제	*so-hwa-je*

📖 Vocabulary — 어휘

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	병원	*byeong-won*	hospital; clinic	noun
2	약국	*yak-guk*	pharmacy	noun
3	의사	*ui-sa*	doctor	noun
4	간호사	*gan-ho-sa*	nurse	noun
5	약	*yak*	medicine	noun
6	처방전	*cheo-bang-jeon*	prescription	noun
7	감기	*gam-gi*	cold (illness)	noun
8	열	*yeol*	fever; heat	noun
9	기침	*gi-chim*	cough	noun
10	목	*mok*	throat; neck	noun

#	KOREAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
11	배	*bae*	stomach; belly	noun
12	허리	*heo-ri*	lower back; waist	noun
13	주사	*ju-sa*	injection	noun
14	진통제	*jin-tong-je*	painkiller	noun
15	소화제	*so-hwa-je*	digestive medicine	noun
16	보험	*bo-heom*	insurance	noun
17	아프다	*a-peu-da*	to hurt; to be ill	adjective
18	낫다	*nat-tta*	to get better; recover	verb
19	걸리다	*geol-li-da*	to catch (illness); to take (time)	verb
20	푹	*puk*	thoroughly; deeply (as in rest well)	adverb

Walk-In Clinics and Pharmacies

Korean towns have many small neighbourhood clinics, each specialising in one area (a **내과** for colds and stomach problems, an **이비인후과** for ear, nose and throat), and you can often walk straight into the right one. After seeing the doctor you usually take the **처방전** to a **약국**, where the pharmacist prepares the medicine. For a minor ailment you can also go to a pharmacy directly and say 감기약 주세요 ("cold medicine, please").

배: Belly, Pear or Boat

배 means "stomach", "pear" and "boat". Like 눈 (snow and eye) in Chapter 6, context decides: 배가 아파요 is a stomach ache, 배가 맛있어요 a tasty pear. The "ㅡ-drop + 아요" rule also gives 배가 고파요 ("I'm hungry", from 고프다) and 배가 불러요 ("I'm full").

Ill in Korea: Food and Phrases

When someone is ill, Koreans traditionally eat **죽**, a soft rice porridge, and a friend will say **몸조심하세요** ("take care of yourself"). When you say you feel unwell, expect the kind answer **괜찮으세요?** and the simple order **푹 쉬세요**. They will not think it rude to ask **약 먹었어요?** ("did you take medicine?").

As Heard in Dramas — 드라마에서

A drama character who is ill gets the full treatment: a hand on the forehead (**열이 나네!**, "you've got a fever!"), a worried **괜찮아?**, and often a carer who stays by the bed all night. **병문안** means visiting someone in hospital, and a visitor traditionally brings fruit or a small gift.

Grammar Pointer

안 and **못** are in Korean Basic Conversation 2, Chapter 9; the honorific -(으)세요 appeared in Chapter 6 (입으세요) and in Korean Basic Conversation 1 (주세요). The ㅂ-irregular pattern (어지러워요) is in Chapter 6. The frequency phrase 하루에 세 번 is from Chapter 2, and the serious-emergency vocabulary is in Chapter 12.

✍️ Try It Yourself — 연습

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

1. Tell the doctor "I have a headache."

▼ Show answer

머리가 아파요.

2. Say "I have a fever and a cough."

▼ Show answer

열이 나고 기침이 나요.

3. Say "I've been ill since yesterday."

▼ Show answer

어제부터 아팠어요.

4. You are the doctor. Tell the patient "Don't drink alcohol. Rest well."

▼ Show answer

술을 마시지 마세요. 푹 쉬세요.

5. The pharmacist says: "Take this medicine three times a day after meals." Say it in Korean.

▼ Show answer

이 약은 하루에 세 번 식후에 드세요.

6. Tell a sick friend casually, "Get well soon!"

▼ Show answer

빨리 나아! (polite: 빨리 나으세요!)