

Lesson 1 – Periods of Time

Welcome to lesson 1 in this vocabulary course! For this lesson, we are going to be learning words for periods of time like days, months, years, telling time, and so on. Learning these periods of time will prove to be helpful as these are words you will use very frequently.

Days

Let's begin with the days of the week. Much like English, each day of the week ends in '요일' which simply means day of the week.

 (track 1)

a. 일요일	Sunday
b. 월요일	Monday
c. 화요일	Tuesday
d. 수요일	Wednesday
e. 목요일	Thursday
f. 금요일	Friday
g. 토요일	Saturday

The words that are attached to '요일' are based on Chinese characters that each represent a meaning in nature. Let's take a look at the Chinese characters and meanings.

Day	Hanja	Meaning
일	日	sun/day
월	月	moon
화	火	fire
수	水	water
목	木	tree/wood

금	金	gold/metal
토	土	Earth

Even though you will probably never use Hanja, as you get more advanced in your Korean studies, knowing the hanja for lots of words will help you understand the language more and help you with learning it. Also know that the words for the days are not used on their own in Korean. For example, you wouldn't use '수' for the word water. You would still use '물'.

Months

Next, let's talk about the words for months. Each month is referred to using Sino Korean numbers.

Let's take a look:

 (track 2)

a. 일월	January
b. 이월	February
c. 삼월	March
d. 사월	April
e. 오월	May
f. 유월	June
g. 칠월	July
h. 팔월	August
i. 구월	September
j. 시월	October
k. 십일월	November
l. 십이월	December

Each month has the word '월' attached to it, which means you really just have to memorize the Sino numbers from 1-12, and you will instantly know the months of the



year as well. Let's break down the Sino Korean numbers 1-12 to make it easier to understand:

일 = 1

이 = 2

삼 = 3

사 = 4

오 = 5

육 = 6

칠 = 7

팔 = 8

구 = 9

십 = 10

십일 = 11

십이 = 12

The only notable exceptions to this would be June and October. These months have had the final consonant removed to make pronouncing the month a bit easier.

Example:

육 = 6, but for June, 육 > 유

십 = 10, but for October, 십 > 시

Now keep in mind that there are two words for month, 월 and 달. The difference? 월 is used with Sino Korean numbers and 달 is used with native Korean numbers. There will be a lesson in this course on numbers, so if you're not completely familiar with them now, don't worry about it.

If you want to say the day of the month, you would also use Sino Korean numbers and add '일' (day) to the end of the number. So how we would say July 4th? Like so:

칠월 사일

How about December 10th?

십이월 십일

We will do some more practice with these later.

Last, Next, etc.

Next, let's talk about periods of time like last week, yesterday, tomorrow, and so on.

Let's begin with days

 (track 3)

a. 어제	yesterday
b. 오늘	today
c. 내일	tomorrow
d. 모레	the day after tomorrow
e. 하루 종일	all day long
f. 매일	everyday
g. 며칠	a few days
h. 엇그제	a few days ago
i. 그저께	the day before yesterday

How about weeks?

 (track 4)

a. 주	week
b. 지난주	last week
c. 지 지난주	the week before last week
d. 이번주	this week

e. 다음주	next week
f. 다 다음주	the week after next week
g. 주말	weekend
h. 평일	weekdays
i. 매주	every week

And finally, months

 (track 5)

a. 지난달	last month
b. 이번달	this month
c. 다음달	next month
d. 매달	every month

There are more terms for referring to different parts of the month, but for now, let's stick with the basics because you more than likely will never use the other ones or need to know them.

You also may notice the words 지난 (last), 이번 (this, current), 다음 (next), and 매(every). If you can remember the words for week and month, you can just add the words above for their respective meanings.

Now earlier, we briefly talked about counting months. If you want to say something like "3 months, 4 months, 5 months, etc.", you will want to use Sino Korean numbers.

Here are some examples:

 (track 6)

a. 삼개월	3 months
b. 사개월	4 months
c. 오개월	5 months



There is also a way to count days which many people are not familiar with.

🔊 (track 7)

a. 하루	one day
b. 이틀	two days
c. 사흘	three days
d. 나흘	four days
e.닷새	five days

These can get a bit confusing and hard to remember (also rarely used), so just focus on counting up to five when it comes to counting days.

Telling Time

Telling time in Korean may seem difficult at first, but once you understand which numbers to use, it's easy to get the hang of.

For starters, telling time can use both Native and Sino Korean numbers. This may be confusing for some of you, but we will explain.

First, let's talk about the different times of the day.

🔊 (track 8)

a. 오전	morning (AM)
b. 오후	afternoon (PM)
c. 아침	Morning/breakfast
d. 정오	noon
e. 점심	lunch
f. 낮	day
g. 저녁	evening/dinner
h. 밤	night



i. 자정	midnight
j. 새벽	dawn

오전 and 오후 are only used with clocks in relation to telling time. Anything between midnight and noon will have 오전 next to it. Any time between noon and midnight will have 오후 next to it. These two words are also used to be more specific in time when referring to things like plane/train/boat tickets or situations where one is in the military.

Also, let's elaborate a bit on 새벽. Although it is simply referred to as 'dawn', more specifically, it refers to the time between midnight and dawn.

Now for a bit of other info on some of the other words. You may recognize 아침 and 저녁. These also refer to breakfast and dinner when referring to eating a meal.

For example:

아침을 먹다 and 아침식사를 하다 = to eat breakfast.

You can simply replace 아침 with 점심 or 저녁 to refer to eating lunch or dinner.

Another use for 아침 is to greet someone good night or good morning:

좋은 아침 = good morning

This also applies to night:

좋은 밤 = good night

However, 안녕하세요 and 안녕히 주무세요 are still more commonly used and you should probably always use these instead.



If you want an easy way to remember these, remember that 전 means before and 후 means after in relation to noon.

Now, let's get into telling time. Let's go one by one for the numbers on the clock.

(track 9)

a. 한 시	1 o'clock
b. 두 시	2 o'clock
c. 세 시	3 o'clock
d. 네 시	4 o'clock
e. 다섯 시	5 o'clock
f. 여섯 시	6 o'clock
g. 일곱 시	7 o'clock
h. 여덟 시	8 o'clock
i. 아홉 시	9 o'clock
j. 열 시	10 o'clock
k. 열한 시	11 o'clock
l. 열두 시	12 o'clock

Simple right? As you can see, numbers for the time on the hour use Native Korean numbers. Similar to knowing the months, if you know native Korean numbers 1-12, you can tell the time by the hour in Korean. All you need to do is put 시 (means hours) after the number, and you can tell time by the hour.

So, what if you wanted to say something like 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, etc.?

The Korean word for half is 반 so we also use this when referring to 30 minutes/half past the hour. So, let's take a look at the examples we listed above.

(track 10)

a. 세 시 반	3:30
b. 여섯 시 반	6:30



c. 여덟 시 반	8:30
d. 열 시 반	10:30

Here you can see the time marker ‘분’ is added. This is a time marker for minutes.

Now, to state these times in a sentence such as “it is 3:30”, you would write the sentences like so:

세 시 반이에요. = It's 3:30

여섯 시 반이에요. = It's 6:30

여덟 시 반이에요. = It's 8:30

열 시 반이에요. = It's 10:30

“이에요” is the conjugated form of the verb 이다 which means ‘to be’. Again, we aren’t going too much into grammar in this course, but we are simply showing you where the conjugation comes from.

Also keep in mind that saying ‘삼십 분’ is also acceptable for referring to half past the hour. Remember that 삼십 is the number 30 in Sino Korean.

세 시 삼십 분 = 3:30

What if you wanted to say times like 3:45, 3:25, 3:15? You would use the same concept we talked about for saying 30 minutes past the hour.

Know the Sino Korean number for the minute, and just combine it with the hour like so:

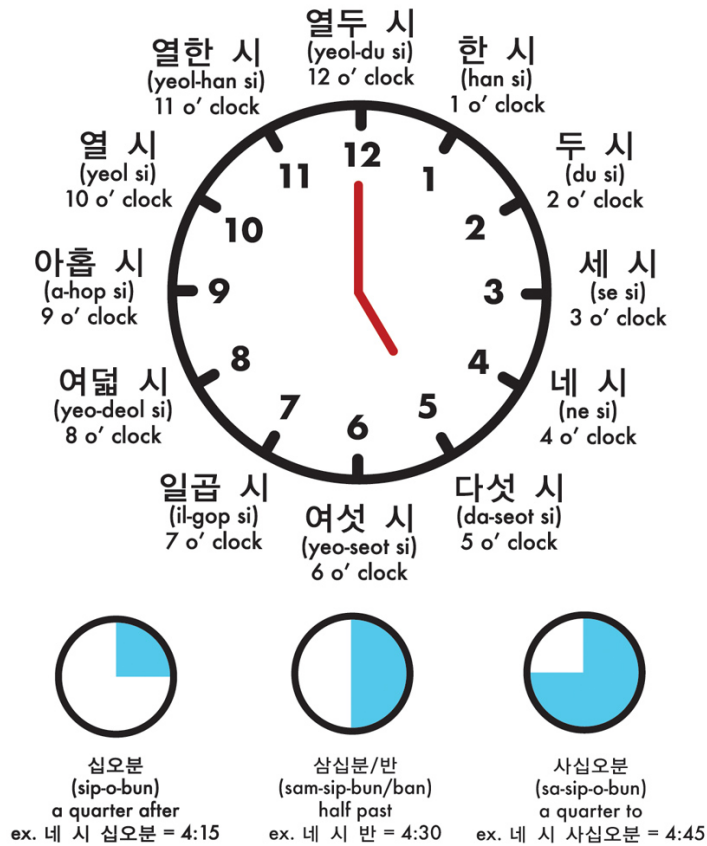
🔊 (track 11)

a. 세 시 사십오 분	3:45
b. 세 시 사십 분이에요	It's 3:45
c. 세 시 이십오 분	3:25
d. 세 시 이십오 분이에요	It's 3:25

e. 세 시 십오 분	3:15
f. 세 시 십오 분이예요	It's 3:15

Here is also a helpful chart for time:

TELLING TIME IN KOREAN



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Lesson Quiz starts on the next page

Lesson 1 Quiz

A. Look at the day in the 오늘 (today) column and write the correct days of the week in Korean for 어제(yesterday) and 내일(tomorrow).

어제	오늘	내일
일요일	월요일	화요일
	금요일	
	수요일	
	일요일	
	목요일	
	토요일	
	화요일	

B. Write the following times in Korean

1. 3:45 _____

7. 5:05 _____

2. 4:40 _____

8. 2:15 _____

3. 1:25 _____

9. 12:30 _____

4. 10:35 _____

10. 11:20 _____

5. 8:10 _____

11. 6:50 _____

6. 9:55 _____

12. 4:20 _____



C. Look at the month in the 이번달 (this month) column and write the correct days of the week in Korean for 지난달 (last month) and 다음달 (next month).

지난달	이번달	다음달
칠월	팔월	구월
	일월	
	유월	
	이월	
	오월	
	시월	
	구월	
	삼월	
	십이월	
	사월	
	십일월	
	칠월	