



Korean Ladder Study Note

몇 살이에요

Basic Questions After You Meet

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Introductions	몇 살이에요 Basic Questions After You Meet

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-INT-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=424xxsq_z9Y

Visit [koreanladder.com](https://www.koreanladder.com) for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. You meet someone Korean, you swap names... and then there's this awful silence. What do I even ask next?

This is the moment we're fixing today. After names, Koreans your age reach for three tiny questions. In English, they're 'how old are you,' 'what do you do,' and 'where are you from.'

Here they are, all in polite 요 form. 몇 살이에요? 무슨 일 해요? 어디에서 왔어요?

Why these three? Because they're safe, friendly, and they let the other person talk. 요 form keeps it polite but relaxed — perfect for someone your own age.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	몇 살이에요? —	How old are you?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저는 서른 살이에요. 하나 씨는요? —	I'm thirty. And you, Hana?
Hana	저는 스물여덟 살이에요. 무슨 일 해요? —	I'm twenty-eight. What do you do?
Junho	저는 회사원이에요. 어디에서 왔어요? —	I'm an office worker. Where are you from?
Hana	저는 부산에서 왔어요. —	I'm from Busan.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
요-level yo-level	polite but casual — good with peers	Why these three? Because they're safe, friendly, and they let the other person talk. 요 form keeps it polite but relaxed — perfect for someone your own age.
네이티브 숫자 + 살 neitibeu sutja + sal	native-Korean number + 살	One key thing. Age uses the native Korean numbers, not the sino ones. In English we'd say twenty-five; in Korean for age it's 스물다섯, then 살.
스무 살 · 스물다섯 살 · 서른 살 seumu sal · seumuldaseot sal · seoreun sal	20 · 25 · 30 years old	For age, native numbers. 스무 살 is twenty, 스물다섯 is twenty-five, 서른 살 is thirty. Notice 스물 becomes 스무 right before 살.
어디에서 → 어디서 eodieseo → eodiseo	Basic Questions After You Meet	완벽해요. That tense double s in 왔어요 came through nicely. In casual speech you'll also hear 어디서 왔어요 — the 에 just drops.
저는 스물다섯 살 있어요 ☒ jeoneun seumuldaseot sal isseoyo (wrong)	wrong: don't use 있어요 for age	Now the trap. English speakers often build age like a math sentence — 'I am twenty-five years old' — and reach for 'am' or 이다. But you don't say 저는 스물다섯 살 있어요.
저는 미국이에요 ☒ → 저는 미국에서 왔어요 ✓ jeoneun migugieyo ☒ → jeoneun migugeseo wasseoyo ✓	'from' = 에서 왔어요, not just 이에요	Same instinct trips people on origin. Don't translate 'I am from America' word for word. It's not 저는 미국이에요 — that means 'I am America.' Use 미국에서 왔어요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

몇 살이에요? / 무슨 일 해요? / 어디에서 왔어요?

몇 살이에요? / 무슨 일 해요? / 어디에서 왔어요? — How old are you? / What do you do? / Where are you from?

casual first meeting between peers

요-level

요-level — polite but casual — good with peers

not formal, not rude

몇 살이에요?

몇 살이에요? — How old are you?

몇 = how many · 살 = age counter

저는 스물다섯 살이에요.

저는 스물다섯 살이에요. — I'm twenty-five (years old).

저는 = as for me

네이티브 숫자 + 살

네이티브 숫자 + 살 — native-Korean number + 살

하나·둘·셋... not 일·이·삼

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
몇 살이에요	myeot sarieyo?
무슨 일 해요	museun il haeyo?
어디에서 왔어요	eodieseo wasseoyo?
어디서 왔어요	eodieseo → eodiseo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 몇 살이에요 three times: slow, natural, then inside a short sentence.
- 2 Write one original sentence that was not in the video.
- 3 Rewatch the YouTube lesson and pause when the same pattern appears.

Related / Subsequent Studies



Lesson	Why study it next	Link
제 이름은 / 만나서 반갑습니다 Introducing Yourself in Korean	A1 Conversation: compare 제 이름은 / 만나서 반갑습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-INT-001
면접 자기소개 Introducing Yourself in a Job Interview	B2 Conversation: compare 면접 자기소개 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CONV-INT-001
명함 건네며 인사드리겠습니다 Introducing Yourself While Networking	C1 Conversation: compare 명함 건네며 인사드리겠습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CONV-INT-001
이분은 제 친구예요 Introducing One Person to Another	A2 Conversation: compare 이분은 제 친구예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CONV-INT-001

My Notes

Your ladder to fluent Korean. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.