



Korean Ladder Study Note

몇 개예요

Your First Counters for Things and People

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Numbers & Counting	몇 개예요 Your First Counters for Things and People

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-005>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26gr-l8B7RQ>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real beginner panic. I can say 하나, 둘, 셋... but in a cafe I freeze. Do I just point and say numbers?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, we usually count with a little helper word after the number. That helper is called a counter.

Today we learn just two first helpers. 개 for things you can count, and 명 for people.

그리고 질문도 배워요. 몇 개예요? means how many things. 몇 명이에요? means how many people.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	빵 몇 개예요? —	How many breads / pastries?
Junho	두 개예요. —	Two.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그럼 사람은 몇 명이에요? —	Then how many people?
Junho	두 명이에요. —	Two people.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
개 / 명 gae / myeong	counter for things / counter for people	Today we learn just two first helpers. 개 for things you can count, and 명 for people.
몇 + 개 / 명 myeot + gae / myeong	how many + the right counter	So 몇 is like asking how many, and then I choose 개 or 명 depending on what I'm looking at?
한 · 두 · 세 · 네 han · du · se · ne	1 · 2 · 3 · 4 before counters	Exactly. And before those counters, we use the short native numbers: 한, 두, 세, 네...
한 개예요 han gaeyeyo	It's one (thing).	들어 보세요. 한 개예요. In English: it's one item. 한 is one, 개 counts the thing, and 예요 makes it a soft full sentence.
두 개예요 / 세 개예요 du gaeyeyo / se gaeyeyo	It's two. / It's three.	두 개예요. Two items. 세 개예요. Three items. Hear the pattern: number, then 개, then 예요.
한 명이에요 han myeong-ieyo	It's one person.	사람일 때는 명이에요. 한 명이에요. In English: it's one person. 명 is the people counter.
두 명이에요 / 세 명이에요 du myeong-ieyo / se myeong-ieyo	two people / three people	두 명이에요. Two people. 세 명이에요. Three people. Same short numbers, different counter.
개예요 / 명이에요 gaeyeyo / myeong-ieyo	thing-count ending / people-count ending	귀 좋네요. 개 ends openly, so 예요 feels smooth. 명 ends with a final consonant, so 이에요 fits better. Same polite is-frame.



Grammar / Structure Notes

개 / 명

개 / 명 — counter for things / counter for people

beginner pair to start with

몇 개예요? / 몇 명이에요?

몇 개예요? / 몇 명이에요? — How many things? / How many people?

your first counting questions

몇 + 개 / 명

몇 + 개 / 명 — how many + the right counter

choose by things vs people

한 · 두 · 세 · 네

한 · 두 · 세 · 네 — 1 · 2 · 3 · 4 before counters

short forms, not 하나 둘 셋 넷

한 개예요

한 개 + 예요 — It's one (thing).

들어 보세요. 한 개예요. In English: it's one item. 한 is one, 개 counts the thing, and 예요 makes it a soft full sentence.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
몇 개예요	myeot gaeyeyo?
몇 명이에요	myeot myeong-ieyo?
세 개예요	se gaeyeyo
세 명이에요	se myeong-ieyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 몇 개예요 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
열 / 스물 / 서른 / 마흔 Native Korean Numbers by Tens	A1 Vocabulary: compare 열 / 스물 / 서른 / 마흔 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-004
영 / 공 / 백 / 천 / 만 Reading Big Sino Numbers Out Loud	A1 Vocabulary: compare 영 / 공 / 백 / 천 / 만 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-002
층 / 호 / 번 Reading Floors, Room Numbers, and Bus Numbers	A1 Vocabulary: compare 층 / 호 / 번 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-006
하나 · 둘 · 셋 · 넷 손으로 세는 고유어 수 1~10	A1 Vocabulary: compare 하나 · 둘 · 셋 · 넷 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-003

My Notes

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