Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen!

Hopefully you enjoyed your Konglish vocabulary boost, and have been interacting with the locals. We trust that your house is now fully stocked with plenty of 쥬스, 콜라, and 아이스크림!

Today we’re going to continue on our high-speed journey to communicational fluency in Korean. By the end of this lesson, you will be able to ask Koreans if something is available or exists. For example, you’ll be able to go into a convenience store and ask if they have 피자 or 초콜릿 or ask a new friend if they have a boyfriend or girlfriend!

In order to do this, we’re going to introduce you to a set of twin verbs. Although they look the same, they are actually
very different. You see, one is the good twin who is always optimistic. The other is a bad twin who is always pessimistic.

Please say “hello” to:

Let’s first cover pronunciation. If you took the 90 Minute Challenge and are Romanizing the text, then you probably know that the pronunciation should be something like this:

없어요  eobs-eo-yo

있어요  iss-eo-yo

Yes—very good! That is correct according to the basic rules of Korean pronunciation.

However, there are some special pronunciation rules in Korean (but these aren’t important to know just yet)!
Instead, it’s better to commit the correct pronunciation to memory so you can be easily understood by Koreans.

Luckily it’s almost exactly the same!

You should pronounce them more like this:

**THE BAD TWIN**

**ROMANIZED**

없어요
 embarrass

**SOUNDS LIKE**

 совсียอย

**THE GOOD TWIN**

**ROMANIZED**

있어요

**SOUNDS LIKE**

ิสียอย

Ok, so now that you’ve got the pronunciation down, let’s figure out the personalities of these twin verbs.
Aha! Now it makes sense why one is the good twin, and one is the bad one.

있어요 has a positive and optimistic personality, and it means “to have”. 없어요 has a negative and pessimistic personality, and it means “to not have”.

In fact, 없어요 is so pessimistic that when someone doesn’t have what he is looking for, he changes completely! That’s how he earned his reputation as the bad twin. He gets so UPSET if he can’t have what he wants!
You don’t want to be around him when he’s like this! On the other hand, the good twin just goes about life with more of a *que sera, sera* “whatever will be will be” attitude. If someone has what he is looking for, he is content! It’s not the happiest thing that’s ever happened to him, it just “is.”

Must be nice to have such an “it is what it is” attitude! He’s so positive!

Ok, got it. So how do we use these, you might ask?

If you’ve come this far, you’re in luck. You see, these verbs are ready to go right out of the box. This means that all you have to do is plug in a noun before them, and POW—you’re ready to chat away. Here’s what the format will look like:

- **noun** + *있어요?* *(I have noun)*
- **noun** + *없어요?* *(I don’t have noun)*
Let’s plug a noun in there:

콜라 + 있어요 (I have cola)
콜라 + 없어요 (I don’t have cola)

If you’re wondering where the “I” is in the Korean sentence, that’s a great observation! In Korean, the subjects of the sentence aren’t always specifically mentioned. It’s often based on context. This is good news for you, since sentences will be much simpler to make!

So how do we turn this into a question? Very easily! The sentence will be exactly the same. The only difference will be in the intonation. You’re going to say the same sentence, except this time you’ll add a slight inflection in your voice, making the ending “요” a bit higher.

You’ll do this by imagining that you’re really not sure about whether or not the other person has what you’re looking for, so you’ll show this uncertainty by changing your intonation at the end of the 있어요 or 없어요. It will look like:

없어요? eob-sseo-yo?
있어요? i-sseo-yo?
Remember what we said about context? Well, that’s going to apply here as well with the questions. So, it’ll be the same exact sentence content. However, since you’re adding inflection to your voice when speaking to another person, they’ll know it’s a question directed toward them. It’ll look like this:

noun + 있어요? (Do you have noun?)

noun + 않어요? (You don’t have noun?)

For example:

콜라 + 있어요? (Do you have cola?)

콜라 + 없어요? (You don’t have cola?)

Both of these questions have the same meaning, so you can interchange 있어요 and 없어요. Let’s take a look at some sample conversations.

Imagine, you pop into the new GS 25 convenience store that just opened up in the neighborhood on a mission to grab some 주스 and 초콜릿.
This is the first time you’ve been in this store, so where to look first?

As you make your way over to the store clerk, you notice that it’s Korean rap sensation PSY!

Shocked and amazed, you hesitantly ask:

YOU: 주스 있어요?
PSY: 주스 있어요. *he breaks into song and points to juice*
YOU: 초콜릿 있어요?
PSY: 초콜릿 있어요. *he dances, spins and points to chocolate*

Starstruck, you pay for your items and are on your way!

The next day, imagine you’re going to have some people over your place. As you look in your drawers and cupboards of your kitchen, you notice you’re a little short on forks and cups. Time to head to the supermarket!
Wow, this place is massive! Where to start? You spot a store employee and immediately ask:

YOU: 포크 있어요?
EMPLOYEE: 포크 있어요. *he points to forks*
YOU: 컵 있어요?
EMPLOYEE: 컵 있어요. *he points to cups*

Don’t worry about singular or plurals for now. Focus on pronunciation and becoming familiar with the nouns you use most often.

Now that you know a basic sentence structure, you can use this for all kinds of situations! The twins are a versatile set of verbs. Simply plug in any noun you need, and you’re on your way.

To find more nouns that you want to use in Korean, first find a Korean-English dictionary or check out 90 Day Korean’s
Rapid Korean Learning Blog where we regularly post free lessons and other Korean learning materials that will be helpful!

Aside from that, some popular free online dictionaries are Naver Dictionary and Daum Dictionary. In the dictionary, punch in the English word to get the Korean equivalent and use it to make a question or statement.

Let’s see the twins in action around town in different situations!

**AT THE CAFE:**

**YOU:** 카푸치노 있어요? (Do you have cappuccino?)
**BARISTA:** 카푸치노 있어요. (We have cappuccino.)

**AT THE PHARMACY:**

**YOU:** 비타민 없어요? (Do you not have vitamins?)
**PHARMACIST:** 비타민 있어요. (We do have vitamins.)

**AT THE LOCAL KOREAN RESTAURANT:**

**YOU:** 비빔밥 있어요? (Do you have bibimbap?)
HOST: 비빔밥 없어요. 김밥 있어요. (We don’t have bibimbap. We have gimbap.)

AT THE MEETUP GROUP:

YOU: 남자 친구 있어요? (Do you have a boyfriend?)
HOST: 남자 친구 없어요. 여자 친구 있어요? (I don’t have a boyfriend. Do you have a girlfriend?)

You’re moving along quite nicely. Remember to make this a habit and practice any time you’re out! Soon it’ll be second nature, and you’ll be able to build up your skills quickly.

Speaking of building on what you already know, we have some exciting news about what’s coming up next.

At this point, you have the foundation for making some basic conversation in Korean. Next, you’re going to further build on your interaction skills by making polite requests! Talk to taxi drivers, order at restaurants, ask for a favor — the possibilities are endless!

Learning Korean really is easy when you have these hacks, isn’t it?

Remember: to learn Korean fast, always focus on the 20% of the language that gives you 80% of the results!

© Copyright 90 Day Korean. Want to learn Korean in 90 days? Check out our full course: www.90DayKorean.com/koreanlessons
Keep an eye on your inbox for when we release the third Hangeul Hack!

Until then,

-The 90 Day Korean Team

Want more lessons like this?

INNERCIRCLE

Click here to join the Inner Circle and learn Korean fast!