

## WorldNomads.com Korean Language Guide Script

- Scott** Anyong Hasee
- Ae Sook** I think you meant to say Anyoung Haseyo – Hello
- Scott** Ah... Anyoung Haseyo – that's it – thank you. What are you cooking?
- Ae Sook** This is Sundae – Korean Sausage, pig intestines stuffed with pig's blood, vegetables, pork and noodles.
- Scott** Ok, I'll have a go of that! How do I say one please?
- Ae Sook** You say Hana Jooseyo
- Scott** Hana Jooseyo
- Ae Sook** Very good.
- Scott** Your English is really good! I've not come across many Koreans with such good English.
- Ae Sook** Not many Koreans speak English so you may find it difficult, I learnt it a long time ago and don't get many chances to practise.
- Scott** How about I buy some more Sundae and you can practise your English and maybe teach me some Korean
- Ae Sook** Sure, ok. Not many foreigners speak Korean so locals will be very pleased that you are trying. What would you like to know?
- Scott** How about some basics, like Hello and Good morning – I've not really even been able to pick this up yet.
- Ae Sook** Well, Hello is Anyoung Haseyo
- Scott** Anyoung Haseyo
- Ae Sook** Good morning is Anyoung Haseyo and Good night is jal ja-yo
- Scott** Anyoung Haseyo, jal ja-yo. What about Good Bye
- Ae Sook** This is jal ga-yo.
- Scott** How do I ask for help? How do I say something like "I don't understand, please speak slowly"
- Ae Sook** This is ihaega anga-yo. Jom chonchon-hee mal haejooseyo.
- Scott** Ihaega anga-yo. Jom chonchon-hee mal haejooseyo. What about "Do you speak English?"
- Ae Sook** This is yongo haljool aseyo?
- Scott** Yongo haljool aseyo? How do I say "My name is Scott, what is your name"
- Ae Sook** In Korea our names start with our family name and we don't really use first names, but we might say brother or sister or aunty or uncle, addressing a person this way is the correct way to do things in Korea.

**Scott** Ok, a bit like China – Auntie and Uncle

**Ae Sook** Yes, but we say imo or gomo for Auntie or samchon for Uncle

**Scott** Imo or gomo, samchon

**Ae Sook** Or if you are referring to an older person who is not related or who is due respect you might say Teacher or Doctor, these are sonseng-nim for teacher and baksa-nim for doctor

**Scott** Sonseng-nim, baksa-nim, Ok, but how do I introduce myself?

**Ae Sook** As a Westerner you should just use your name, so you would say My Name is Scott which is je irumeun Seukot imnida.

**Scott** Je irumeun Seukot imnida

**Ae Sook** Yes, that's good. You may find that some young people are quite Western and will introduce themselves as well. But old traditions are still strong in Korea, the most important one is respecting elders, particularly the Father. The father is the head of the family and makes all decisions regarding it. It is also his responsibility to provide food, clothing and housing and also to approve marriages or moves by family members

**Scott** So, family is central here.

**Ae Sook** Yes, in Korea family is very important, parents make big sacrifices for their children – they pay for their education and they often decide what the future for their children will be. Because of this the eldest son has special the responsibility of looking after their parents in old age. In fact the eldest brother must first look after his parents, then his brothers from oldest down, then his sons, his wife then his daughters. Family welfare is very important.

**Scott** That's a lot of responsibility for the eldest son!

**Ae Sook** Yes, I suppose but it is considered an honour rather than a burden.

**Scott** Is that why so many people ask me if I'm married or have children or what I do for a living?

**Ae Sook** Yes, sort of. Social status is important and finding out if you are married and what you do helps people place you.

**Scott** Ok, I see – they need to know where I fit into the social spectrum!

**Ae Sook** yes, that's right. And also for greetings – most Korean people will bow rather than shake hands – or do both for a foreigner. How low a person bows to another depends on their social status.

**Scott** Ah I see. So, to be polite how do I say please and thank you?

**Ae Sook** Please is “bootak haeyo”

**Scott** “bootak haeyo”

**Ae Sook** Thank you is gamsa hamnida

**Scott** Gamsa hamnida. What about yes and no?

**Ae Sook** Yes is ye

**Scott** Ye

**Ae Sook** No is aniyo

**Scott** Aniyo. What about "excuse me?"

**Ae Sook** This is Shillye-hamnida. Also, you should know that Koreans think direct eye contact is very bold, to be very polite you should avoid eye to eye contact.

**Scott** Ah ok – that's going to be a hard habit for a Westerner to break!

**Ae Sook** It is not expected of foreigners but will be appreciated.

**Scott** Well, I'll try then! Now, Seeing as I'm eating your fantastic Sundae... what can you tell me about table manners, do you have some tips for me?

**Ae Sook** Ah, ok – a good one to remember is to use both hands when pouring a drink – and you should not pour your own drink, someone else at the table will do this. Also, always use your right hand to offer things and the more senior a person the more respectfully you should offer them something. Holding something out with two hands is considered very respectful. Also, at a cooking table the most junior person at the table does the cooking. And, never blow your nose at the table and if you have to cough, turn away.

**Scott** So, don't pour my own drink, use my right hand and don't blow my nose. What about the Bill, how do I ask for the bill or how much something is? How do I say "How Much is it?"

**Ae Sook** This is olma-eyo?

**Scott** Olma-eyo

**Ae Sook** Also, tipping is not customary in Korea – there will sometimes be a service charge added to your bill. But really tipping is just not done at all.

**Scott** And the bill – how do I ask for this?

**Ae Sook** This is gaesanso jom jooseyo

**Scott** Gaesanso jom jooseyo. What about something like "It's too expensive"

**Ae Sook** This is nomu bisssa-yo.

**Scott** Nomu bisssa-yo. How about some numbers? How do I count to ten in Korean?

**Ae Sook** One hana, two dool

**Scott** Hana, dool

**Ae Sook** Three set, Four net

**Scott** Set, Net

**Ae Sook** Five Dasot, Six yosot

**Scott** Dasot, yosot

**Ae Sook** Seven ilgob, Eight yodol

**Scott** Ilgob, yodol

**Ae Sook** Nine ahob, Ten yol

**Scott** Ahob, yol. Ok, I think I need a quick food break – can I have (2) more Sundae (please) Sundae dool bootak haeyo.

**Ae Sook** Very good!

**Scott** By the way – what are they eating over there... it looks like it's still alive!

**Ae Sook** (laughing) Well, yes it is. They are eating live octopus, it is considered good for stamina, for men's health. You will also see people eat raw cuttlefish.

**Scott** Mmm... I think I like my fish a bit more bbq'd than that – whatever the benefits!

**Ae Sook** (laughing) yes, not many Westerners eat this food! The staple food in Korea is kimchi – you will find it everywhere, basically it is cabbage and radishes that have been rubbed with peppers and garlic and preserved. There are many different types and some are very hot – I'm sure you will enjoy it!

**Scott** Ok – so how would I say “I don't like this” in case I come across some super hot kimchi!

**Ae Sook** This is “Igo anmogoyo”

**Scott** Igo anmogoyo. What about “I like this” – and I do like your Sundae!

**Ae Sook** Thank you – you would say “Igo-joa-haeyo”

**Scott** “Igo-joa-haeyo” Ok, what about some things that will help with directions, like Where is or Which way to?

**Ae Sook** Where is “odi-issoyo”

**Scott** “Odi-issoyo”

**Ae Sook** Which way to “Odilo-ga-yo”

**Scott** “Odilo-ga-yo” Ok, what about Have you a room? And, May I see it?

**Ae Sook** Have you a room is “bang issoyo?”

**Scott** “Bang issoyo?”

**Ae Sook** May I see it is “hanbon bolgeyo”

**Scott** “Hanbon bolgeyo”. And I might need things like Today, Tomorrow and Yesterday

**Ae Sook** Today is “Oneul”

**Scott** “Oneul”

**Ae Sook** Tomorrow is “Naeil”

**Scott** “Naeil”

**Ae Sook** Yesterday is “Ojae”

**Scott** "Ojae" What about bus, train, taxi and boat?

**Ae Sook** Yes, these are very useful! Bus is "Boseu"

**Scott** "Boseu" what about Tour – or Guided Tour? I've heard you can do tours of the DMZ – particularly some tunnels dug by the North Koreans, I thought I'd head up there and do one

**Ae Sook** Tour is "Gwan gwang" And there are tours from this side of the border, it is almost impossible to get a visa to go to the North. But on this side there are some very interesting guided tours, the tunnels were discovered in 1974 and they are quite amazing. Some are nearly 2k's beyond the demarcation line and are well established with power and a railway line to carry soldiers. There are four tunnels in all and North Korea tried to say they were for coal mining – but there was no coal found in the tunnels! You should try to see them, they are pretty amazing!

**Scott** It's pretty amazing that four such long tunnels could have progressed so far before they were discovered! I thought I'd get the train up there – so how do I say train...

**Ae Sook** It is a long trip but you will see a lot of the countryside, train is xxx "gi-cha"

**Scott** "Gi-cha"

**Ae Sook** Also, taxi is "Tek-shi"

**Scott** "Tek-shi"

**Ae Sook** And Boat is "beh"

**Scott** "Beh"

**Ae Sook** Also, ticket is "pyo"

**Scott** "Pyo" Ah yes, I'll need that!! You've been very generous with your time and I won't hold you up for much longer – my last few are for safety – police, hospital and doctor!

**Ae Sook** Well, I hope you won't need these! Police is "Gyong-chal"

**Scott** "Gyong-chal"

**Ae Sook** Hospital is "byong-won"

**Scott** "byong-won"

**Ae Sook** Doctor is "eui-sa"

**Scott** "Eui-sa". Ae Sook, thank you so much for your time!

**Ae Sook** It has been nice to practise my English.

**Scott** Now I think I'm ready to Man Up and try some of that Octopus over there!

**Ae Sook** Good for you and good luck with your travels