Korean numbers 숫자

1 · sutja · two ways to count

Korean has two sets of numbers. Sino-Korean numbers came from Chinese a long time ago. Native Korean numbers are older Korean words. You need both, and each set has its own jobs.

Sino-Korean

money, dates, minutes

1	2	3	4	5
일 il	이 i	삼 sam	사 sa	오 o
6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
육 yuk	칠 chil	팔 pal	구 gu	십 sip

and the big ones

0	100	1,000	10,000	100,000,000
영 yeong	백 baek	천 cheon	만 man	억 eok

Native Korean

counting, hours, age

1	2	3	4	5
하나 hana	둘 dul	셋 set	넷 net	다섯 daseot
6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
여섯 yeoseot	일곱 ilgop	여덟 yeodeol	아홉 ahop	열 yeol

the tens have their own words

20	30	40	50
스물 seumul	서른 seoreun	마흔 maheun	쉰 swin
60	**70**	**80**	**90**
예순 yesun	일흔 ilheun	여든 yeodeun	아흔 aheun

Big numbers count in 만, not in thousands

10,000	100,000	1,000,000	10,000,000	100,000,000
만	십만	백만	천만	일억
man	simman	baengman	cheonman	ireok
ten thousand	a hundred thousand	a million	ten million	a hundred million

Think in groups of four zeros. English splits 35,000 as 35 and 000. Korean splits it as 3 and 5000: 삼만 오천, three 만 and five thousand. So a million is 백만, a hundred 만.

Native stops at 99. There's no native word for 100. From 100 up, everyone uses Sino numbers, even when counting things: 백 개 (baek gae), a hundred things.

Zero: 영 in maths, scores and temperatures. 공 when you read digits one by one, like a phone number or a room number.

Building numbers 숫자 만들기

Sino: like a calculator

이 2 × 십 10 + 삼 3 = 이십삼 23

say the digit, then its place: 이 십 삼

Native: tens word + ones word

스물 20 + 셋 3 = 스물셋 23

no maths, just two words joined

11 to 99 in both systems

	Sino	native
11	십일 sibil	열하나 yeolhana
12	십이 sibi	열둘 yeoldul
13	십삼 sipsam	열셋 yeolset
14	십사 sipsa	열넷 yeollet
15	십오 sibo	열다섯 yeoldaseot
16	십육 simnyuk	열여섯 yeollyeoseot
17	십칠 sipchil	열일곱 yeollilgop
18	십팔 sippal	열여덟 yeollyeodeol
19	십구 sipgu	열아홉 yeorahop
20	이십 isip	스물 seumul

	Sino	native
23	이십삼 isipsam	스물셋 seumulset
26	이십육 isimnyuk	스물여섯 seumullyeoseot
34	삼십사 samsipsa	서른넷 seoreunnet
45	사십오 sasibo	마흔다섯 maheundaseot
57	오십칠 osipchil	쉰일곱 swinnilgop
68	육십팔 yuksippal	예순여덟 yesunnyeodeol
72	칠십이 chilsibi	일흔둘 ilheundul
81	팔십일 palsibil	여든하나 yeodeunhana
90	구십 gusip	아흔 aheun
99	구십구 gusipgu	아흔아홉 aheunahop

Bigger numbers: always Sino

100 백 baek	101 백일 baegil	365 삼백육십오 sambaengnyuksibo	1,000 천 cheon	1,500 천오백 cheonobaek	2,026 이천이십육 icheonisimnyuk
10,000 만 man	35,000 삼만 오천 samman ocheon	120,000 십이만 sibiman	1,000,000 백만 baengman	50,000,000 오천만 ocheonman	100,000,000 일억 ireok

No 일 in front: 10 is 십, 100 is 백, 1,000 is 천 and 10,000 is 만, never 일십 or 일만. The one exception is 억: 100,000,000 is 일억.

Read it in fours: for 35,000 find the 만 first (3), then read the rest (5,000): 삼만 오천. Spaces go after 만 and 억.

A sound to know: 육 (6) picks up an n after a consonant. 십육 is said simnyuk, and 이천이십육 is icheonisimnyuk. Native 여섯, 여덟 and 일곱 do it too: 열여섯 is yeollyeoseot.

Which one when 언제

The short version: count things, people and hours with native numbers. Use Sino for anything you could read off a sign, a receipt or a calendar.

Native Korean

1 to 99

things, with a counter
사과 세 개
sagwa se gae - three apples

people
친구 두 명
chingu du myeong - two friends

hours
다섯 시
daseot si - five o'clock

age
스무 살
seumu sal - twenty years old

how many times
세 번
se beon - three times

counting out loud
하나, 둘, 셋!
hana, dul, set! - one, two, three!

Sino-Korean

any size

money
오천 원
ocheon won - 5,000 won

minutes
이십 분
isip bun - twenty minutes

years, months, days
이천이십육 년
icheonisimnyuk nyeon - the year 2026

phone numbers
공일공
gongilgong - 010, the start of a mobile number

floors
칠 층
chil cheung - the 7th floor

numbered things
일 번 출구
il beon chulgu - exit 1

The twelve months: Sino number + 월

1	2	3	4	5	6
일월 irwol	이월 iwol	삼월 samwol	사월 sawol	오월 owol	유월 yuwol
7	8	9	10	11	12
칠월 chirwol	팔월 parwol	구월 guwol	시월 siwol	십일월 sibirwol	십이월 sibiwol

Two months bend: 6 and 10 lose a letter to sound smoother. June is 유월, not 육월, and October is 시월, not 십월.

Dates go big to small: year, month, day. 2026년 11월 12일 is 이천이십육 년 십일월 십이 일 (icheonisimnyuk nyeon sibirwol sibi il).

Age on paper: people say 스무 살 out loud, but forms and the news use Sino with 세: 이십 세 (isip se).

Counters 단위

Korean counts with a counter word. Say the thing, then the number, then the counter: 커피 두 잔, coffee two cups. Most counters take native numbers.

Five numbers get shorter before a counter

하나 → 한
han
한 개
han gae - one thing

둘 → 두
du
두 명
du myeong - two people

셋 → 세
se
세 시
se si - three o'clock

넷 → 네
ne
네 살
ne sal - four years old

스물 → 스무
seumu
스무 살
seumu sal - twenty years old

Only these change. 다섯 개 and 열 명 stay as they are. In bigger numbers only the end changes: 열한 개 (11 things), 스물두 명 (22 people).

Twelve counters you'll hear all the time

개 gae — things, most objects
사과 세 개
sagwa se gae - three apples

명 myeong — people
학생 열 명
haksaeng yeol myeong - ten students

분 bun — people, politely
손님 네 분
sonnim ne bun - four guests

마리 mari — animals
고양이 한 마리
goyangi han mari - one cat

병 byeong — bottles
맥주 두 병
maekju du byeong - two bottles of beer

잔 jan — cups and glasses
커피 한 잔
keopi han jan - a cup of coffee

권 gwon — books
책 세 권
chaek se gwon - three books

장 jang — flat things: paper, tickets
표 두 장
pyo du jang - two tickets

대 dae — cars and machines
차 한 대
cha han dae - one car

번 beon — times
다섯 번
daseot beon - five times

시 si — o'clock
열한 시
yeolhan si - eleven o'clock

살 sal — years of age
열아홉 살
yeorahop sal - nineteen years old

Telling the time: native hours, Sino minutes

세 시 삼십 분
se si samsip bun - 3:30

세 시 반
se si ban - half past three

오후 두 시
ohu du si - 2 p.m.

열두 시 십오 분
yeoldu si sibo bun - 12:15

Ask the time: 몇 시예요? (myeot siyeyo?) What time is it? 오전 (ojeon) is a.m., 오후 is p.m.

How long: add 간 for hours: 두 시간 (du sigan), two hours. 삼십 분 works for both 3:30 and thirty minutes.

Practice 연습

How: cover the right side with a strip of paper. Read each line out loud, say what it means and which number system the pink part uses, then slide the strip down to check.

1 이거 **삼만 오천** 원이에요.
igeo **samman ocheon** wonieyo.

This is 35,000 won.
Sino · money

2 커피 **두** 잔 주세요.
keopi **du** jan juseyo.

Two coffees, please.
native · 둘 → 두 before 잔

3 지금 **세** 시 **삼십** 분이에요.
jigeum **se** si **samsip** bunieyo.

It's 3:30 now.
native hour, Sino minutes

4 저는 **스물다섯** 살이에요.
jeoneun **seumuldaseot** sarieyo.

I'm 25.
native · age with 살

5 제 번호는 **공일공 일이삼사 오육칠팔**이에요.
je beonhoneun **gongilgong irisamsa oyukchilpar**ieyo.

My number is 010 1234 5678.
Sino · digits one by one, 공 for 0

6 생일이 **시**월 **삼**일이에요.
saengiri **si**wol **sam**irieyo.

My birthday is October 3.
Sino · 시월, not 십월

7 **이천이십육** 년에 왔어요.
icheonisimnyuk nyeone wasseoyo.

I came in 2026.
Sino · years

8 학생이 **열두** 명 있어요.
haksaengi **yeoldu** myeong isseoyo.

There are twelve students.
native · 열둘 → 열두

9 **칠** 층으로 가세요.
chil cheungeuro gaseyo.

Go to the 7th floor.
Sino · floors

10 **네** 시에 만나요.
ne sie mannayo.

Let's meet at four.
native · 넷 → 네 before 시

11 **십** 분만 기다려 주세요.
sip bunman gidaryeo juseyo.

Please wait ten minutes.
Sino · minutes

12 고양이 **두** 마리 키워요.
goyangi **du** mari kiwoyo.

I have two cats.
native · animals with 마리

Numbers go fast in real talk. Prices, times and phone numbers are where people speed up. Start by catching just the counter or the 원, then the number in front of it.

Meet a word you don't know? In Kitsumi, hover any word in Korean subtitles to see what it means.