

# How To Be Impolite

Pragmatics

Comparing politeness in German and Korean

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# Politeness

Politeness is important for several reasons, as it plays a significant role in social interactions, communication, and maintaining harmonious relationships within a society.

In both the German and Korean languages, the choice of informal or formal address is a crucial aspect of politeness.

# Levels

German: 2

Korean: 7

# Korean Speech Levels

	<b>Declarative</b>	<b>Interrogative</b>	<b>Imperative</b>	<b>Propositive</b>
Deferential	<i>-supnita</i>	<i>-supnikka</i>	<i>-sipsio</i>	<i>-sipsita</i>
Polite	<i>-e-yo</i>	<i>-e-yo</i>	<i>-e-yo</i>	<i>-e-yo</i>
Blunt	<i>-o</i>		<i>-o</i>	
Familiar	<i>-ney</i>	<i>-na/-nunka</i>	<i>-key</i>	<i>-sey</i>
Intimate	<i>-e</i>	<i>-e</i>	<i>-e</i>	<i>-e</i>
Plain	<i>-ta</i>	<i>-ni /-nya</i>	<i>-la</i>	<i>-ca</i>

# How Politeness Works

# Saying “You” in German

In German there are two ways to say you:

- “Du” (informal)
- “Sie” (formal)

Example: Can you do this?

- Kannst du dies machen?
- Können sie dies machen?

# Saying “You” in Korean

- It's easy, just “당신”

# ~~Saying “You” in Korean~~

~~—It’s easy, just “당신”~~

This is wrong!



# How to say “You” in Korean?

More complex

- Just don't, omit the “you”
- Use titles instead (선생님, 사장님)
- Use 언니, 오빠, 누나 or 형 (older friend)
- 그쪽 (stranger momentarily)
- Name + 씨
- 당신 (spouse, start a fight, songs/speeches)
- 너 (most impolite)

# German

“Sie” (Formal):

- In professional settings, such as at the workplace or business meetings.
- When addressing superiors, supervisors, or employers.
- When interacting with elderly individuals.
- In official or formal correspondence, including letters and emails.

# Korean

“존댓말” (Polite, Formal):

- When speaking to elders or individuals of higher social status.
- In professional and workplace settings when addressing superiors or clients.
- During formal events, ceremonies, and official interactions.
- In public and customer service interactions, like in stores or restaurants.
- When showing respect to strangers or individuals you've just met.

“반말” (Informal, Casual):

- Among close friends and peers of the same age or social status.
- In relaxed, casual, and private settings like at home or with close acquaintances.
- When talking to family members or siblings.
- When addressing children or younger individuals.
- In situations where there is mutual agreement to use “반말” due to a close relationship.

# Example situation in Germany

- High school teacher
- Stranger outside
- Uni prof.

- <https://kimchicloud.com/how-to-say-you-in-korean/>
- <https://funkorean4u.wordpress.com/2014/07/13/beginner-how-to-say-you-in-korean/>
- [https://youtu.be/VwJQuBBvilY?list=PLbFrQnW0BNMUkAFj4MjYauXBPtO3I9O\\_k](https://youtu.be/VwJQuBBvilY?list=PLbFrQnW0BNMUkAFj4MjYauXBPtO3I9O_k)
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