

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #1

Thank You!

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#1

KOREAN HANGUL

1. 대단히 감사합니다.
2. 고마워.
3. 감사합니다. or 고맙습니다.

ROMANIZATION

1. Daedanhi gamsahamnida.
2. Gomawo.
3. Gamsahamnida. or Gomapseumnida.

ENGLISH

1. Great, thanks.
2. Thanks. (intimate)
3. Thank you. (formal)

VOCABULARY

Hangul	Romanization	English	Class
고맙다	gomapta	to be thankful	adjective
대단히	daedanhi	very, much	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

와 줘서 고마워. Wa jwoseo gomawo. "Thanks for coming."	버스는 대단히 혼잡했어요. beoseuneun daedanhi honjaphaesseyo. "The bus was very crowded."
모두 와 주셔서 대단히 감사합니다. modu wa jusyeoseo daedanhi gamsahamnida. "Thank you very much everyone for coming."	잘 먹었습니다. 감사합니다. jal meogeosseumnida. gamsahamnida. "I ate very well. Thank you very much."

GRAMMAR

Language Tip

In Korea, there are numerous ways to say "thank you." The level of respect differs according to relationship. First, we'll take a look at the phrase we use toward strangers and to those that we wish to respect. The first "thank you" is *gamsahamnida* (감사합니다). It's respectful, commonly heard, quick, and easy. You will probably hear this form most frequently.

Next is *gomapseumnida* (고맙습니다). This is respectful and we can use it toward strangers as well. Koreans don't use it quite as frequently as *gamsahamnida*, but it's still very common. The two that we have covered so far are nearly identical in terms of respect. The first, *gamsahamnida*, is a tiny bit more respectful than *gomapseumnida*, but it's only a very slight difference.

Koreans don't use this next one every day; rather, they use it for special occasions when someone has really broken his or her back to do you a favor. This form offers the highest level of gratitude. This "thank you" is *daedanhi gamsahamnida* (대단히 감사합니다). Literally, this means "great thanks."

Last is the informal "thank you," which you should only use with close and intimate friends and family (an uncle you are meeting for the first time doesn't cut it!). This informal form is *gomawo* (고마워). There are a few relationships with which the informal language is acceptable to use. For more on that, check out Quick Tip 1.

It is important to be as polite and respectful as possible. So if you're ever in doubt, use the formal "thank you," *gamsahamnida* or *gomapseumnida* (감사합니다 or 고맙습니다).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip #1: Helpful Hints About Formality

In Korean, there are numerous ways to say "thank you." We can categorize anything said in Korean into two broad categories: formal and informal. As Korea is a Confucian society based on hierarchy, people will either be above your level, at your level, or below your level. And this is how we decide which form of "thank you" to use.

For example, if you are meeting someone for the first time, you must use formal language as you would want to be as respectful possible. You should also use the formal form toward your teacher, your boss, your coworker, and those older than you (for more on age, check out Quick Tip 2).

You should only use the informal *gomawo* (고마워) with those you are sure you will not offend by being informal with them. You should use it with people you have known for a while and are comfortable with. Here are some examples of relationships where it is proper for you to use the informal form:

1. A cousin that you grew up with and know very well
2. Little children
3. Classmates (sometimes)
4. A best friend

For most other relationships, it's important to use formal phrases. If you are ever unsure, stick with the formal. The formal thank you is *gamsahamnida* (감사합니다) or *gomapseumnida* (고맙습니다).

Quick Tip 2: Respecting Your Elders in Korea

In Korea, age plays an extremely important role in relationship dynamics. If someone is older than you (even if only by a few years), it is sometimes acceptable for the older person to use informal language toward you. But sometimes you are still expected to use formal language toward them. As age plays a very significant role in Korea, it dramatically affects how we use the Korean language.