

Grammar	Explanation	Sentence (KR)	Sentence (EN)	Tip
명이예요/예요	The verb 'to be' attached to nouns. Use 이에요 after a consonant ending, and 예요 after a vowel ending.	저는 학생 이에요 .	<i>I am a student.</i>	If the noun ends in a vowel (like 의사), use 예요 . If it ends in a consonant (like 학생), use 이에요 .
명은/는	The topic particle. It marks what the sentence is about. Use 은 after a consonant and 는 after a vowel.	저 는 필리핀 사람 이에요 .	<i>I am a Filipino person.</i>	Use 은/는 when introducing a topic or making a contrast. Think of it as saying 'As for me...' before continuing.
명이/가	The subject particle. It marks the grammatical subject of the sentence. Use 이 after a consonant and 가 after a vowel.	날씨가 좋아요 .	<i>The weather is nice.</i>	이/가 is for new information or emphasis. The difference: 은/는 sets the topic, while 이/가 points to the subject doing or being something.
명에 있어요	Expresses where something exists or is located. 에 marks the location, and 있어요 means 'exists' or 'is there'.	고양이가 집에 있어요 .	<i>The cat is at home.</i>	있어요 means 'exists' or 'have'. 없어요 means 'does not exist' or 'don't have'. The location always takes 에 .
동/형-어요	The present tense ending for verbs and adjectives in informal polite speech. How you conjugate depends on the stem vowel.	뭐 해요 ?	<i>What are you doing?</i>	If the stem vowel is ㅏ or ㅑ , add 아요 . For everything else, add 어요 . 하다 becomes 해요 . This is the ending you will use most in daily conversation.
명을/를	The object particle. It marks the direct object of the sentence, meaning the thing receiving the action. Use 을 after a consonant and 를 after a vowel.	커피를 마셔요 .	<i>I drink coffee.</i>	Marks what the action is done to. It gets dropped in casual speech often, but knowing it helps with clarity and reading comprehension.
명에 가다	The direction particle. 에 marks the destination when used with movement verbs like 가다 (go) or 오다 (come).	학교 에 가요 .	<i>I go to school.</i>	Use 에 to mark where you are going. Don't confuse it with 에서 , which means 'at' or 'in' and is used when an action takes place somewhere.
명에서	The location particle for actions. It marks where an action takes place, as opposed to where something simply exists.	도서관 에서 공부 해요 .	<i>I study at the library.</i>	에 marks a static location (있다) or a destination. 에서 marks where you are actively doing something. The key question: is something happening there?
명에 (time)	The time particle. 에 marks when something happens. Use it with specific times and days.	월요일 에 한국어를 배워요.	<i>I learn Korean on Monday.</i>	Do not use 에 with words like 오늘 , 내일 , 어제 , or 지금 . Those time words stand alone. Use 에 only with specific days, months, and clock times.
명이/가 아니예요	The negative form of 'to be'. It negates nouns, meaning 'is not' or 'am not'.	저는 학생 이 아니예요 .	<i>I am not a student.</i>	The structure is: [noun] + 이/가 아니예요 . This pattern only negates nouns. For verbs and adjectives, you negate differently.

HOW TO USE THIS CHEAT SHEET

- **Cover the Explanation column**, can you recall the grammar rule from the Korean example alone?
- **Make your own sentence** for each grammar point, then compare it to the sample.
- **Group similar particles** (**은/는** vs **이/가** vs **을/를**) and study the differences side by side.
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명부터 ~ 명까지	Marks the start and end points of a range, either in time or place. 부터 means 'from' and 까지 means 'to' or 'until'.	9시부터 6시까지 일해요.	<i>I work from 9 to 6.</i>	부터 = from (the starting point). 까지 = to or until (the end point). This works for both time ranges and physical distances.
안 동/형	Short negation. Put 안 before a verb or adjective to negate it.	오늘 안 바빠요.	<i>I'm not busy today.</i>	For 하다 verbs, you need to split the word: say 공부 안 해요, not 안 공부해요. This is a common mistake in KIIP tests.
동-고 싶다	Expresses a desire to do something. Attach -고 싶다 directly to the verb stem.	한국 음식을 먹고 싶어요.	<i>I want to eat Korean food.</i>	Attach -고 싶다 to the verb stem. To say you do not want to do something, use -고 싶지 않아요.
동-으세요	A polite, honorific request. The equivalent of saying 'Please do...!' to show respect to the listener.	여기에 앉으세요.	<i>Please sit here.</i>	For vowel stems, add -세요. For consonant stems, add -으세요. Use this when speaking to someone older or in a formal situation.
명하고 명	Connects two nouns, meaning 'and' or 'with'. This is the casual, conversational version.	친구하고 같이 갔어요.	<i>I went together with my friend.</i>	하고 is conversational. 와/과 is more formal or written. Both mean 'and' or 'with', so use 하고 when speaking and 와/과 when writing.
동/형-습니다, -습니까?	The formal polite speech endings. Used in presentations, news, public announcements, and formal situations.	감사합니다.	<i>Thank you.</i>	Vowel stems take -습니다. Consonant stems take -습니다. For questions, use -습니까? or -습니까? You will hear this on announcements and in formal settings.
동/형-았/었-	The past tense marker. Attach it to the verb or adjective stem to indicate a completed action.	어제 영화를 봤어요.	<i>I watched a movie yesterday.</i>	If the stem vowel is ㅏ or ㅑ, use -았. For all others, use -었. 하다 becomes -했. Then add -어요 at the end for polite speech.
명도	The particle meaning 'also' or 'too'. It replaces other particles like 은/는, 이/가, and 을/를.	저도 한국어를 배워요.	<i>I also learn Korean.</i>	도 replaces other particles rather than stacking on top of them. 나도 = me too. 이것도 = this too.
동/형-(으)시-	The honorific infix. It is inserted into the verb to show respect for the subject of the sentence.	어머니가 집에 계세요.	<i>My mother is at home. (honorific)</i>	Use -(으)시- when the subject is someone you respect. Some verbs have special honorific forms: 있다 becomes 계시다, and 먹다 becomes 드시다.
동/형-지만	A contrast conjunction meaning 'but' or 'however'. It connects two contrasting clauses.	비싸지만 맛있어요.	<i>It's expensive but delicious.</i>	Attach -지만 directly to the verb or adjective stem. You can also put the past tense before it: 먹었지만 means 'I ate, but...'

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명에게/한테/께	The indirect object particle, meaning 'to a person'. It marks who receives the action.	친구에게 선물을 줬어요.	<i>I gave a present to my friend.</i>	에게 is for formal or written contexts. 한테 is casual spoken Korean. 께 is honorific, used when the recipient is someone you respect.
동-어 주다	Adds the meaning of 'doing something for someone' to a verb. It shows that the action benefits another person.	문을 열어 주세요.	<i>Please open the door (for me).</i>	Attach -아/어 주다 to the verb stem. This shows the action is being done as a favor. It is very common in polite requests.
동-ㄹ/을 거예요	The future tense. Expresses plans, intentions, or predictions about what will happen.	내일 친구를 만날 거예요.	<i>I'm going to meet a friend tomorrow.</i>	Vowel stems add -ㄹ 거예요. Consonant stems add -을 거예요. Use this for both personal plans and general predictions.
동/형-고 (나열)	A listing conjunction for verbs and adjectives. It connects actions or states in sequence, similar to 'and' in English.	아침에 운동하고 샤워해요.	<i>In the morning I exercise and shower.</i>	Use -고 to link a series of actions. Only the last verb in the sequence carries the tense. The ones before it stay in the plain stem form.
명으로 (수단)	The means or instrument particle. It indicates the tool or method used to do something.	버스로 출근해요.	<i>I commute by bus.</i>	Use 으로 after a consonant (except ㄹ). Use 로 after a vowel or ㄹ. This particle marks how something is done.
동-으러 가다/오다	Expresses the purpose of going or coming somewhere. The meaning is 'go/come in order to do something'.	밥을 먹으러 식당에 가요.	<i>I go to a restaurant to eat.</i>	This pattern only works with 가다 and 오다. Vowel stems add -러. Consonant stems add -으러.
동-을까요?	A polite suggestion or open question. Used to ask 'Shall we...?' or 'Do you think...?'	같이 점심을 먹을까요?	<i>Shall we eat lunch together?</i>	Vowel stems add -ㄹ까요? Consonant stems add -을까요? Use this when making a gentle suggestion or asking for someone's opinion.
못 등	Expresses inability. Put 못 before a verb to say you cannot do something, not that you choose not to.	오늘 못 가요.	<i>I can't go today.</i>	못 means cannot (inability). 안 means do not (choice). For 하다 verbs, split the word: 공부 못 해요, not 못 공부해요.
동/형-네요	An exclamatory ending. Use it when you notice or discover something and want to express genuine surprise or admiration.	한국어를 잘하시네요!	<i>You speak Korean well!</i>	Use -네요 in the moment of discovery, not for things you already knew. It conveys a natural, unplanned reaction to something you just noticed.
명보다	The comparison particle, meaning 'more than'. Used when comparing two things.	오늘이 어제보다 더워요.	<i>Today is hotter than yesterday.</i>	The structure is A보다 B, meaning B is more than A. Pair it with 더 (more) to make the comparison even clearer.

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동/형-어서 (이유)	Expresses a reason or cause. The meaning is 'because' or 'so'. It connects a cause to its result.	비가 와서 우산을 가져갔어요.	<i>Because it rained, I took an umbrella.</i>	You cannot use past tense before -어서. Tense only goes on the final verb. The first clause is always in the plain stem form.
동-는 것	Turns a verb into a noun phrase. The equivalent of '-ing' or 'the act of' in English.	한국어를 배우는 것이 재미있어요.	<i>Learning Korean is fun.</i>	Present: -는 것. Past: -(으)ㄴ 것. Future: -(으)ㄹ 것. In spoken Korean, 것 is often shortened to 거.
명으로 (방향)	The direction particle. It indicates the direction of movement, meaning 'toward' or 'this way'.	이쪽으로 오세요.	<i>Please come this way.</i>	The form is the same as the means particle (으로/로), but the meaning is different. Context will tell you which one applies.
동-지 마세요	A polite negative command. The meaning is 'Please don't...' and it is firm but respectful.	여기에서 사진을 찍지 마세요.	<i>Please don't take photos here.</i>	Attach -지 마세요 to the verb stem. The casual version is -지 마. Use this for signs, public notices, and polite instructions.
동/형-지요?	A confirmation tag. Use it when you expect the listener to agree, similar to 'right?' or 'isn't it?' in English.	날씨가 좋지요?	<i>The weather is nice, right?</i>	Often shortened to -죠 in spoken Korean. Use it when you think the other person shares the same knowledge or opinion.
동/형-는데 (대조)	A versatile connector that sets background context or creates a contrast between two clauses.	한국어는 어렵는데 재미있어요.	<i>Korean is difficult but fun.</i>	Verbs use -는데. Adjectives use -(으)ㄴ데. Past tense: -았/었는데. This is one of the most flexible connectors in Korean, so pay attention to how native speakers use it.

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