Korean Traditions and Customs

In this unit you will study:
- describing common Korean traditions and customs
- further uses of present perfect

Vocabulary

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct expressions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>funeral ancestors</th>
<th>hanbok</th>
<th>100-day party</th>
<th>pass away</th>
<th>Hwan-gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. A party after a marriage ceremony is called a _____________.
2. A Korean party to honor someone on their 60th birthday is called (a) _____________.
3. A ceremony for someone who has died is called a _____________.
4. A Korean party for a three-month-old baby is called a _____________.
5. Traditional Korean clothing is called a _____________.
6. A more polite word for ‘die’ is _____________.
7. Older family members who have passed away are your _____________.

2. Match the correct foods with the expressions.

What’s Galbitang? It’s beef rib soup.

1. Samgyetang • marinated, barbecued beef
2. Bibimbap • rice wine
3. Makgeolli • seasoned/spiced ribs
4. Boshintang • rice mixed with vegetables
5. Bulgogi • dog stew
6. Galbi • chicken stew

Have You Ever…?

1. Ask and answer the questions below with a partner.

Have you ever worn a hanbok?
Have you ever made kimchi?
Have you ever eaten ‘boshintang’?

2. Look at the questions below and see if you can explain them in English.

1. Why do Koreans touch their elbow, forearm or hand (with the opposite hand), when giving something to someone they respect?
2. Why do most movers in Korea like a phone number that ends with 2424?
3. Why do a lot of older buildings not have a 4th floor?
Conversation 1  
**You’ve Worn a Hanbok Before, Right?**

Listen and practice with a partner.

**Susan:** Hey, Mi-hyun. You’ve *worn a hanbok* before, right?

**Mi-hyun:** Yeah, I’ve done that a few times. Why?

**Susan:** I have to *wear one for my grandfather’s*… uh, what do you call that ceremony Koreans have *for their ancestors*…?

**Mi-hyun:** You mean *Jesa*?

**Susan:** Right, that’s it. I’ve never *worn one* and I don’t know *how to tie everything*.

**Mi-hyun:** No problem, I can help you with that.

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**Situation 1**
- bowed to your parents and grandparents
- bow for my grandparents
- during Lunar New Year’s
- ‘Sebae’, the New Year’s bow
- done that
- how deep to bow and which hand goes on top

**Situation 2**
- been to a baby’s birthday party
- on a baby’s first birthday
- ‘Dol’
- been to one
- what gifts I’m supposed to bring

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**Grammar Points**  
**Present Perfect**

1. In Unit 1, we used present perfect to talk about past experiences. We can also use it to express the repetition of an activity:

   - I’ve *worn* a hanbok at least *twice* this year.
   - I’ve *flown* on an airplane *many* times.
   - I’ve *called* my girlfriend *every day* for the last two weeks!

2. We can also use *for* or *since* with present perfect to describe when a certain activity that continues to the present began.

   - You’ve *known* Jung-soo *for* two years.
   - We’ve *been* studying English *since* middle school.

*NOTE: It’s common to contract ‘have’ with the subject when ‘have’ is used as an auxiliary verb. DO NOT contract ‘have’ when it is the main verb! Like new shoes. (X) → I *have* new shoes.

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**Pair Work  Ask the Questions**

Make questions for the verb clauses below. Follow the example. Practice the present perfect tense. When you are finished, ask your partner the questions. Write down their answers.

**Example:** *have a dog*

**A:** Do you *have a dog* now?

**B:** Yes, I *have a dog*.

**A:** How long have you *had a dog*?

**B:** I’ve *had it* since I was in high school.

**A:** Have you *ever had a dog*?

**B:** No, I’ve *never had a dog*.

1. study another language besides English
   **Q:** ______________________________
   **A:** ______________________________

2. play a musical instrument
   **Q:** ______________________________
   **A:** ______________________________

3. exercise regularly
   **Q:** ______________________________
   **A:** ______________________________

4. your choice
   **Q:** ______________________________
   **A:** ______________________________
Class Activity  In Korea We...

1. In the box below, write down yes or no depending on whether the idea fits that culture. Some ideas may fit both cultures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do You Think...?</th>
<th>Korea</th>
<th>English-speaking Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. It is polite to use two hands to accept or offer something to someone older than you.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. It is acceptable to sleep with a fan on in a closed room.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Women shouldn’t smoke in front of men older than them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. When saying goodbye to a boss or someone older than you, a bow is polite.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. It is generally common to call someone older than you (including your boss) by their first name.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. It is rude or strange to ask someone their age.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. A wedding, and the reception following, are important occasions that last for hours – often late into the night.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Too much time in air-conditioning can make you sick.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. A funeral can last several days.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Pickles and/or corn are not commonly eaten with a pizza.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11. It is strange to ask someone if they are married.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. When you finish, check your answers with your teacher. Did any of these surprise you? Which ones? Where do you think these cultural differences come from? Can you or your teacher think of any other interesting differences?

Conversation 2  I Have a Korean Question!

Listen and practice with a partner.

Robert: Hey Joon-hui, I have a Korean question.1
Joon-hui: Sure! What is it?
Robert: In class I’ve learned the Korean word for ‘yes’ is ‘nae’, but none of my Korean friends use it.
Joon-hui: Since they are your friends they probably use the short form, ‘eung’ instead of the full word, ‘nae’.
Robert: Right, that’s it! I guess it’s like when we say ‘uh-huh’ instead of ‘yes’ in English.
Joon-hui: Exactly! Most languages have quick ways of saying common words.

1 I’ve got a Korean question for you. I have a question about/on Korean.
2 reduced form | low form

Practice  What Does that Sound Mean?

1. Below are some common English expressions and their meanings. After your teacher demonstrates the pronunciation, match the expressions and meanings.

1. Ouch! (Ow!)  ⓝ no
2. Hmm  ⓞ yes
3. Mmm  ⓥ tastes good
4. uh-huh  Ⓟ pain
5. huh-uh  ⓦ thinking
6. Oops!  ⓠ What?
7. Huh?  ⓜ small mistake or accident

2. Now choose the correct expression.

1. (Mmm... / Hmm...), you can really cook well!
2. (Huh-uh / Huh)? I didn’t hear you.
3. (Ouch / Oops), I spilled some milk.
4. (Ouch / Oops), that’s sharp. Be careful!
Listening Activity

1. Listen and check true or false.
   1. Ho-jin wants to go to a video-bang. □ True □ False
   2. At first, Eric doesn’t know what a PC-bang is. □ True □ False
   3. A PC-bang is kind of like an Internet café. □ True □ False

2. Listen to the rest of the conversation and fill in the blanks.

Ho-jin: That’s because ‘bang’ just means ‘ ’. A ‘no-rae-bang’ is a place to _______ with friends, a ‘jjim-jil-bang’ is a place to _______ with friends, and a ‘video-bang’ is a _______ a video.

Eric: Well, I guess that makes sense. Now let’s go to that _______ you mentioned.

Ho-jin: Great, there’s a new game I wanted to _______. We can try and play each other.

Eric: Perfect. I’ll be happy to beat you at any game you choose!

Konglish! Konglish!

Change the Konglish expressions to English ones.

1. They like singing rooms. → They like _________.
2. Can I have your sign? → Can I have your ________?
3. Her husband is a good cooker. → Her husband is a good ________.
4. The dentist took out my love teeth. → The dentist took out my ________ teeth.
5. Tell us a funny episode. → Tell us a funny ________.

Writing Activity How Do You Spell That?

1. Spelling Korean words in English is often difficult and confusing (‘Korea’? or ‘Corea’?, ‘Busan’, or ‘Pusan’?, ‘Park’ or ‘Bak’?). We’ll practice writing some important words below.

   - Your name: ______________________________
   - Your city and/or province: ______________________________
   - Your school: ______________________________
   - A famous Korean company or product: ______________________________
   - A famous Korean singer or group: ______________________________

2. Write the new spelling next to the old spelling of the common words below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Spelling</th>
<th>New Spelling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pusan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taegu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taejon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kwangju</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inchon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheju</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Old Spelling  New Spelling  Old Spelling  New Spelling
1. Pusan → 4. Kwangju →
2. Taegu → 5. Inchon →
3. Taejon → 6. Cheju →

Wrap-it-up Questions

Get into groups of four. Turn to ‘Wrap-it-up Questions’ in the back. Students should ONLY look at their own questions.