

Lesson 2: 이/가 + 있어요/없어요

In this lesson, you will learn how to use the pattern 이/가 + 있어요/없어요 to say things like “There is (something).”, “There isn’t (something)”, “I have (something)”, “I don’t have (something)”.

KEY INFORMATION

있어요 [i-sseo-yo] = Ending which means ‘there is’ or ‘have’.

없어요 [eop-seo-yo] = Ending which means ‘there isn’t’ or ‘don’t have’.

이/가 [i/ga] = Subject Marking Particle

있어요 [i-sseo-yo] = there is/have

First, let’s take a look at the ending 있어요 [i-sseo-yo]. 있어요 comes from the verb 있다 [it-da] which means ‘to exist’. In the present tense 있다 [it-da] becomes 있어요 [i-sseo-yo] and can mean ‘there is’ and ‘have’. Let’s look at some examples.

- 물이 있어요? [mu-ri i-sseo-yo] = *Is there water? / Do you have water?*
- 물이 있어요. [mu-ri i-sseo-yo] = *There is water. / I have water.*
- 사과가 있어요? [sa-gwa-ga i-sseo-yo] = *Is there an apple? / Do you have an apple?*
- 사과가 있어요. [sa-gwa-ga i-sseo-yo] = *There is an apple. / I have an apple.*

As you can see, 있어요 can be used in both statements and questions. To make a question, all you need to do is raise your intonation at the end of the word.

없어요 [eop-seo-yo] = there isn’t/don’t have

없어요 [eop-seo-yo] is the opposite of 있어요 [i-sseo-yo]. It comes from the verb 없다 [eop-da] which means ‘to not exist’. In the present tense, 없다 [eop-da] becomes 없어요 [eop-seo-yo] and means ‘there is not’ or ‘don’t have’. Here are some examples:

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- 물이 있어요? [mu-ri i-sseo-yo] = *Is there water? / Do you have water?*
- 물이 없어요. [mu-ri eop-seo-yo] = *There isn't water. / I don't have water.*
- 사과가 있어요? [sa-gwa-ga i-sseo-yo] = *Is there an apple? / Do you have an apple?*
- 사과가 없어요. [sa-gwa-ga eop-seo-yo] = *There isn't an apple. / I don't have an apple.*

이/가 [i/ga] = Subject Marking Particle

In the previous lesson, you learned that 은/는 [eun/neun] is a particle used to mark the topic of a sentence. Another Korean particle is 이/가 [i/ga]. 이/가 is what is known as a 'subject marking particle'. It is used to mark the subject of a sentence.

The subject of a sentence is the person or thing that is doing the verb, or, in the case of adjectives, the person or thing being described. For example, in the sentence 물이 있어요 [mu-ri i-sseo-yo], 물 (water) is marked with the subject marking particle 이 because it is the thing that is doing the verb (the verb being 있어요 = exist).

Here are the conjugation rules for choosing 이 or 가:

Conjugation Rule	Examples
Noun Ending In Consonant + 이	물이 (water)
Noun Ending In Vowel + 가	사과가 (apple)

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Example Sentences

책이 있어요? [chae-gi i-sseo-yo] = *Is there a book? / Do you have a book?*

네, 책이 있어요. [ne, chae-gi i-sseo-yo] = *Yes, there is a book. / Yes, I have a book.*

모자가 있어요? [mo-ja-ga i-sseo-yo] = *Is there a hat? / Do you have a hat?*

아니요, 모자가 없어요. [a-ni-yo, mo-ja-ga eop-seo-yo] = *No, there isn't a hat. / No, I don't have a hat.*