

Lesson 56: 쯔/정도, 한/약

In this lesson, you will learn how to use 쯔/정도 and 한/약 to say 'about', 'approximately', or 'around' in Korean. By the end of the lesson, you will be able to say things like, "Shall we meet around 3?", "I lived in Korea for about six months.", etc.

KEY INFORMATION

쯔, 정도, 한, 약 = 'about', 'approximately', or 'around'

쯔/정도 = used after nouns.

한/약 = used before nouns.

쯔/정도

In English, when you want to talk about the number or amount of something which is not 100% accurate, or is a rough guess, words like 'about', 'approximately' and 'around' are used ("about 5 minutes", "approximately 3 km", "around 5 o'clock", etc). The most common way to express this in Korean is to use 쯔/정도. These are both commonly used in spoken language and are used after nouns. 정도 is a little more formal, so it is also sometimes used in written language. As for conjugation rules, 쯔 is attached to a noun without any space, whereas 정도 follows a noun with a space.

Conjugation Rule	Examples
Noun + 쯔	1시 (one o'clock) → 1시쯔 2주 (2 weeks) → 2주쯔 3명 (3 people) → 3명쯔 4개 (4 pieces) → 4개쯔
Noun + (space) + 정도	1시 (one o'clock) → 1시 정도 2주 (2 weeks) → 2주 정도 3명 (3 people) → 3명 정도 4개 (4 pieces) → 4개 정도

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Examples With 쯔/정도

3시 = **3 o'clock**

3시쯔 = **around 3 o'clock**

3시쯔 만날까요? = **Shall we meet around 3?**

6개월 = **6 months**

6개월쯔 = **about 6 months**

한국에서 6개월쯔 살았어요. = **I lived in Korea for about six months.**

50,000원 = **50,000 won**

50,000 원 정도 = **approximately 50000 won**

전기세로 50,000원 정도 냈어요. = **I paid approximately 50,000 won for the electric bill.**

한/약

한/약 are other ways to say 'about', 'approximately', or 'around' in Korean.

Unlike 쯔/정도 which are used after nouns, 한/약 are used before nouns. 한 is often used in spoken language, and 약 is often used in written language as 약 is quite formal. Both 한 and 약 come right before a noun and you must leave a space between 한/약 and the noun.

Conjugation Rule	Examples
한 + (space) + Noun	1시 (one o'clock) → 한 1시 2주 (2 weeks) → 한 2주 3명 (3 people) → 한 3명 4개 (4 pieces) → 한 4개
약 + (space) + Noun	1시 (one o'clock) → 약 1시 2주 (2 weeks) → 약 2주 3명 (3 people) → 약 3명 4개 (4 pieces) → 약 4개

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Things To Note

In real conversations, 쯤/정도 are often used together with 한/약 to emphasize that the thing being stated is not accurate. 한/약 comes before the noun and 쯤/정도 comes after the noun. For example, 'about a year' can be expressed in the following ways:

한 1년쯤 = **about a year**

약 1년쯤 = **about a year**

한 1년 정도 = **about a year**

약 1년 정도 = **about a year**

Example Sentences

보통 몇 시에 일어나요? = **What time do you usually wake up?**

6시쯤에 일어나요. = **I wake up around 6.**

이 집은 월세가 얼마예요? = **How much is the monthly rent for this house?**

백만 원 정도예요. = **It's around 1,000,000 won.**

서울에서 런던까지 얼마나 걸려요? = **How long does it take to get to London from Seoul?**

비행기로 약 14시간 정도 걸려요. = **It takes about 14 hours by plane.**

기차가 언제 출발해요? = **When does the train leave?**

한 10분쯤 후에 출발해요. = **It will leave in about 10 minutes.**

파티에 몇 명 정도 왔어요? = **Approximately how many people came to the party?**

50명쯤 왔어요. = **About 50 people came.**