

1 - Introductions

1.1 First-time meeting

Let's start everything off with a dialogue. Read the following conversation between two people meeting for the first time:

Tom: *Hi, nice to meet you! My name's Thomas.*

Claire: *Nice to meet you, Thomas! I'm Claire. Where are you from?*

Tom: *I'm from England. How about you?*

Claire: *I'm from Seoul in South Korea.*

Tom: *Wow! You're the first person I have met from Korea! What do you do?*

Claire: *I work in a small trading company as an accountant. Not much fun! How about you?*

Tom: *Oh, I'm in between jobs at the moment. I'm an English teacher so I hope to get a teaching position in London soon!*

Claire: *You must be busy with job applications at the moment! What do you do in your free time?*

Tom: *I usually just relax at home with a book or movie. I also like hiking but there's not much of that to do around London! What about you?*

Claire: *I also like hiking and there's plenty of opportunities around Seoul!*

Tom: *I'm so jealous! How long have you been living in Seoul?*

Claire: *I've only been living in Seoul for a couple of years. You should come and visit some time!*

Tom: *I'd love to! You're welcome to visit London as well, though we might not do much hiking!*

1.2 General actions

As we are dealing with introductions, we will need to talk about our life in general. The grammar tense for this is present simple. Lets learn our first grammar!

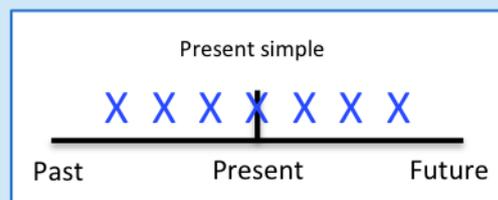
GRAMMAR – General actions

General actions are actions we do every day, week, or month. There are three common types: Work, hobbies, and habits.

E.g. **I try to read** at least once a day.

My best friend watches Game of Thrones and keeps recommending to me!

I basically only sleep, work, and spend time in the gym!



Give me an example of the three common types of general action:

Work: _____
Hobbies: _____
Habits: _____

Tip! Notice the use of 'spend' in the 'general actions' box. What is the difference between **taking time** and **spending time**?

Take time = This simply refers to the duration of something.
Spend time = This shows how much time you purposely use on something

"I spent 2 hours to come here" is a common mistake. The duration of the journey is largely out of your control!

1.3 Time prepositions

If you are going to be adding time information then you will need to be comfortable with your time prepositions!

GRAMMAR – Time prepositions

Remember this order: **At** **On** **In**

Precise times Longer times

At (precise times)	On (days)	In (months, seasons, years, centuries)
<i>At 3pm</i> <i>At dinner time</i> <i>At sunrise</i> <i>At the moment</i>	<i>On Sunday</i> <i>On the 6th of March</i> <i>On Christmas day</i> <i>On my birthday</i>	<i>In July</i> <i>In summer</i> <i>In 1990</i> <i>In the future</i>

Important! When we say last, next, every, and this, we do not also use at, in, on.

Important! Time information almost always goes at the end of the sentence, especially in spoken English.

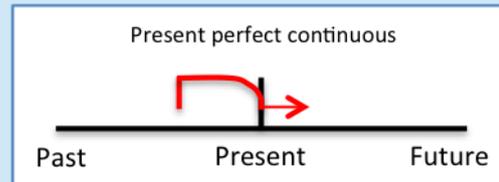
1.4 Duration until now

Look at the following question in the dialogue: 'How long have you been living in Seoul?' Let's take a look at what this means.

GRAMMAR – Duration until now

We use present perfect continuous to talk about actions that started in the past and are continuing now. Look at these examples:

E.g. *I **have been studying** for ages!*
*How long **have you been sitting** here??*
***My friend has been working** in the same company for years!*



Tip! Long-term verbs such as **live**, **work**, and **study** can also be used with the present perfect:

*I **have lived** in Seoul for 10 years.*
*I **have studied** English my whole life!*

1.5 Questions

As we are learning about first-time meetings, questions are going to be very important! Here are some basic question structures to help you get started. Try filling in the blanks with your own questions:

KEY LANGUAGE - Questions

Do you **verb**?

Q: _____?

What do you do **time**?

Q: _____?

What time do you **verb**?

Q: _____?

Where do you **verb**?

Q: _____?

Why do you **verb**?

Q: _____?

~ Discussion ~

Thomas and Claire talk a little about jobs and Thomas mentions that he is 'in between jobs at the moment'. He is probably going to have some interviews soon so he will have to prepare for the notorious interview questions! What are some typical interview questions used in Korean companies?

1.6 Getting to know someone

Ever wonder which topics to bring up when getting to know someone, and which ones to avoid? We have two acronyms in English to help you with this! For suitable topics, use FORD; and for totally unsuitable topics, use PEAR!

FORD

Family
Occupation
Recreation
Dreams

PEAR

Politics
Economics
Abortion
Religion

In the spaces provided, write a typical question you could ask on the 'FORD' topics.

Family _____
Occupation _____
Recreation _____
Dreams _____

Tip! As an additional tip, try to ask open-ended questions rather than ones that only require a yes/no answer. Of course, the 5 'w' questions (what, why, when, who, where) are useful for this, and you can also ask people what they think about certain things or how they do something. Good luck in your next 'first-time' meeting!