UNIT 18

Korean Sentence Structure

Goal: build your first Korean sentences from words you already know. The action comes last.

Three big ideas.

1. **The action comes last.** English: I drink coffee. Korean: 저 커피 마셔요 (I, coffee, drink). Korean often leaves out "I" and "you" when the meaning is clear.
2. **Three little tags** (called particles) stick to the end of a word and tell you its job: **는 / 은** (as for…), **를 / 을** (the thing the action lands on), **에** (to a place).
3. **The bottom-letter test.** Look at the last block of the word. No bottom letter: 는 · 를. A bottom letter: 은 · 을. The tag 에 never changes.

Exercise 1 · Read out loud (no English!)

Read each row out loud, then tick the boxes.

Read 1	저는 커피를 마셔요. 저는 학교에 가요.	☐☐
Read 2	저는 밥을 먹어요. 친구는 영화를 봐요.	☐☐
Read 3	엄마는 시장에 가요. 동생은 빵을 먹어요.	☐☐
Read 4	저는 한국어를 공부해요. 아빠는 회사에 가요.	☐☐

Exercise 2 · The action comes last

Put the pieces in order: who, what, action. Write the sentence **without tags** for now.

I eat rice.	먹어요 / 밥 / 저	_____
My friend watches a movie.	봐요 / 영화 / 친구	_____
My younger sibling eats bread.	빵 / 동생 / 먹어요	_____

English puts the action in the middle (I drink coffee). Korean puts it at the very end. Remember from Unit 16: 학교 가요 can mean "I go to school" without saying 저.

Exercise 3 · Choose the tag: 는 or 은

Look at the last block of each word. No bottom letter: 는. A bottom letter: 은. Write the word with its tag.

저 +	_____	친구 +	_____
동생 +	_____	사람 +	_____
아빠 +	_____	엄마 +	_____

저 and 엄마 end without a bottom letter, so they take 는. 동생 and 사람 end with one, so they take 은. The tag means “as for…”: 저는 = as for me.

Exercise 4 · Choose the tag: 를 or 을

Same test! No bottom letter: 를. A bottom letter: 을. Write the word with its tag.

커피 +	_____	밥 +	_____
물 +	_____	책 +	_____
김치 +	_____	빵 +	_____

The tag goes on the thing the action lands on: coffee gets drunk, so 커피를 마셔요. Words from Unit 14: 커피, 밥, 물, 김치, 빵.

Exercise 5 · The place tag: 에

The tag for “to a place” never changes. Add **에** to each place.

학교 + _____

시장 + _____

회사 + _____

집 + _____

공원 + _____

에 stays the same, even after a word with a bottom letter. No test needed. Places from Unit 13: 학교 (school), 시장 (market), 회사 (office), 집 (home), 공원 (park).

Exercise 6 · Build the sentence

Put the pieces in order, with the action last. Then fix the two mixed-up sentences.

마셔요 / 저는 / 물을 _____

가요 / 엄마는 / 공원에 _____

김밥을 / 먹어요 / 동생은 _____

Fix it: 친구는 가요 학교에 _____

Who, what (or where), action. The action comes last.

Exercise 7 · Say it in Korean

Write each sentence in Korean. Do not forget the tags!

I drink coffee. _____

I go to school. _____

I study Korean. _____

Mom goes to the market. _____

My younger sibling eats bread. _____

Words you know: 저 · 엄마 · 동생 (people), 커피 · 빵 (food), 학교 · 시장 (places), 한국어, and the actions from Unit 16.

Exercise 8 · New sentences! Decode, then read

These three are **not** in the video. Read each one out loud, then write the meaning. Word bank: **I read a book** · **My friend comes home** · **Dad drinks coffee**.

저는 책을 읽어요. _____

친구는 집에 와요. _____

아빠는 커피를 마셔요. _____

Find the three parts in each one: who + tag, what or where + tag, action. 책 has a bottom letter, so it takes 을. 집 takes 에.

Exercise 9 · Quick quiz

1. Which sentence puts the action last?

A 저는 커피를 마셔요. **B** 저는 마셔요 커피를. **C** 마셔요 저는 커피를.

2. Which tag goes after 물 (it has a bottom letter)?

A 를 **B** 을 **C** 에

3. Which tag means “to a place”?

A 는 **B** 을 **C** 에

4. How do you choose between 는 and 은?

A Look for a bottom letter in the last block **B** Look at the first word **C** Pick any one

5. Where does the action go in a Korean sentence?

A At the start **B** In the middle **C** At the end

Unit 18 Master Check

- ☐ I know the action goes at the end of a Korean sentence
- ☐ I know Korean often leaves out “I” and “you”
- ☐ I can use 는 / 은 for “as for…” and choose with the bottom-letter test
- ☐ I can use 를 / 을 for the thing the action lands on
- ☐ I know 에 means “to a place” and never changes
- ☐ I can explain why 물 takes 을
- ☐ I can build 저는 커피를 마셔요 and 저는 학교에 가요

Keep going: Listen again tomorrow. Sentences take a few listens to stick. Next up is Unit 19: introducing yourself.

Answer Key

Check your work. Then read every answer out loud once more.

Exercise 2

I eat rice. = 저 밥 먹어요.
My friend watches a movie. = 친구 영화 봐요.
My younger sibling eats bread. = 동생 빵 먹어요.

Exercise 3

저 + tag = 저는 · 친구 + tag = 친구는 · 동생 + tag = 동생은 · 사람 + tag = 사람은 · 아빠 + tag = 아빠는 · 엄마 + tag = 엄마는

Exercise 4

커피 + tag = 커피를 · 밥 + tag = 밥을 · 물 + tag = 물을 · 책 + tag = 책을 · 김치 + tag = 김치를 · 빵 + tag = 빵을

Exercise 5

학교 + 에 = 학교에 · 시장 + 에 = 시장에 · 회사 + 에 = 회사에 · 집 + 에 = 집에 · 공원 + 에 = 공원에

Exercise 6

마셔요 / 저는 / 물을 = 저는 물을 마셔요.
가요 / 엄마는 / 공원에 = 엄마는 공원에 가요.
김밥을 / 먹어요 / 동생은 = 동생은 김밥을 먹어요.
Fix it: 친구는 가요 학교에 = 친구는 학교에 가요.

Exercise 7

I drink coffee. = 저는 커피를 마셔요.
I go to school. = 저는 학교에 가요.
I study Korean. = 저는 한국어를 공부해요.
Mom goes to the market. = 엄마는 시장에 가요.
My younger sibling eats bread. = 동생은 빵을 먹어요.

Exercise 8

저는 책을 읽어요. = I read a book.
친구는 집에 와요. = My friend comes home.
아빠는 커피를 마셔요. = Dad drinks coffee.

Exercise 9

1. A (저는 커피를 마셔요.) · 2. B (을) · 3. C (에) · 4. A (a bottom letter in the last block: 은 · 을; none: 는 · 를) · 5. C (at the end)

Some answers depend on your own pronunciation. Compare your voice with the native-speaker audio in the video.