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IN THIS UNIT ...

- Education
- *I'm going to ...*
- *I want to ...*
- *Before/After ...*
- The Particle - (*only*)



WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?

In this unit we learn to talk about our educational experiences, looking back to the past, but also looking to further study and graduation. This often involves talking about our likes and dislikes, and so we learn how to express these as well.

1 A Story about ...



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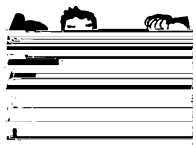
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2 Education: Some Basic Expressions

kindergarten	PK		... years old
primary school	...		the time when ...
junior high school (Years 7 - 9)	10		at the age of ten
senior high school (Years 10 - 12)	/	-	attend (school, etc)
secondary school		-	enter school, matriculate
graduate school		-	go into
school entry	/	-	graduate

Vocabulary Expansion: Guessing the meaning of words

	entrance exam (school)	3 ()	at Year 3 of university
	end of semester exam		this year
	graduation exam		next year
	entrance exam (company)	-	forget
1	Semester 1	-	not know

Language Notes (Some Irregular Verbs): In making a statement/question, if the verb stem ends in *ㅅ*, and the syllable immediately before ends in a vowel, we drop *ㅅ* and add *ㅆ* to the preceding syllable, and add *-ㅆ*. To say "I don't know", we say *모름* in Korean. The verb stem is *몰-*, and this is how we arrive at *몰- + -ㅆ = 모름*. Some other forms of *모르-* include *몰랐-* (*I didn't know*).

6 Subject of Study, Faculties

-	... Studies	Science
	Korean Studies	humanities
	Language Studies	social sciences
	Literature	natural sciences
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11 Cultural Notes; Education

The South Korean education system follows a 6-3-3 pattern, comprising six years of primary school (), three years of middle school (), and three years of high school (). Kindergartens and pre-schools () are not regarded as part of the formal education system. Primary education is compulsory and more or less free, and the curriculum includes subjects such as moral education, Korean language, social studies, mathematics, natural science, physical education, music, art and a foreign language (English). Upon completing primary school students enter middle school for Years 7–9 of their secondary education. Middle school students are usually aged between twelve and fourteen. For the final three years of secondary education, students enter high schools. In the mid-1980s, 96

For several years before high school graduation the life of the Korean student is dominated by the need to prepare for university admission examinations (). The exams mostly involve multiple choice-type answers to questions across a curriculum so broad as to require many hours of daily study during this period. The effort usually involves the whole household, with parents and other family members taking special care to ensure their children obtain the best possible result. The pressure is intense, often depriving the students of any real social life, the system is frequently criticised by Korean educationalists because of this, but the country remains locked into the system.

Alongside the undoubted down-side to the pressure, it should be mentioned that while there are more than a few casualties, successful Korean graduates approach working life with a strongly disciplined and well acculturated background, and the country's economic transformation could hardly have been achieved without the cohesive and talented professional class that this system has produced.

Most leading Korean universities and other institutes of higher education are private institutions, but come under the supervision of the Ministry of Education - as, of course, do the primary and secondary schools. Public universities, or National Universities as they are known, operate one to each province of the country, and tend to be the first choice of intending students over rival private institutions. Particularly noteworthy in this regard is Seoul National University (, or for short), whose graduates all but monopolise leading professions such as law, banking, education and the public service. While it is not always helpful to compare institutions, at least in the social sciences and humanities, SNU is universally regarded as pre-eminent. Other prominent institutions include Yonsei University (, or for short), Korea University (, or for short), and Sogang University (, or for short) in Seoul, and Pusan National University (, or