FREE PRINTABLE / LESSON 01

밥 먹었어요?

Did you eat?

A small question. A warm Korean moment.

Why do Koreans ask this?

“밥 먹었어요?” literally means “Have you eaten?” With people we know, it can be a friendly way to show care. But sometimes it is simply a real question about a meal!

A LITTLE

KOREAN MOMENT

01 / Everyday life

4 phrases you can use

밥 먹었어요?	Have you eaten?
네, 먹었어요.	Yes, I have.
아직 안 먹었어요.	Not yet.
같이 먹을까요?	Shall we eat together?

Sejin’s culture note

Bap (밥) means cooked rice, but in everyday Korean it can also mean a meal.

This question is common with family, friends, or familiar people. It is not a replacement for “hello” in every situation. When meeting someone for the first time, start with 안녕하세요 (Hello).

A story my mother told me

My mother lived through the Korean War (1950–1953). She told me that life was extremely difficult back then. Food was so scarce that many people often went without meals.

Asking someone, “Have you eaten?” was a meaningful way to check if they were doing okay. Today, Korea is very different, but we still ask each other, “밥 먹었어요?”

Whenever I hear this expression, I remember my mother’s story. To me, these simple words are not just about food. They are also about caring for one another.

— Sejin

SAY IT • 밥 먹었어요? (bap meogeosseoyo?)

REAL LIFE + PRACTICE / LESSON 01

A meal with Sejin



Photo & personal note: Sejin

At a restaurant I often visit

This photo is from a Korean restaurant I often visit. The meal comes with rice, soup, grilled fish, and a variety of side dishes.

At home, we often eat rice and soup with grilled fish or stir-fried meat, along with side dishes.

밥 · 국 · 생선구이 · 반찬

rice / soup / grilled fish / side dishes

Let’s use it!

Read the conversation aloud. Then answer for yourself.

A	밥 먹었어요?	Have you eaten?
B	아직 안 먹었어요.	Not yet.
A	그럼 같이 먹을까요?	Then shall we eat together?
B	좋아요!	Sounds good!

그럼 = then · 같이 = together · 좋아요! = Sounds good!

Your turn

1 Choose the natural reply to “밥 먹었어요?”

a. 네, 먹었어요. b. 안녕하세요?

2 Complete the conversation.

A: 아직 안 먹었어요. B: 그럼 _____?

3 Here, does 밥 mean only cooked rice, or a meal?

4 Write your own answer: 밥 먹었어요?

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1 a 2 같이 먹을까요 3 A meal 4 e.g., 네, 먹었어요. / 아직 안 먹었어요.

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