

Year 10 Background Language Learners

Writing — Average

Content

The student writes on most of the topics given in Task 1, while he does not write at all for Task 2. In the task for self-introduction (Task 1), simple basic information about himself is presented in Korean. Information and ideas presented are isolated and mostly limited to factual information (e.g. 제 이름은 [name]입니다; 나이는 16입니다).

Information occasionally expands but minimally and/or fragmentarily, and sometimes in English (e.g. 저는 농구를 많이 합니다; 제 취미는 춤입니다 (Hip pop[sic], popping)).

Vocabulary

Vocabulary items used in the student's text are limited in type and amount. He uses high-frequency vocabulary items related to his own personal information, family, and sports including some kinship terms (e.g. 가족, 아버지, 어머니, 동생), a few words related to hobbies/activities (e.g. 취미, 농구, 춤), and words for personal details (e.g. 이름, 생일, 나이). Verbs used in the text are the copula and 하다. He prefers to use Arabic numerals to give ages and dates without classifiers (e.g. 나이는 16입니다, 제 생일은 25/03/93이구요). He uses English words inserted in roman script in the text (e.g. Hip pop [sic]; popping). He uses a qualifying word (adverb) 많이 when he describes the sport he plays.

Scripts and Characters

There is some variation in the degree of balance in the shape of characters in his handwritten Korean. However, he has generally sound control over handwritten Korean. In the text examined, the positions of the three components in a Korean character — the initial consonant, the vowel, and the final consonant — are generally correct and the character could roughly fit in a square (whose boundary is invisible). Spacing is reasonably observed.

Although not all the possible consonants and vowels (including diphthongs, twin consonants, and consonant clusters) are present, this may be because of the short length of text produced. Given that those used in the text are all accurate, he is considered to be able to use other complex consonants and diphthongs.

Forms and Structures

The student uses some basic simple forms/structures. Items for forms/structures observed include basic case particles (–은/는 and 를), the copula, and a common verb 하다 in their polite formal forms, humble forms of the first person singular in nominative and genitive cases (i.e. 저 and 제), and a conjunctive suffix in its colloquial form (-구) followed by a delimiter –요 (e.g. 저의 이름은 [name of student—in Korean script] 입니다; 제 취미는 춤입니다). He uses 그리고 as a connective when he lists his family members.

While errors are not found in the use of the above items, it is difficult to generalise his error-free performance as the text he has produced is very short.

Discourse

The student shows rudimentary awareness of audience and uses the basic cohesive device in Korean discourse—consistency in the level of politeness/degree of formality by using an appropriate sentence ender. He keeps to the polite formal ending –습니다 and appropriately refers to himself as ‘저’, the humble form of the first person singular.