



# November Interviews

**Interviewee:** Ka

**Capacity:** Admin

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**Hello Ka, how are you today?**

I'm doing okay! I'm currently recovering from a post-knee surgery, so I've been sleeping a lot due to tiredness from physical therapy, but other than that, I'm doing fine.

**We are here to interview you as an admin of the 아미 KSG server for yearbook! To start off, could you please introduce yourself?**

Hello, I'm Ka, one of 아미 KSG's admins! I have been on the server ever since it was birthed and have been working on making it a better (study) community since then (well, except for the times when I was IA ofc (of course) lol). I like BTS and learning new things, drawing, and dancing! Also, I'm a retired dancer - but I wouldn't say totally retired - I'm just on a very long hiatus since I injured myself in 2020 and just recently had the surgery for it now. So these days, I'm just busy with physical therapy, my 9 to 5 job, learning 한국어, and 아미 KSG.

**What made you join the server at first?**

So 아미 KSG wasn't a server at first - Dani posted an interest check on Twitter back then, and apparently a lot were interested. We were all talking there before we decided to move to Discord. Ultimately, I wanted to be part of a serious study group just so I can spend my study time with like-minded people, and I can share my learning experience with people who actually



know what I'm talking about. Who knew it'd grow into this kind of community!

**How did you, Dani, Moonie and Nae initially meet?**

Dani, Moonie, and I met in that initial Twitter group I mentioned earlier. Dani reached out to me separately (because I may have made an impression that I was very eager to start organizing things haha) and Moonie and I were among the first batch of mentors there ever was. Since then, I was juggling being both a mentor and an organizer (but not officially, you can say haha). As for Nae, she initially applied as an organizer because it was getting too much for mentors to keep track of things during that time!

**What made you decide to join the server after hearing Dani's proposal?**

The study group seemed really a great idea during that time - and what's more, everyone was an ARMY! I could fangirl about my boys AND rant about my Korean-learning struggles at the same time.

**You are currently an admin for the server, were you always an admin or did you start as a mentor?**

Nope! I started as a mentor/organizer. The organizer part wasn't official, it's just that I was usually the one who thought of how to create things like schedule sheets, attendance sheets, work stream documents, etc. since I work on similar things in my job. I was always looking for new productivity bots to add to the server as well! Since organizer access was really limited during that time, Dani eventually gave me the admin role, so we can be more productive (without me having to pester her for access for this and that haha).

**How have you found your experience as a mentor so far?**



It's been quite challenging the past few years given the number of mentees, our activities, and most importantly - the number of mentor staff. 🐼 It wasn't this hard when we had a lot of mentors and fewer members, but that's part of the growing pains if you want to build a larger community!

**What about being an admin, could you describe and explain your experience?**

It's been great, honestly! I'm so glad I'm surrounded by great people and especially great staff members. It was really challenging at first when it was just me and Nae doing stuff, but the 아미 KSG Staff grew and grew - and now I can just focus on other things, like continuously thinking of methods to keep the server educational and enjoyable for everyone in it.

**When did you start learning Korean?**

I started learning Korean seriously last April 2019. Somehow I stopped the first few months of 2022, but I'm currently getting back at it again and revisiting the fundamentals.

**What initially made you start learning Korean?**

I started learning reading and writing 한글 back when I was in high school (which was more than 10 years ago) because I was a fan of SHINee and wanted to be able to write their names correctly, haha! I didn't care to learn about the language after that. However, as I spiraled even further down the BTS abyss (haha), people kept saying that their lyrics were a masterpiece and - although I already appreciated it - I thought that I would get a better grasp of how beautiful it is by understanding the language itself. That's when I started learning Korean seriously.

**So you've been an admin and a mentor for some time now, what would you say the best part of the two is?**



Admin - seeing how the server is growing in all aspects. I love seeing more mentees, and I love seeing more staff who are willing to help!

Mentor - being able to help learners like myself in their Korean-learning journey makes me really happy. I was in their shoes at one point of my journey as well, so I try my best to make things easier and more digestible for them.

**In addition, what is your favorite task to do for the two?**

Admin - finding Discord bots that are GEMS. Haha, I think that finding a bot that can do multiple stuff for you with the right configuration is great for our growing server.

Mentor - I like seeing questions that make me think more deeply, if that makes sense. Questions that you don't usually see which require multiple examples are a good challenge, and a good review of concepts as well!

**What are perhaps some of the challenges you have faced?**

A LOT. Aside from trying to build a learning community server from a small study group-centered one, we've encountered lots of changes along the way and have experienced a lot of challenging events that were still great opportunities for learning. From ghosting staff, to ghosting mentees, to rude people, to raiders, you name it! It's never easy building and maintaining a safe learning space like this.

**Going back to Korean, do you feel as though K-pop and K-dramas have helped you with your Korean? If not, could you please elaborate**

Yep, definitely! They're both the main drivers on why I initially wanted to learn the language. K-pop in particular still keeps me learning up to this day.

**How is it working with the other staff?**



I LOVE the staff, and I'm really honored to have them in the team. Even the staff work streams are a whole new layer to the server, actually. Behind the scenes, a lot of things are happening to keep the server afloat. Even with a lot of things going on, we as admins and organizers really try to make sure that staff members are doing their jobs in the most efficient manner, and that their staff duties don't take too much of their personal time. After all, they are doing all this for free!

**You mentioned recently undergoing knee surgery, firstly I hope you are recovering well, secondly, do you find it difficult managing the server whilst you are undergoing recovery?**

Thanks so much! And no, not really. It kinda helped me focus more on the server, actually - since I'm stuck sitting down in front of my laptop and can barely move my leg.

**Adding on to the previous question, do you find it difficult hosting BK (Beginner Korean) lessons whilst recovering?**

A little. 😞 It's because I set my session availability (pre-surgery) to the usual time that my surgeon/physical therapist is also available, so I find myself being unable to facilitate some of my BK (Beginner Korean) meetings because of doctor/PT appointments...

**So you work, are a mentor, an admin, host BK (Beginner Korean) lessons along with learning Korean. How do you manage to juggle all of this?**

I... have no idea, actually. It's been quite a challenge juggling my mentor duties recently, but I guess since it's something I still enjoy, I can find the time for it no matter what. Don't ask me about deadlines, though.... LOL



**What is your favorite activity, club, and/or course of the server that you like to do?**

Probably making quizzes on Quizbot, since most of the examples in the questions are from me or other staff. It's a good review for me going through the lists of questions before publishing the quizzes. Which reminds me - I really have to add new ones...

**Recently the server had its 2-year anniversary, how did this make you feel?**

I was really shocked when I realized it's been 2 years?! Haha, I can't believe we're still up and running - and with even more mentees! If I remember correctly, our very first run of the server only had about 30+ members, and now we have about 150 (active) members... That's pretty insane, I'm super happy!

**Was the server always quota based? Please elaborate.**

I don't quite remember how it exactly became like that - however, what I do know is that it became like that very early on because we wanted to have a reason to (initially) just keep our server for those who were really interested in continuous and regular learning, at least once a month. We also wanted to make sure that we only have people who really want to stay in the server. It might be a fun community, but its main purpose is still for us to have a 'study group'.

**What was the hardest part to create on the server?**

I think the hardest would be maintenance of materials, both for activities like quizzes and for lives.

**What made it so difficult?**



Since we have quite a few mentor staff, especially recently, it's hard to maintain some of the things we used to regularly do (C&S (chat and speaking), speaking/listening lives, etc.)...

**What has been your favorite change or inclusion in the server?**

The server economy! 😄 It just really helps in making people more engaged, and it kinda adds to the fun. It's also pretty fun for me to create those kinds of commands.

**Additionally, how does it feel regarding the server having its own website?**

The website is awesome ㄏㄏ It just adds that 'legit' feel to it y'know. Plus it's much easier to keep information in one place and we can be contacted through there too! Nae did a wonderful job!

**That's all the questions we have for today. Thank you, Ka!**

