

October Interviews

Interviewee: Sara
Capacity: Moderator

Hello Sara, how are you today?

I'm fine, how about you?

We are here to interview you as a Moderator for yearbook. To start off, could you please introduce yourself?

My name is Sara (KOR: 전설). My role in the server is as a Moderator. I'm 25 years old, (If you want to know about it). I joined the server on 8th January and got access to the server on 30th January. I became a Moderator Trainee in April 2022 and officially became a Moderator in July 2022.

Where are you from?

I'm from Egypt.

How many languages do you speak?

I am a Native Arabic speaker and can speak English. The only language I'm learning is Korean.

How was your experience joining and entering the server?

Oh, experience... I was on the old process for joining [live server tour followed by a test]. I failed the server tour quiz 4 times, I think, and was successful in the 5th try if I remember correctly. At that time I was lost, but people here were so helpful to guide me.

So you mentioned you failed the server tour quiz four times. Could I ask why that was?

Ah, I think I misunderstood some rules, and I was confused about it. Once I believe, I couldn't hear the full live tour because of my internet.



Since English isn't your first language, did you ever feel like there was a language barrier that ever occurred at all?

Oh, yes. This is one of the reasons I didn't understand the live tour fully, so I was missing a lot of information in the middle.

When did you decide to become a Moderator?

I signed up at the end of March. I took the Moderator Quiz, passed and got the role. I think it was on the 4th of April.

Why did you decide to become a Moderator?

Ohh for many reasons.

The first reason was that the server was really helpful to me. I received so much help as a learner of Korean. When I ask any server related questions, I find many lovely people helping me, so when I saw the post that the server was looking for staff, I said why not, I wanted to give a hand too.

The second reason was that it was like a challenge for me when I failed the tour quiz many times. I said to myself, "uhh Sara you need to understand the server to avoid being warned or kicked." so I was careful while reading the rules before I did any steps. I never got a warning at all, so this was one of the reasons too which made me sign up because I felt I knew the rules well to help in guiding other people.

The third reason was also because I felt the need to guide people. This server is amazing and has wonderful people, so I was like "I need to guide people to get access to the server so they as well can see how beautiful this server is." and honestly you can say that the main reason to become a Moderator is my love and admiration for this server.

How was the process of applying to become a Moderator?

Well I was nervous taking the quiz. It was partially easy and partially hard. The idea of taking the Moderator Quiz was perfect because you know if you are suitable for this position or not. You know when you pass you get a question from admin if you would really like to continue and hence this quiz was like a sign for me to. Yeah, I guess I fit this role.

Once you complete the quiz, you obviously become a Moderator Trainee. How was your experience being a Moderator Trainee?



Ahhh, it was a beautiful experience. Many Moderators helped me during my Moderator Trainee period like Swathu, Guada, Andrea and many Organizers, Griz especially. There was self learning too. When I would see a question, I would look deep into it and try my best to find the answer for it on my own before I could ask the staff who was training me. I kept reading the rules step by step and observed everything going on in the server and everything that was happening around me. I gathered information, so I can be a good Moderator who gives fully explained and correct answers to the members.

Keeping your experience in mind, now that you are a Moderator, how are you finding the difference between a Moderator and a Moderator Trainee?

No big difference. For me, the only thing is that I feel more responsible and the questions I answer are correct.

This is a good follow-up question to what you just said. The server is always changing. So, what is the biggest change you had to cope with since becoming a mod?

Server tour verification process change was the biggest change for me. Because it was really big. Now, you don't attend tours like before so there is no server tour tracking meaning we don't have to warn who didn't attend the tour[after confirming timings] nor did we have to track reactions[to the server tour timings]. Now it has become easier but I liked both experiences. To be honest, the first process taught me more. In the first process, I would be sitting and listening to different-different hosts saying information in different ways, so it helped me build up my information[about the server].

What would you say your favorite task to do as a Moderator is?

Warn and Kick people [laughs]. Answer questions. I feel happy when I answer people's questions, and they understand me. I do feel confident. Not only that[answering questions], I like all tasks and there's no pressure on me at all.

And now what's your least favorite task as a Moderator?

Least favorite task ... none... I like them all.

Okay, [laughs]. What are some of the challenges you have faced while being a Moderator?



Challenges, umm, the whole thing was a challenge... Maybe that I wanted to prove myself and learn fast, so I don't let the admins down. I'm one of the people who signed up for responsibility and I feel guilty if I don't do my tasks, make mistakes or I just wasn't responsible... You know, I don't want to feel like I failed someone.

How do you feel like you've managed to deal or overcome this challenge?

Oh, I forgot one of the challenges was my bad English typing, so I say to myself, "Keep reading Sara." to avoid typos. For this question, I always try to finish the missions I sign up for as soon as possible because I know that if I'm late to do it, it may cause a problem. I love what I'm doing, so doing missions isn't something that feels heavy. I wake up and check the server channels like o-r-u-lost-2 or mod channel or tour sheet if there's something that has to be done.

Could you elaborate on what you mean by missions? Sorry.

Mission, for example there was this old process where there was reaction tracking for people who reacted to a poll and didn't attend so Swathu was dividing the mission like Sara will warn 1- 2- 3- Or there's someone in the sheet that needed to be reminded.

Oh, okay. When you applied to become a Moderator, what were you expecting?

Umm, well I didn't think it would be detailed like this, I just thought of answering people in server questions and if someone breaks rules then I warn.

What do you think of what you are doing now in regard to all the tasks?

Oh, it's okay for me. I like it sometimes and wish I could do more. I mean, if there are more tasks, I don't mind doing it.

How is working with your Moderator team?

Fun and cute... all people in the team are super amazing Moderators, Organizers. When I was a trainee and there would be a question that I didn't know, I would rush to the Organizer and Moderator channel and ask them, and I would always find a good team helping me ... Griz especially I owe her so much, she always explains to me in detail.



That's cute. So what do you do? Do you have a job? Do you go to school?

I've graduated, so no school. My job is a freelance job ... freelance designer.

Oh okay, so do you feel like having your own hours due to freelancing aided you to help the server?

Oh, yes, I did. I think first when I joined I made a poster for RUN KSG, but it was a fast process. I did it for a staff application poster, I also made logos for K-Vocabulary, Mystery and Social Media Club

Maybe we will get to see it soon. Do you also perhaps find it a barrier in terms of time-consuming? Because I believe you are a part of club leadership in multiple clubs as well.

Umm, it just makes me overwhelmed if my internet is cut off and I can't do my duties, other than that... no. I think August was the month I felt it the most. I was sick with covid, had no internet and many sad things had occurred but it was just a month and it passed. But overall I don't feel bad at all.

Oh no, I hope this month gets better for you. Of course, being an ARMY must be consuming your time as well. How did you get into BTS?

Before the end of 2020 I didn't know that BTS existed. Unfortunately, I really feel bad that I didn't know about them earlier... Before 2020, let's say I was kinda depressed and wasn't on social media much but towards the end of 2020 I opened up social media once and then by luck I saw a video of BTS's MAMA performance of 'Fire', and I was like "wow,wow who are they?" So I started searching for them and found that they have many old songs from 2013 and there's a hit song called 'Dynamite' and there's an album coming [BE] so I was thinking 'how should I start[ARMY journey]?'. So I created my Twitter[account], downloaded Weverse and watched YouTube. The most beautiful luck for me is when I saw that video [BTS performance].

It's a good thing you got into them then.

Yes.



You've been a Moderator staff member for a while and a member of the server for longer. The server offers many activities, clubs and courses. What did you start doing when you joined the server, and what are you doing now?

I directly signed up for K-Language Club, it was my first thing I did. I did 한글 101 then 아미 KSG textbook course.

Following on from that. What is your favorite activity, club, course of the server that you like to do?

Favorite club: K-Language club.

Favorite course : Beginner Korean 2[Soundcheck] even though it was painful but Nae is a great teacher really. She's amazing, cute, evil and it was an amazing experience.

Favorite activity: Tournament and RUN KSG.

Now that you are a Moderator, are you helping out or training any of the Moderator Trainees?

Nope, I don't yet have an official trainee to help.

Are you looking forward to training someone in the future?

Oh, yes, of course I would.

So, we are coming to the end of the interview now. Do you have any advice you'd like to give to current trainees or to the ones who are thinking of applying to Moderating staff?

For the trainees, I would like to advise them: don't be lazy; be responsible for what you sign up for. If you have questions don't hesitate to ask a Moderator. The training period is the time you have to learn, and it's okay to make mistakes. Mistakes can be fixed and mistakes can teach you a lot and add to your experience. For the staff, they are amazing, and one of the things that made me keep going as a Moderator is that the staff team is so adorable, friendly and cute.