



Korean Ladder Study Note

안녕 / 잘 가 / 뭐 해

친구끼리 반말 첫걸음

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Banmal (Casual)	안녕 / 잘 가 / 뭐 해 친구끼리 반말 첫걸음

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-001>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HwFfOQhqtK>

Visit [koreanladder.com](https://www.koreanladder.com) for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I learned 안녕하세요 first, so I keep saying it to everyone. But when I text a close friend, it feels kind of stiff. What should I say instead?

Good question. 안녕하세요 is polite and safe. With a same-age close friend, Koreans usually say 안녕.

That casual style is called 반말. In English, think close-friend speech.

Today the first trick is simple. Many polite everyday phrases end in 요. For a close friend, we often remove 요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	안녕. 뭐 해? —	Hi. What are you doing?
Junho	그냥 커피 마셔. 너는? —	Just drinking coffee. You?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	나도 커피 사러 가. 잘 가. —	I'm going to buy coffee too. Bye.
Junho	응, 안녕. —	Yeah, bye.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
안녕하세요 → 안녕 annyeonghaseyo → annyeong	polite hello → casual hi or bye	Good question. 안녕하세요 is polite and safe. With a same-age close friend, Koreans usually say 안녕.
반말 banmal	casual speech for close relationships	That casual style is called 반말. In English, think close-friend speech.
-요 → 반말 -yo → banmal	remove 요 to sound casual	Today the first trick is simple. Many polite everyday phrases end in 요. For a close friend, we often remove 요.
안녕 annyeong	hi or bye	Look at the first keeper word. 안녕 is short, friendly, and very common.
잘 가 jal ga	bye / take care	There is another very useful goodbye. 잘 가 means go well, or bye, said to the person who is leaving.
잘가 jal ga	go well / bye	Here are the pieces. 잘 means well, and 가 means go.
뭐해 mwo hae	what do / what are you doing	뭐 means what, and 해 means do. In casual speech, 뭐 해? is light and everyday.
요 있음 → polite / 요 없음 → casual —	with 요 is polite; without 요 is casual	맞아요. Same idea. 요 makes it polite. No 요 makes it casual, if the relationship is right.



Grammar / Structure Notes

안녕하세요 → 안녕

안녕하세요 → 안녕 — polite hello → casual hi or bye

Use 안녕 with close friends, not strangers or elders.

반말

반말 — casual speech for close relationships

same-age friends, younger people, or people who clearly agreed to speak casually

-요 → 반말

-요 → 반말 — remove 요 to sound casual

This lesson uses safe beginner examples only.

안녕

안녕 — hi or bye

Look at the first keeper word. 안녕 is short, friendly, and very common.

안녕

안녕 — hi and bye

casual, friendly, and context-based

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
안녕. 뭐 해?	annyeong. mwo hae?
뭐해?	mwo hae → mwohae
잘 가	jal ga

Self-Check

- 1 Say 안녕 / 잘 가 / 뭐 해 three times: slow, natural, then inside a short sentence.
- 2 Write one original sentence that was not in the video.
- 3 Rewatch the YouTube lesson and pause when the same pattern appears.

Related / Subsequent Studies



Lesson	Why study it next	Link
-어 / -지 / -자 / -래? Casual Sentence Endings Among Friends	B1 Colloquial: compare -어 / -지 / -자 / -래? with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-001
말 놓을까요 Switching to Casual Banmal with Friends	A2 Colloquial: compare 말 놓을까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-001
반말 의문·명령 -냐? / -어라 / -지 마	B2 Colloquial: compare 반말 의문·명령 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-BAN-001
야 친구를 부르고 가리키는 반말	A2 Colloquial: compare 야 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-003

My Notes

Your ladder to fluent Korean. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.