



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 고마워 / 미안 / 괜찮아

친구끼리 주고받는 반말 인사

| Level                    | Topic                         | Focus                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A1 · Beginner<br>TOPIK 1 | Colloquial<br>Banmal (Casual) | 고마워 / 미안 / 괜찮아<br>친구끼리 주고받는 반말 인사 |

## Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XdD2gQ5Cyw>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

## Core Idea

Okay, real problem: with close friends I still say 고마워요 and 죄송해요. It feels polite... but also kind of stiff. Is that wrong?

좋은 질문이에요. With a close friend, Koreans often drop the polite 요. So 고마워요 becomes 고마워. In English, that means soft, close thanks.

Today's pattern is simple. Soft friend talk: 고마워, 미안해, 괜찮아. Same warmth, less distance.

이게 중요한 이유네요. These little words reset the mood between friends. They keep the chat soft, not formal.

## Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean            | Meaning                       |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hana    | 커피 사 줘서 고마워.<br>— | Thanks for buying the coffee. |
| Junho   | 아니야. 별거 아니야.<br>— | Nah. It's nothing.            |



| Speaker | Korean               | Meaning                       |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hana    | 아, 나 좀 늦어서 미안해.<br>— | Ah, sorry I'm a little late.  |
| Junho   | 아니야, 괜찮아.<br>—       | Nah, it's okay.               |
| Hana    | 커피 사 줘서 고마워.<br>—    | Thanks for buying the coffee. |
| Junho   | 아니야. 별거 아니야.<br>—    | Nah. It's nothing.            |
| Hana    | 아, 나 좀 늦어서 미안해.<br>— | Ah, sorry I'm a little late.  |
| Junho   | 아니야, 괜찮아.<br>—       | Nah, it's okay.               |

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word                                                   | Meaning                                                 | Example                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 고마워 · 미안해 ·<br>괜찮아<br>gomawo · mianhae<br>· gwaenchana | thanks / sorry / it's okay (casual)                     | Today's pattern is simple. Soft friend talk: 고마워, 미안해, 괜찮아. Same warmth, less distance.                  |
| 반말 인사<br>banmal insa                                   | casual soft talk among friends                          | 이게 중요한 이유는요. These little words reset the mood between friends. They keep the chat soft, not formal.     |
| 고마워요 → 고마워<br>gomawoyo →<br>gomawo                     | thank you (polite → casual)                             | 먼저 고마워요. 친구끼리는 고마워라고 해요. Same meaning — just closer.                                                     |
| 고마워<br>gomawo                                          | thanks (casual)                                         | 들어 보세요. 고마워. One short word. Soft thanks.                                                                |
| 미안해<br>mianhae                                         | sorry (casual)                                          | 미안해요도 친구끼리는 미안해라고 해요. 미안해 comes from 미안하다; 해 is the casual 아/어 form. In English: sorry — soft and short. |
| 괜찮아<br>gwaenchana                                      | it's okay / I'm fine (casual)                           | 그리고 친구에게 괜찮다고 말해 줄 때는 괜찮아요가 아니에요. 친구끼리는 괜찮아라고 해요.                                                        |
| 아니야<br>aniya                                           | nah / it's nothing / don't worry (soft reply after 미안해) | Often after 미안해, a friend softens it with 아니야. In English: nah, it's nothing, don't worry.               |



| Word                                                               | Meaning                         | Example                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 고마워 / 미안해 /<br>아니야, 괜찮아<br>gomawo / mianhae /<br>aniya, gwaenchana | thanks / sorry / nah, it's okay | So if my friend helps me, I say 고마워. If I bump into them, 미안해. And they might say 아니야, 괜찮아? |



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 고마워 · 미안해 · 괜찮아

고마워 · 미안해 · 괜찮아 — thanks / sorry / it's okay (casual)

close friends only — not strangers or elders

### 반말 인사

반말 인사 — casual soft talk among friends

thanks, apology, and reassurance

### 고마워요 → 고마워

고마워요 → 고마워 — thank you (polite → casual)

drop 요 with close friends

### 고마워

고마워 — thanks (casual)

들어 보세요. 고마워. One short word. Soft thanks.

### 미안해

미안해 — sorry (casual)

미안해요도 친구끼리는 미안해라고 해요. 미안해 comes from 미안하다; 해 is the casual 아/어 form. In English: sorry — soft and short.

## Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase   | How to practice   |
|----------|-------------------|
| 고마워      | gomawo            |
| 미안해      | mianhae           |
| 괜찮아      | gwaenchana        |
| 괜차나      | gwaenchana        |
| 아니야, 괜찮아 | aniya, gwaenchana |

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 고마워 / 미안 / 괜찮아 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                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 밥 먹었어<br>Everyday Casual<br>Questions Among Friends        | A1 Colloquial: compare 밥 먹었어 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.           | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-002</a> |
| 안녕 / 잘 가 / 뭐 해<br>친구끼리 반말 첫걸음                              | A1 Colloquial: compare 안녕 / 잘 가 / 뭐 해 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.  | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-001</a> |
| -거든 / -잖아 반말<br>설명하고 상기시키는 casual<br>말투                    | B1 Colloquial: compare -거든 / -잖아 반말 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.    | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-002</a> |
| -냐고 / -자고 / -라고<br>Casual Reported Speech<br>Among Friends | B1 Colloquial: compare -냐고 / -자고 / -라고 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-003">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-003</a> |

## My Notes

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