



Korean Ladder Study Note

학생이야 / 내 거야 / 진짜야

Saying 'It Is' in Banmal

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Banmal (Casual)	학생이야 / 내 거야 / 진짜야 Saying 'It Is' in Banmal

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-005>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jT8K8TzSt8

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real problem: with a close friend I still say 학생이에요 and 내 거예요. It feels safe... but also kind of stiff. Is that wrong?

좋은 질문이에요. With a close friend, Koreans often drop the polite ending. So 학생이에요 becomes 학생이야. In English, that means 'I'm a student' — casual and close.

Today's pattern is simple. Casual 'it is': the ending 이야 after a consonant, and just 야 after a vowel. Same meaning as 이에요 and 예요 — just closer.

이게 중요한 이유예요. Friends use this all day — to say who they are, whose thing it is, and to check 'really?'. Without it, banmal still sounds half-polite.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	나 학생이야. —	I'm a student.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	진짜야? —	Really?
Hana	응, 진짜야. 이거 내 거야. —	Yeah, really. This is mine.
Junho	아, 네 거야? 나는 아니야. —	Oh, it's yours? It's not mine.
Hana	나 학생이야. —	I'm a student.
Junho	진짜야? —	Really?
Hana	응, 진짜야. 이거 내 거야. —	Yeah, really. This is mine.
Junho	아, 네 거야? 나는 아니야. —	Oh, it's yours? It's not mine.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-(이)야 -(i)ya	casual 'it is' / 'it is?'	Today's pattern is simple. Casual 'it is': the ending 이야 after a consonant, and just 야 after a vowel. Same meaning as 이에요 and 예요 — just closer.
나 학생이야 na haksaeng-iya	I'm a student (casual)	먼저 자음 뒤에요. After a consonant, use 이야. 학생 plus the ending 이야 becomes 학생이야. In English: I'm a student — casual.
이거 내 거야 igeo nae geo-ya	this is mine (casual)	이제 모음 뒤에요. After a vowel sound, use just 야. 내 거 plus 야 becomes 내 거야. In English: it's mine.
이에요/예요 → 이야/야 ieyo/yeyo → iya/ya	polite 'it is' → casual 'it is'	이제 연결해 볼게요. You already know polite 이에요 and 예요. Banmal just shortens them.
학생이에요 → 학생이야 haksaeng-ieyo → haksaeng-iya	I'm a student (polite → casual)	자음 뒤에는 이에요가 이야로 바뀌어요. So 학생이에요 becomes 학생이야. In English: consonant, then 이야.
내 거예요 → 내 거야 nae geo-yeyo → nae geo-ya	it's mine (polite → casual)	모음 뒤에는 예요가 야로 바뀌어요. So 내 거예요 becomes 내 거야. In English: after a vowel, just 야.
아니야 aniya	no / it's not (casual)	맞아요. And the casual 'no' or 'it's not' is 아니야. In English: nope / it's not — soft and short with friends.



Word	Meaning	Example
아니예요 → 아니야 anieyo → aniya	it's not (polite → casual)	아니예요 becomes 아니야. Same idea as before — drop the polite shell, keep the meaning.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-(이)야

-(이)야 — casual 'it is' / 'it is?'

이에요/예요 → 이야/야 with close friends

학생이야 · 내 거야 · 진짜야?

학생이야 · 내 거야 · 진짜야? — I'm a student / it's mine / really?

statements and questions share the same casual ending

나 학생이야

나 + 학생 + 이야 — I'm a student (casual)

먼저 자음 뒤에요. After a consonant, use 이야. 학생 plus the ending 이야 becomes 학생이야. In English: I'm a student — casual.

나 학생이야

나 + 학생 + 이야 — I'm a student (casual)

들어 보세요. 나 학생이야. Short, soft, and natural with a friend.

이거 내 거야

이거 + 내 + 거 + 야 — this is mine (casual)

이제 모음 뒤에요. After a vowel sound, use just 야. 내 거 plus 야 becomes 내 거야. In English: it's mine.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
나 학생이야	na haksaeng-ya
이거 내 거야	igeo nae geo-ya
진짜야?	jinjja-ya?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 학생이야 / 내 거야 / 진짜야 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
고마워 / 미안 / 괜찮아 친구끼리 주고받는 반말 인사	A1 Colloquial: compare 고마워 / 미안 / 괜찮아 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-004
나 / 너 / 우리 Casual Pronouns That Replace 저 and Titles	A1 Colloquial: compare 나 / 너 / 우리 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-008
몰라 / 싫어 / 그만해 친구에게 짧게 거절하고 반응하기	A1 Colloquial: compare 몰라 / 싫어 / 그만해 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-006
밥 먹었어 Everyday Casual Questions Among Friends	A1 Colloquial: compare 밥 먹었어 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-BAN-002

My Notes

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