



Korean Ladder Study Note

없어요

Dropping 요 From Everyday Existence Phrases

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Contractions	없어요 Dropping 요 From Everyday Existence Phrases

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz6jzsklixE>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my problem. I know 있어요 means "there is" or "I have," and 없어요 means "there isn't" or "I don't have." But my Korean friends keep saying 있어 and 없어. Are they just cutting off the ending?

좋은 질문이에요. 네, 모양은 요가 빠진 것처럼 보여요. But the real point is speech level: 있어요 is polite, and 있어 is casual banmal.

없어요 works the same way. 없어요 is polite. 없어 is casual. Same meaning, different relationship feeling.

So it's not a new verb. It's the same everyday "have" and "don't have," just in friend-mode.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	커피 있어? —	Do we have coffee? casual
Junho	아니, 없어. —	No, we don't.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	차는 있어. —	We do have tea, though.
Hana	좋아. 그럼 차 마시자. —	Good. Then let's drink tea.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
있어요 → 있어 isseoyo → isseo	there is / I have → casual	좋은 질문이에요. 네, 모양은 요가 빠진 것처럼 보여요. But the real point is speech level: 있어요 is polite, and 있어 is casual banmal.
없어요 → 없어 eopseoyo → eopseo	there isn't / I don't have → casual	없어요 works the same way. 없어요 is polite. 없어 is casual. Same meaning, different relationship feeling.
있어요 / 없어요 → 있어 / 없어 isseoyo / eopseoyo → isseo / eopseo	polite everyday existence → casual everyday existence	맞아요. 오늘의 패턴은 간단해요. 있어요 becomes 있어. 없어요 becomes 없어.
요 = polite feeling yo	The ending carries social distance	Why it matters: in Korean, the ending tells the relationship. Dropping 요 can make you sound warm with a friend, but too casual with someone you should respect.
시간이 없어 = 시간 없어 sigani eopseo = sigan eopseo	Both can work in casual speech	So for today, focus on the ending. 있어요 to 있어. 없어요 to 없어. Particles like 이 or 가 may appear, but in quick casual talk they are often omitted.
있어 isseo	Dropping 요 From Everyday Existence Phrases	Pronunciation time. 있어 is written 있어, but it sounds like 이써. The double-sounding ㅆ is strong and clear.
없어 eopseo	Dropping 요 From Everyday Existence Phrases	없어 is written 없어, and the natural sound is 업써. 없어요 also sounds like 업써요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

있어요 → 있어

있어요 → 있어 — there is / I have → casual

Used with close friends, younger people, or when banmal is already okay

없어요 → 없어

없어요 → 없어 — there isn't / I don't have → casual

Do not use casual forms with strangers or elders unless invited

있어요 / 없어요 → 있어 / 없어

있어요 / 없어요 → 있어 / 없어 — polite everyday existence → casual everyday existence

This is banmal, casual speech

요 = polite feeling

요 = polite feeling — The ending carries social distance

Meaning is not enough; relationship matters

시간 있어요?

시간 + 있어요? — Do you have time? / Is there time?

First example. 시간 있어요? means, “Do you have time?” politely. With a close friend, 시간 있어?

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
있어	isseo
없어	eopseo
시간 있어?	sigan isseo?
시간 없어.	sigan eopseo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 없어요 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
그치 / 그니까 / 아냐 Tiny Casual Confirmations Friends Say	A1 Colloquial: compare 그치 / 그니까 / 아냐 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-003
난 / 년 / 뭘 / 날 Everyday Spoken Contractions of Particles	A1 Colloquial: compare 난 / 년 / 뭘 / 날 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-002
어디 / 뭐 / 누구 Dropping Particles in Casual Speech	A1 Colloquial: compare 어디 / 뭐 / 누구 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-004
이건 / 저건 / 그건 Everyday Spoken Contractions of 이것은	A1 Colloquial: compare 이건 / 저건 / 그건 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-001

My Notes

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