



Korean Ladder Study Note

네 / 아니요 / 맞아요

Natural Korean Reactions

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Fillers & Reactions	네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 Natural Korean Reactions

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-001)

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYfMFN82wtM)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYfMFN82wtM>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real question. When a Korean person agrees with everything by saying 네, 네, 네 — are they just saying yes a hundred times?

Right, and the flip side — in English I'd just go 'yeah, yeah' to fill the gap. Does that even work in Korean?

Great question. Today's three keepers are 네, 아니요, and 맞아요. 좋아요, let's frame why these matter.

Here is the key. 네 isn't only 'yes.' 그리고 'I hear you'라는 뜻이기도 해요 — it also means 'I hear you,' a little signal that you're listening.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 이거 커피예요? —	Junho, is this coffee?
Junho	아니요, 차예요. —	No, it's tea.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	아, 네. —	Ah, I see.
Junho	이 차, 진짜 맛있어요. —	This tea is really good.
Hana	맞아요, 정말 맛있어요. —	Right, it's really delicious.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 ne / aniyο / majayo	yes / no / that's right	Great question. Today's three keepers are 네, 아니요, and 맞아요. 좋아요, let's frame why these matter.
네 ne	yes — or 'I hear you'	Here is the key. 네 isn't only 'yes.' 그리고 'I hear you'라는 뜻이기도 해요 — it also means 'I hear you,' a little signal that you're listening.
네, 학생이에요 ne, haksaeᅅg-ieyo	Yes, I'm a student.	Let me show you a clean 'yes.' 학생이에요? 네, 학생이에요. Are you a student? Yes, I'm a student.
네... 네... ne... ne...	mm-hm... go on...	Now the same 네 as a listening sound. While Junho talks, I might quietly go 네... 네... just to say keep going.
네 = mm-hm ne	a listening signal	Oh, so it's like an English 'mm-hm' or 'right.' It's not promising I agree — it's just proof I'm awake.
아니요, 차예요 aniyo, cha-yeyo	No, it's tea.	정확해요 — exactly. Now the opposite. 아니요 means 'no.' 커피예요? 아니요, 차예요. Is it coffee? No, it's tea.
아니요 aniyo	Natural Korean Reactions	좋아요. Very natural. Notice you can also say a softer 아니 with friends, but 아니요 keeps it polite.
맞아요 majayo	that's right / correct	Now the third word, and it's the fun one. 맞아요 means 'that's right' — you agree with the content, not just hearing it.



Grammar / Structure Notes

네 / 아니요 / 맞아요

네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 — yes / no / that's right

Three reactions that carry a whole conversation.

네

네 — yes — or 'I hear you'

Often a listening signal, not a full agreement.

네

네 — 1) yes 2) I'm listening

Context tells you which one.

네, 학생이에요

네 + , + 학생 + 이에요 — Yes, I'm a student.

Let me show you a clean 'yes.' 학생이에요? 네, 학생이에요. Are you a student? Yes, I'm a student.

네... 네...

네... 네... — mm-hm... go on...

Soft, low — a backchannel, not agreement.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
아니요	aniyo, cha-yeyo
맞아요	ne, majayo
네, 맞아요	ne, majayo
차예요	aniyo, cha-yeyo
아니요, 차예요	aniyo, cha-yeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 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
글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 Hedging and Agreeing Naturally	A2 Colloquial: compare 글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001
음 / 그러니까 / 뭐랄까 Sounding Natural with Korean Fillers	B1 Colloquial: compare 음 / 그러니까 / 뭐랄까 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-FIL-001
-르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것	B2 Colloquial: compare -르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001
ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001

My Notes

Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.