



Korean Ladder Study Note

에이씨 / 아유 / 어우

Mild Frustration Sounds Beyond 아이고

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Fillers & Reactions	에이씨 / 아유 / 어우 Mild Frustration Sounds Beyond 아이고

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-007>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blMwm3wjLw>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I know 아이고, but in dramas I keep hearing 에이씨, 아유, and 어우. Are these all just Korean for ugh?

좋은 질문이에요. They overlap, but they do not feel the same.

Today's goal is safety. You will recognize them in real speech, and use them without sounding angry at someone.

오늘의 패턴은 감탄사예요. In English, interjections are little reaction words, like oh no, ugh, or oof.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	아유, 커피 쏟았어요? —	Oh no, did the coffee spill?
Junho	네, 조금 쏟았어요. —	Yes, a little spilled.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	괜찮으세요? 휴지 드릴게요. —	Are you okay? I'll give you a napkin.
Junho	감사해요. 다행히 괜찮아요. —	Thank you. Luckily, it is okay.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
에이씨 / 아유 / 어우 eissi / ayu / eou	mild frustration or reaction sounds	Today's goal is safety. You will recognize them in real speech, and use them without sounding angry at someone.
감탄사: 에이씨 · 아유 · 어우 gamtansa: eissi · ayu · eou	interjections: short reaction sounds	오늘의 패턴은 감탄사예요. In English, interjections are little reaction words, like oh no, ugh, or oof.
감탄사 + 짧은 말 gamtansa + jjalbeun mal	interjection + short comment	So they are not full sentences. They are like emotional buttons before the sentence.
에이씨 eissi	ugh; darn it; mild annoyed sound	에이씨 is often for yourself, like when the charger does not work. Avoid aiming it at a person.
아유 ayu	oh no; aw; oh dear	아유 is useful because it can be warm. In English, it can feel like oh no, aw, or oh dear, depending on your voice.
어우 eou	oof; whoa; ugh from a sensation	어우 is casual and very real. You might say 어우, 매워 when food is spicy, or 어우, 추워 when the air is cold.
느낌을 먼저 들어요 neukkim-eul meonjeo deureoyo	Listen for the feeling first.	Let's show three natural examples. Listen for the feeling first, not a perfect English translation.
감탄사 + 말투 gamtansa + maltu	interjection + speech style	I notice none of these are polite by themselves. The sentence after them carries a lot of the register.



Grammar / Structure Notes

에이씨 / 아유 / 어우

에이씨 / 아유 / 어우 — mild frustration or reaction sounds

Use with care; tone and context matter.

감탄사: 에이씨 · 아유 · 어우

감탄사: 에이씨 · 아유 · 어우 — interjections: short reaction sounds

They can stand alone before a sentence.

감탄사 + 짧은 말

감탄사 + 짧은 말 — interjection + short comment

Example: 아유, 괜찮아요?

에이씨, 또 안 돼.

에이씨, + 또 + 안 + 돼 + . — Ugh, it is not working again.

맞아요. First, 에이씨. It is a small burst of annoyance, but it can sound sharp because it is close to stronger bad language.

에이씨

에이씨 — ugh; darn it; mild annoyed sound

Safer to use to yourself, not at someone.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
아유, 괜찮으세요?	ayu, gwaenchanh-euseyo?
어우, 추워.	eou, chuwo.
에이씨, 또 안 돼.	eissi, tto an dwae.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 에이씨 / 아유 / 어우 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
네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 Natural Korean Reactions	A1 Colloquial: compare 네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-001
아 / 오 / 헐 / 어머 First Korean Interjections for Surprise and Feeling	A1 Colloquial: compare 아 / 오 / 헐 / 어머 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-003
아하 / 오호 / 흠 Beginner 'I See' and Thinking Sounds	A1 Colloquial: compare 아하 / 오호 / 흠 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-005
어 Tiny Spoken Reactions Koreans Use Nonstop	A1 Colloquial: compare 어 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-002

My Notes

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