



Korean Ladder Study Note

앗 / 어이쿠 / 이런

Beginner 'Oops' and Startle Sounds

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Fillers & Reactions	앗 / 어이쿠 / 이런 Beginner 'Oops' and Startle Sounds

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-008>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tF4plbwL9gg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my problem. I drop my pen, and I want to say oops in Korean. Do I say 미안해요 every time?

좋은 질문이에요. If you only react to the moment, you do not always need 미안해요. You can use a tiny sound first.

Today's three sounds are 앓, 어이쿠, and 이런. They are short, safe, and common in everyday speech.

앗 is quick. Use it when something suddenly happens, or when you notice something.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	앗, 제 휴대폰. —	Oh, my phone.
Junho	여기 있어요. —	It's here.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어이쿠, 컵 조심하세요. —	Whoops, watch the cup.
Junho	괜찮아요. —	It's okay.
Hana	이런, 우산이 없네요. —	Oh no, the umbrella isn't here.
Junho	같이 써요. —	Let's share mine.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
앗 · 어이쿠 · 이런 at · eoiku · ireon	oh, oops · oof, whoops · oh no, darn	Today's three sounds are 앓, 어이쿠, and 이런. They are short, safe, and common in everyday speech.
앗 at	Oh, oops, ah	앗 is quick. Use it when something suddenly happens, or when you notice something.
어이쿠 eoiku	Oops, whoa, oof	어이쿠 is a little rounder and more physical. Use it when you almost drop something, bump something, or move suddenly.
이런 ireon	Oh no, darn	이런 sounds like oh no, or darn. Use it when you see a small problem, not when you are angry at someone.
반응 + 문장 baneung + munjang	reaction + sentence	Exactly. Also, these are reactions, not full sentences. They often come before the real sentence.
한 번만 han beonman	Just once	맞아요. And do not overuse them. One small sound is enough.
아이고 aigo	oh dear, gosh	Another mistake is using 아이고 for everything. 아이고 is common, but it can feel heavier, older, or more dramatic depending on tone.



Grammar / Structure Notes

앗 · 어이쿠 · 이런

앗 · 어이쿠 · 이런 — oh, oops · oof, whoops · oh no, darn

Tiny spoken reactions

앗

앗 — Oh, oops, ah

Fast startle or sudden realization

어이쿠

어이쿠 — Oops, whoa, oof

Small physical mishap or near-miss

이런

이런 — Oh no, darn

A mild reaction to a problem

앗, 지갑.

앗, + 지갑. — Oh, my wallet.

Listen first. 앓, 지갑. Oh, my wallet. I suddenly noticed it.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
앗	at
어이쿠	eoiku
이런	ireon
앗, 지갑.	at, jigap
어이쿠, 꺾얏창아요.	eoiku, gwaenchanayo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 앓 / 어이쿠 / 이런 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.