



Korean Ladder Study Note

괜찮아요 / 괜찮으세요

Saying 'It's Okay' and Checking If Someone Is

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Greetings & Basics	괜찮아요 / 괜찮으세요 Saying 'It's Okay' and Checking If Someone Is

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-006>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEPkVbaw9l8>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Real talk — someone bumped my bag and looked so sorry. I wanted to say it's fine, but I froze. Is 괜찮아요 the right move?

네, 바로 그거예요. Yes — that moment is exactly when Koreans reach for 괜찮아요.

Today's pattern is 괜찮다. In English: to be okay, fine, or all right. And we'll choose between 괜찮아요 and 괜찮으세요.

먼저 기본형이에요. First, the everyday polite form: 괜찮아요. In English: it's okay, I'm fine, no problem.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	물 드릴까요? —	Shall I get you some water?
Hana	아니요, 괜찮아요. —	No, I'm fine.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	괜찮으세요? —	Are you okay?
Hana	네, 괜찮아요. 고마워요. —	Yes, I'm fine. Thank you.
Hana	아니요, 괜찮아요. —	No, I'm fine.
Junho	괜찮으세요? —	Are you okay?

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
괜찮아요 gwaenchanayo	it's okay / I'm fine / no problem	먼저 기본형이에요. First, the everyday polite form: 괜찮아요. In English: it's okay, I'm fine, no problem.
아니요, 괜찮아요 aniyo, gwaenchanayo	No, I'm fine. / No thanks.	Job two: soft decline. If someone offers help or more food, you can say 아니요, 괜찮아요. In English: no, I'm fine. No thanks.
괜찮으세요 gwaenchaneuseyo	are you okay (honorific)	Look at the pieces. 괜찮 is still 'okay.' Then 으세요 makes it honorific and polite — like adding respect into the verb.
미안해요 → 괜찮아요 mianhaeyo → gwaenchanayo	I'm sorry → It's okay	Oh. So if someone says 미안해요, I can answer 괜찮아요 — not only talk about myself.



Grammar / Structure Notes

괜찮다 → 괜찮아요 / 괜찮으세요?

괜찮다 → 괜찮아요 / 괜찮으세요? — to be okay → it's okay / are you okay? (honorific)

One root, different jobs and politeness

괜찮아요

괜찮아요 — it's okay / I'm fine / no problem

safe polite form for most everyday talk

괜찮아요

괜찮 + 아요 — it's okay / I'm fine

Here are the pieces. 괜찮 is the 'okay' part, and 아요 makes it polite everyday speech.

괜찮아요

괜찮아요 — one phrase, a few soft meanings

context picks the English

괜찮아요

괜찮아요 — reassure · answer · soft decline

listen to the situation, not just the dictionary

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
괜찮아요	gwaenchanayo
괜찮나요	gwaenchanayo
괜찮으세요?	gwaenchaneuseyo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 괜찮아요 / 괜찮으세요 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
실례합니다 / 잠깐만요 Excusing Yourself and Getting Past People	A1 Conversation: compare 실례합니다 / 잠깐만요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-004
안녕하세요 / 안녕히 계세요 Greetings and Goodbyes	A1 Conversation: compare 안녕하세요 / 안녕히 계세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-001
안녕히 주무세요 / 잘 자 Saying Good Night in Korean	A1 Conversation: compare 안녕히 주무세요 / 잘 자 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-007
오랜만이에요 / 잘 지냈어요 Greeting Someone After a Long Time	A1 Conversation: compare 오랜만이에요 / 잘 지냈어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-002

My Notes

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