



Korean Ladder Study Note

여보세요

Answering a Phone Call for the First Time

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Phone & Online	여보세요 Answering a Phone Call for the First Time

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-PHN-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqCUxrv-jsQ>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my real problem. My Korean phone rings, and I know 안녕하세요 means hello. But is that what I say when I pick up?

좋은 질문이에요. 전화 받을 때 첫마디는 보통 여보세요예요. In English, it is the phone version of "Hello?"

오늘의 핵심은 세 가지입니다. 여보세요, 누구세요, 잠시만요. You can answer, ask who is calling, and ask for a short pause.

So face to face, I can say 안녕하세요. But when I pick up the phone, I start with 여보세요?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	여보세요? —	Hello?
Junho	안녕하세요. 민수 씨 계세요? —	Hello. Is Minsu there?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	네, 잠시만요. —	Yes, one moment, please.
Junho	네, 감사합니다. —	Okay, thank you.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
여보세요 yeoboseyo	Hello?	먼저 여보세요. 전화에서 상대가 들리는지 확인하는 느낌도 있어요. Say it gently, like a real phone hello.
저예요 jeoyeyo	It's me.	짧게 대답할 때는 네, 저예요라고 할 수 있어요. It means, "Yes, it's me."
누구세요 nuguseyo	Who is this? / Who is calling?	다음은 누구세요. On a call, 누구세요 means "Who is this?" or "Who is calling?"
잠시만요 jamsimanyo	One moment, please.	이제 잠시만요. 잠시는 "a moment," and 잠시만요 is a polite quick pause: "One moment, please."
계세요 gyeseyo	is there / is present	I heard 계세요. That means "is there," right? So 민수 씨 계세요 is "Is Minsu there?"



Grammar / Structure Notes

여보세요?

여보세요? — Hello? / Hello, are you there?

The natural first word when answering a call.

여보세요? / 누구세요? / 잠시만요.

여보세요? / 누구세요? / 잠시만요. — Hello? / Who is this? / One moment, please.

Receiving-side phone basics.

여보세요

여보세요 — Hello?

먼저 여보세요. 전화에서 상대가 들리는지 확인하는 느낌도 있어요. Say it gently, like a real phone hello.

전화: 여보세요?

전화: 여보세요? — On the phone: Hello?

Use it when answering or checking the line.

저예요

저 + 예요 — It's me.

짧게 대답할 때는 네, 저예요라고 할 수 있어요. It means, "Yes, it's me."

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
여보세요?	yeoboseyo?
누구세요?	nuguseyo?
잠시만요.	jamsimanyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 여보세요 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
문자 보냈어요 Following Up After You Send a Text	A1 Conversation: compare 문자 보냈어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-PHN-004
와이파이 비밀번호가 뭐예요 Wi-Fi and Charging Basics	A1 Conversation: compare 와이파이 비밀번호가 뭐예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-PHN-002
전화번호가 몇 번이에요 Exchanging Phone Numbers	A1 Conversation: compare 전화번호가 몇 번이에요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-PHN-001
고객센터 문의 상담원 연결과 본인 확인	B2 Conversation: compare 고객센터 문의 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CONV-PHN-002

My Notes

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