



Korean Ladder Study Note

통화 중이세요

Handling a Busy Line

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Phone & Online	통화 중이세요 Handling a Busy Line

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-PHN-005>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD2PINokdig>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my real problem. I call someone, they sound busy, and I freeze. Do I say, are you okay? Are you busy? Or just hang up?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, you do not need a long explanation. A few soft phrases make you sound polite right away.

First, if you are calling and you simply ask if now is okay, say 지금 통화 괜찮으세요? It means, is it okay to talk now?

And if they seem to be on another call, you can ask 혹시 다른 통화 중이세요? It means, are you on another call, by any chance?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	여보세요? 지금 통화 괜찮으세요? —	Hello? Is it okay to talk now?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	죄송해요, 지금은 조금 어려워요. —	Sorry, now is a little difficult.
Hana	네, 그럼 나중에 다시 전화할게요. —	Okay, then I'll call again later.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
다른 통화 dareun tonghwa	another call	정확해요. Without 다른, 통화 중이세요 can simply mean, are you on a call? With another call in this situation, add 다른.
-르게요 / -을게요 -lgeyo / -eulgeyo	I will... / I'll...	The grammar ending is the promise ending, the particle-like ending 르게요 or 을게요. 전화하다 becomes 전화할게요 with 르게요.
전화하다 → 전화할게요 jeonhwahada → jeonhwahalgeyo	to call → I'll call	So 전화하다 becomes 전화할게요. And it means I'll call, not please call.
전화할게요 jeonhwahalgeyo	Handling a Busy Line	좋아요. 전화할게요 is one smooth word. Try not to pause between 전화 and 할게요.
전화해 / 전화할게요 jeonhwahae / jeonhwahalgeyo	Call me or call later / I'll call	Another mistake. If I say 전화해, that means call me, or call later, right? But 전화할게요 means I'll call.



Grammar / Structure Notes

지금 통화 괜찮으세요?

지금 통화 괜찮으세요? — Is it okay to talk now?

A polite way to check before talking

혹시 다른 통화 중이세요?

혹시 다른 통화 중이세요? — Are you on another call, by any chance?

다른 makes it clear: another call

나중에 다시 전화할게요.

나중에 다시 전화할게요. — I'll call again later.

A polite promise from the speaker

괜찮으세요? → 다른 통화 중이세요? → 전화할게요

괜찮으세요? → 다른 통화 중이세요? → 전화할게요 — Is it okay? → Are you on another call? → I'll call

오늘의 핵심은 세 단계예요. Check if talking is okay, recognize another call, and promise to call back later.

지금 통화 괜찮으세요?

지금 + 통화 + 괜찮으세요? — Is it okay to talk now?

Let's show the first sentence. 지금 means now, 통화 means a phone call, and 괜찮으세요 means are you okay, or is it okay, politely.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
지금 통화 괜찮으세요?	jigeum tonghwa gwaenchaneuseyo?
혹시 다른 통화 중이세요?	hoksi dareun tonghwa jung-iseyo?
중이세요?	jung-iseyo?
나중에 다시 전화할게요.	najung-e dasi jeonhwahalgeyo.
전화할게요	jeonhwahalgeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 통화 중이세요 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
여보세요 Answering a Phone Call for the First Time	A1 Conversation: compare 여보세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-PHN-003
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

My Notes

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