



Korean Ladder Study Note

이거 매워요

Asking Whether Food Is Spicy Before You Order

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Restaurant & Cafe	이거 매워요 Asking Whether Food Is Spicy Before You Order

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blhYukRPD20>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real fear. The menu photo looks amazing, but Korean food can be seriously spicy. What if I order something that burns my whole mouth?

그게 제일 흔한 걱정이예요. That's the most common worry — and the fix is tiny. You ask about spice before you say 주세요.

Today's pattern is a spice check. Four lines: 이거 매워요, 안 매워요, 안 매운 거 있어요, and 조금만 매워요. Point, check, then choose.

핵심은 간단해요. The key is simple — don't guess from the photo. Point at the dish and ask in Korean.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	뭐가 맛있어요? —	What's good?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	김치찌개가 맛있어요. —	The kimchi stew is tasty.
Hana	이거 매워요? —	Is this spicy?
Junho	네, 좀 매워요. —	Yes, it's a bit spicy.
Hana	안 매운 거 있어요? —	Do you have something not spicy?
Junho	그럼 계란찜 드세요. —	Then try the steamed egg.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
가리키고 물어보세요 garikigo mureoboseyo	Point and ask.	핵심은 간단해요. The key is simple — don't guess from the photo. Point at the dish and ask in Korean.
이거 igeo	this (thing)	이거는 'this thing'이에요. In English, 이거 means 'this' — the dish you're pointing at on the menu.
매워요 maewoyo	is spicy (polite)	매워요 comes from 맵다 — 'to be spicy.' In polite speech it becomes 매워요. So 이거 매워요 means 'Is this spicy?'
조금만 jogumman	only a little	조금만은 'only a little'이에요. In English, 조금만 means 'just a little,' so you're checking for mild heat — not zero, not fire.
메뉴를 가리키세요 menyureul garikiseyo	Point at the menu.	One more survival tip. Point at the menu when you ask. Don't just nod your head when the server talks about spice — nodding can mean 'yes, spicy is fine.'
고개만 끄덕이지 마세요 gogaeman kkeudeogiji maseyo	Don't only nod your head.	That's the classic English-speaker mistake. A nod answers yes. If you want mild, don't nod — say 안 매운 거 있어요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

이거 매워요?

이거 매워요? — Is this spicy?

Your first spice-check line — point at the dish.

가리키고 물어보세요

가리키고 물어보세요 — Point and ask.

Photos don't show spice level.

이거 매워요?

이거 + 매워요 + ? — Is this spicy?

First sentence. Listen: 이거 매워요? Let's break it apart.

이거

이거 — this (thing)

Point with your finger or the menu edge.

매워요

매워요 — is spicy (polite)

From 맵다 → 매워요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
매워요	maewoyo
이거 매워요?	igeo maewoyo?
안 매운 거 있어요?	an maeun geo isseoyo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 이거 매워요 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
메뉴판 좀 주세요 / 뭐가 맛있어요 Asking for the Menu and Recommendations	A1 Conversation: compare 메뉴판 좀 주세요 / 뭐가 맛있어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-002
물 좀 주세요 / 계산해 주세요 Your First Words Inside a Korean Restaurant	A1 Conversation: compare 물 좀 주세요 / 계산해 주세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-001
아이스 아메리카노 한 잔이요 Ordering a Drink at a Korean Café	A1 Conversation: compare 아이스 아메리카노 한 잔이요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-005
잘 먹었습니다 / 정말 맛있었어요 Finishing a Meal Politely	A1 Conversation: compare 잘 먹었습니다 / 정말 맛있었어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-003

My Notes

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