



Korean Ladder Study Note

공공장소에서 목소리 낮추기

Keeping Your Voice Down in Shared Spaces

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Etiquette	공공장소에서 목소리 낮추기 Keeping Your Voice Down in Shared Spaces

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5a-8xPkNys>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my panic question. If my friend is talking loudly on the subway, do I just say 조용히 해요? Or is that too strong?

좋은 질문이에요. 조용히 해요 can sound like a correction, like "be quiet." In many public situations, we soften it.

오늘의 핵심은 공공장소에서는 목소리를 낮춰요. In English, in public spaces, we lower our voice.

패턴은 조금만 plus 아 주세요 or 어 주세요. It makes a request softer: "please do it just a little."

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	여기 지하철이에요. —	We're on the subway.
Junho	아, 맞아요. 목소리를 조금만 낮출게요. —	Oh, right. I'll lower my voice a little.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	우리 조금만 작게 말하자. —	Let's speak a little more softly.
Junho	아, 미안해요. 조금 크게 말했네요. —	Oh, sorry. I was speaking a little loudly.
Hana	괜찮아요. 카페에서는 작게 말하면 좋아요. —	It's okay. In cafés, it's good to speak softly.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
조금만 ... 주세요 joguem-man ... juseyo	Please ... just a little	패턴은 조금만 plus 아 주세요 or 어 주세요. It makes a request softer: "please do it just a little."
조금만 joguem-man	just a little / just for a bit	So instead of a big command, I can make it smaller with 조금만.
-에서는 -eseoneun	in / at, as for this setting	엘리베이터에서는 조용히 말해요. That sounds like a general rule, not scolding one person.
장소 + 에서는 jangso + eseoneun	In a place, as for that place	Exactly. The particle 에서는 sets the place as the topic. In English: "as for in the elevator." Natural translation: "in the elevator."
작게 말해요 / 조용히 말해요 jakge malhaeyo / joyonghi malhaeyo	Speak softly / speak quietly	네. 작게 말해요 is natural. You can also say 조용히 말해요, speak quietly.
할게요 halgeyo	I'll do it	할게요 means "I will do it," often with consideration. 통화는 밖에서 할게요 sounds responsible and polite.
조금만 + 낮춰 주세요 joguem-man + natchwo juseyo	Please lower it just a little	맞아요. Add 조금만 or name the place. 목소리를 조금만 낮춰 주세요 is softer than 조용히 해 주세요.
낮춰 natchwo	Keeping Your Voice Down in Shared Spaces	좋아요. One small pronunciation note: 낮춰 is written with 지웃, but it links into 취. Natural sound is close to 난취.



Grammar / Structure Notes

공공장소에서는 목소리를 낮춰요.

공공장소에서는 목소리를 낮춰요. — In public places, we lower our voice.

-에서는 marks the setting: “in / at, as for this place.”

조금만 … 주세요

조금만 … 주세요 — Please … just a little

조금만 softens the request.

조금만

조금만 — just a little / just for a bit

A small word that makes the tone gentler.

목소리를 조금만 낮춰 주세요.

목소리 + 를 + 조금만 + 낮춰 + 주세요. — Please lower your voice just a little.

맞아요. The most useful sentence is 목소리를 조금만 낮춰 주세요. Please lower your voice just a little.

목소리를 낮춰 주세요.

목소리 + 를 + 낮춰 + 주세요. — Please lower your voice.

목소리는 voice. 를 marks it as the thing affected. 낮추다 means to lower. 낮춰 주세요 means please lower it.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
목소리를 조금만 낮춰 주세요.	moksori-reul jogeum-man natchwo juseyo.
낮춰	natchwo
낮춰 ≠ 나취	natchwo ≠ najwo
죄송해요, 조금 크게 말했네요.	joesonghaeyo, jogeum keuge malhaenneyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 공공장소에서 목소리 낮추기 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
고개 숙여 인사 How Koreans Bow and Greet Elders	A1 Culture: compare 고개 숙여 인사 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-003
공공장소에서 이어폰 Keeping Phone Sound Private in Korea	A1 Culture: compare 공공장소에서 이어폰 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-005
내릴게요 / 타는 사람은 잠깐만요 Getting On and Off Buses and Subways Politely	A1 Culture: compare 내릴게요 / 타는 사람은 잠깐만요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-004
두 손으로 주세요 Why Koreans Give and Receive with Two Hands	A1 Culture: compare 두 손으로 주세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-002

My Notes

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