



Korean Ladder Study Note

사진 찍어도 될까요

Asking Before You Photograph People or Displays

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Etiquette	사진 찍어도 될까요 Asking Before You Photograph People or Displays

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-008>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_0msqULp5E

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my real-life panic question: I'm in a cute café, a temple, or an exhibition, and I want a photo. Do I just point at my phone and smile?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korea, especially in shops, temples, exhibitions, and around strangers, it is much better to ask first.

오늘의 핵심 문장은 사진 찍어도 될까요입니다. In English, it means, may I take a photo, or would it be okay to take a photo.

패턴은 동사에 아도 될까요 또는 어도 될까요를 붙이는 거예요. It asks, is it okay if I do this.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	안녕하세요. 여기서 사진 찍어도 될까요? —	Hello. May I take photos here?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 괜찮아요. 플래시는 쓰지 말아 주세요. —	Yes, that's okay. Please don't use flash.
Hana	네, 감사합니다. 플래시는 안 쓸게요. —	Okay, thank you. I won't use flash.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
사진 한 장 sajin han jang	one photo	장 is the counter for flat things like photos, paper, and tickets. 사진 한 장 is one photo.
괜찮아요 / 안 돼요 gwaenchanayo / an dwaeyo	It's okay / It's not allowed	맞아요. If someone says 괜찮아요, that means it is okay. If they say 안 돼요, it means it is not allowed.
촬영 금지 chwaryeong geumji	No photography	또 많이 듣는 말은 촬영 금지예요. It means photography is prohibited. If you see or hear that, don't take pictures.



Grammar / Structure Notes

사진 찍어도 될까요?

사진 찍어도 될까요? — May I take a photo?

Polite permission question

V-아/어도 될까요?

V-아/어도 될까요? — Would it be okay to V?

Polite permission pattern

사진 찍어도 될까요?

사진 찍어도 될까요? — Would it be okay to take a photo?

Permission, not ability

사진 찍어도 될까요?

사진 + 찍 + 어도 + 될까요? — May I take a photo?

맞아요. 찍다 means to take a photo. In this pattern, 찍다 becomes 찍어도.

사진 찍어도 될까요?

사진 + 찍 + 어도 + 될까요? — photo + take-if + would it be okay?

사진은 photo. 찍어도 means if I take, or even if I take. 될까요 asks, would it be okay.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
사진 찍어도 될까요?	sajin jjigeodo doelkkayo?
혹시 사진 찍어도 될까요?	hoksi sajin jjigeodo doelkkayo?
찍어도 될까요?	jjigeodo doelkkayo?
여기서 사진 찍어도 될까요?	yeogiseo sajin jjigeodo doelkkayo?
혹시 여기서 사진 찍어도 될까요?	hoksi yeogiseo sajin jjigeodo doelkkayo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 사진 찍어도 될까요 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 목소리 낮추기 Keeping Your Voice Down in Shared Spaces	A1 Culture: compare 공공장소에서 목소리 낮추기 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-006
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

My Notes

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