



Korean Ladder Study Note

공부해요 / 운동해요

Turning 하다 Nouns into Verbs

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Verb Conjugation	공부해요 / 운동해요 Turning 하다 Nouns into Verbs

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXr4XjIJoPc>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. I know the word 공부 means 'study.' So why can't I just say 공부 when I mean 'I study'?

아, 좋은 질문이에요. That's the exact wall every beginner hits. 공부 is a thing — a noun. It just sits there.

To make it an action, Korean adds a little engine: 하다. 하다 means 'to do.' Noun plus 하다 equals 'to do that noun.'

So 공부 plus 하다 becomes 공부하다 — 'to study.' The noun stays, and 하다 turns it into a real action.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 주말에 뭐 해요? —	Junho, what do you do on the weekend?
Junho	저는 보통 운동해요. 하나 씨는요? —	I usually exercise. And you, Hana?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저는 집에서 요리해요. 그리고 조금 공부해요. —	I cook at home. And I study a little.
Junho	아, 저도 가끔 공부해요. —	Ah, I sometimes study too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
명사 + 하다 myeongsa + hada	noun + 'to do' = a verb	To make it an action, Korean adds a little engine: 하다. 하다 means 'to do.' Noun plus 하다 equals 'to do that noun.'
공부 + 하다 = 공부하다 gongbu + hada = gongbuhada	to study	So 공부 plus 하다 becomes 공부하다 — 'to study.' The noun stays, and 하다 turns it into a real action.
하다 → 해요 hada → haeyo	'to do' → 'do / does' (polite)	But 공부하다 is the dictionary form. We don't actually say 하다 in everyday speech. In polite conversation, 하다 becomes 해요.
공부해요 gongbuhayeo	(I) study	그래서 공부하다 becomes 공부해요. 'I study,' 'she studies' — 공부해요 covers it all.
운동해요 undonghayeo	(I) exercise	완벽해요. Now watch how far one pattern travels. 운동 means 'exercise.'
일해요 ilhaeyo	(I) work	일 means 'work.' Add the engine: 일해요 — 'I work.' Same move every time.
요리해요 yorihayeo	(I) cook	요리 means 'cooking.' 요리해요 — 'I cook.' You already know four verbs and you only learned one rule.
명사 + 해요 myeongsa + haeyo	noun + 해요 = a polite everyday verb	Wait, that's kind of amazing. So the noun does the heavy lifting for the meaning, and 해요 just... turns on the engine?



Grammar / Structure Notes

명사 + 하다

명사 + 하다 — noun + 'to do' = a verb

하다 is the engine that makes nouns move

공부 + 하다 = 공부하다

공부 + 하다 = 공부하다 — to study

study + do → to study

하다 → 해요

하다 → 해요 — 'to do' → 'do / does' (polite)

해요 is the friendly, everyday form

공부해요

공부 + 해요 — (I) study

그래서 공부하다 becomes 공부해요. 'I study,' 'she studies' — 공부해요 covers it all.

운동해요

운동 + 해요 — (I) exercise

완벽해요. Now watch how far one pattern travels. 운동 means 'exercise.'

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
공부해요	gong-bu-hae-yo
운동해요	un-dong-hae-yo
일해요	il-hae-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 공부해요 / 운동해요 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
아요 / 어요 The Polite Present Tense	A1 Grammar: compare 아요 / 어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-001
ㄷ 불규칙 / ㅅ 불규칙 듣다·걷다 and 짓다·낫다 Irregulars	B1 Grammar: compare ㄷ 불규칙 / ㅅ 불규칙 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CNJ-002
르 불규칙 / ㅂ 불규칙 Korea's Most Common Irregular Verbs	B1 Grammar: compare 르 불규칙 / ㅂ 불규칙 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CNJ-001
으 탈락 / ㄹ 탈락 바빠요 · 살아요 · 만들어요	A2 Grammar: compare 으 탈락 / ㄹ 탈락 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CNJ-001

My Notes

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