



Korean Ladder Study Note

먹다 / 마시다 / 사다

Conjugating Everyday Action Verbs

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Verb Conjugation	먹다 / 마시다 / 사다 Conjugating Everyday Action Verbs

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgoQeW2Cjds>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I see 먹다 in lists, but Koreans say 먹어요. Am I supposed to memorize a totally new word every time?

좋은 질문이에요. 먹다는 사전형이에요. In conversation, we usually remove 다 and add 아요 or 어요.

Today we make three daily verbs automatic: 먹다, 마시다, and 사다.

The pattern is simple: verb stem plus 아요 or 어요. The stem is what remains after 다 comes off.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	점심 먹어요? —	Are you eating lunch?
Junho	네, 밥을 먹어요. —	Yes, I'm eating a meal.
Hana	물도 마셔요? —	Do you drink water too?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 물을 마셔요. 그리고 커피를 사요. —	Yes, I drink water. And I buy coffee.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
먹다 → 먹어요 meokda → meogeoyo	to eat → eat / eats / am eating	좋은 질문이에요. 먹다는 사전형이에요. In conversation, we usually remove 다 and add 아요 or 어요.
먹다 · 마시다 · 사다 meokda · masida · sada	to eat · to drink · to buy	Today we make three daily verbs automatic: 먹다, 마시다, and 사다.
어간 + 아요/어요 eogan + ayo/eoyo	verb stem + polite present ending	The pattern is simple: verb stem plus 아요 or 어요. The stem is what remains after 다 comes off.
먹다 meokda	to eat	So 먹다 drops 다, and the stem is 먹?
먹 + 어요 = 먹어요 meok + eoyo = meogeoyo	eat / eats / am eating	맞아요. 먹 is the stem. The last vowel in 먹 is not 아 or 오, so we add 어요.
먹어요 meogeoyo	eat / eats / am eating	먹어요. In English, it can mean I eat, you eat, he eats, or someone is eating. Korean often leaves the subject to context.
마시다 masida	to drink	Now 마시다. Remove 다, and the stem is 마시.
마시다 → 마셔요 masida → masyeoyo	to drink → drink / drinks / am drinking	마시 has 이 at the end, so we start with 어요. 마시어요 becomes 마셔요 in natural Korean.



Grammar / Structure Notes

먹다 → 먹어요

먹다 → 먹어요 — to eat → eat / eats / am eating

Remove 다, then add 어요.

먹다 · 마시다 · 사다

먹다 · 마시다 · 사다 — to eat · to drink · to buy

Dictionary form → polite present form

어간 + 아요/어요

어간 + 아요/어요 — verb stem + polite present ending

어간 means verb stem.

먹다

먹 + 다 — to eat

So 먹다 drops 다, and the stem is 먹?

먹 + 어요 = 먹어요

먹 + 어요 = 먹어요 — eat / eats / am eating

Not ㅏ or ㅑ → 어요

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
먹어요	meogeoyo
먹어요 · 마셔요 · 사요	meogeoyo · masyeoyo · sayo
마셔요	masyeoyo
사요	sayo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 먹다 / 마시다 / 사다 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
공부해요 / 운동해요 Turning 하다 Nouns into Verbs	A1 Grammar: compare 공부해요 / 운동해요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-002
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
크다 / 작다 / 많다 Your First Adjective Conjugations	A1 Grammar: compare 크다 / 작다 / 많다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-003
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

My Notes

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