



Korean Ladder Study Note

길다 / 짧다 / 멀다 / 가깝다

Conjugating Length and Distance Adjectives

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Verb Conjugation	길다 / 짧다 / 멀다 / 가깝다 Conjugating Length and Distance Adjectives

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-005>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsTVpe8b0Sw>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I keep wanting to say something like 길다예요 for “it is long.” Is that ever right?

좋은 질문이에요. 길다 is already a descriptive verb, so it changes by itself. We do not attach 이에요 to it.

In Korean, “long” behaves like a verb. So the polite present is 길어요, not 길다예요.

오늘의 패턴은 descriptive verbs in the polite present. 길다 becomes 길어요, and 짧다 becomes 짧아요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	여기서 역이 멀어요? —	Is the station far from here?
Junho	아니요, 가까워요. —	No, it's close.
Hana	줄이 길어요? —	Is the line long?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 조금 길어요. —	Yes, it's a little long.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
길다 → 길어요 gilda → gireoyo	to be long → it is long	In Korean, “long” behaves like a verb. So the polite present is 길어요, not 길다예요.
길다 / 짧다 gilda / jjalda	to be long / to be short	오늘의 패턴은 descriptive verbs in the polite present. 길다 becomes 길어요, and 짧다 becomes 짧아요.
멀다 / 가깝다 meolda / gakkapda	to be far / to be close	For distance, 멀다 becomes 멀어요, and 가깝다 becomes 가까워요.
줄이 길어요 juri gireoyo	The line is long.	첫 번째 예문입니다. 줄이 길어요. The line is long.
연필이 짧아요 yeonpiri jjalbayo	The pencil is short.	두 번째 예문이에요. 연필이 짧아요. The pencil is short.
짧아요 jjalbayo	Conjugating Length and Distance Adjectives	짧아요 is spelled with 짧, but the natural sound is like 팔바요. The spelling stays 짧아요.
학교가 멀어요 hakgyoga meoreoyo	The school is far.	세 번째 예문입니다. 학교가 멀어요. The school is far.
집이 가까워요 jibi gakkawoyo	The house is close.	네 번째 예문이에요. 집이 가까워요. The house is close.



Grammar / Structure Notes

길다 → 길어요

길다 → 길어요 — to be long → it is long

No 이에요 after descriptive verbs

길다 / 짧다

길다 / 짧다 — to be long / to be short

Polite present: 길어요 / 짧아요

멀다 / 가깝다

멀다 / 가깝다 — to be far / to be close

Polite present: 멀어요 / 가까워요

Polite present

Polite present — Use these when speaking politely in everyday Korean

A1 high-frequency descriptive verbs

줄이 길어요

줄 + 이 + 길어요 — The line is long.

첫 번째 예문입니다. 줄이 길어요. The line is long.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
짧아요	jjalbayo
길어요	gireoyo
멀어요	meoreoyo
가까워요	gakkawoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 길다 / 짧다 / 멀다 / 가깝다 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
먹다 / 마시다 / 사다 Conjugating Everyday Action Verbs	A1 Grammar: compare 먹다 / 마시다 / 사다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-004
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

My Notes

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