



Korean Ladder Study Note

예쁘다 / 맛있다 / 재미있다

Conjugating Descriptive Verbs That End in 있다

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Verb Conjugation	예쁘다 / 맛있다 / 재미있다 Conjugating Descriptive Verbs That End in 있다

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob1bqn164xA>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my problem. I learned 아요 after bright vowels, so I want to say 맛있어요. But Korean speakers say 맛있어요. Why?

좋은 질문이에요. 맛있다, 재미있다처럼 '있다'로 끝나는 형용사는 보통 -어요로 말해요.

So I shouldn't choose 아요 because of 맛. I should look at 있.

맛어요. 오늘의 패턴은, '있다'로 끝나는 형용사에는 '-어요'를 붙인다는 거예요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 영화 어때요? —	How is this movie?
Junho	재미있어요. 팝콘도 맛있어요. —	It's fun. The popcorn is delicious too.



Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
맛있다 → 맛있어요 masitda → masisseoyo	to be delicious → it is delicious	좋은 질문이에요. 맛있다, 재미있다처럼 '있다'로 끝나는 형용사는 보통 -어요로 말해요.
맛있어요 masisseoyo	It is delicious.	The key is not the first part, 맛. Look at the final stem syllable, 있. Its vowel is 이, so the polite ending is -어요.
'있다'로 끝나는 형용사 + -어요 itda-ro kkeunnaneun hyeongyongsa + -eoyo	adjectives that end in 있다 + -어요	맞아요. 오늘의 패턴은, '있다'로 끝나는 형용사에는 '-어요'를 붙인다는 거예요.
있다 → 있어요 itda → isseoyo	to exist or to be located → exists or is located	Careful: this lesson is about descriptive verbs like 맛있다 and 재미있다. The existence verb 있다 also becomes 있어요, but today we practice the adjective family.
이 케이크는 맛있어요 i keikeu-neun masisseoyo	This cake is delicious.	먼저 자연스러운 예문을 들어 보세요. 이 케이크는 맛있어요.
이 영화는 재미있어요 i yeonghwa-neun jaemiisseoyo	This movie is fun.	이 영화는 재미있어요. This movie is fun or interesting.
그 가방은 멋있어요 geu gabang-eun meosisseoyo	That bag is cool or stylish.	그 가방은 멋있어요. It looks cool or stylish.
있 + 어요 → 있어요 it + eoyo → isseoyo	있 plus 어요 becomes 있어요	Exactly. In writing, the stem keeps 있, and the ending is 어요. Together, 있 plus 어요 becomes 있어요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

맛있다 → 맛있어요

맛있다 → 맛있어요 — to be delicious → it is delicious

있다-final descriptive verb + -어요

맛있어요

맛 + 있 + 어요 — It is delicious.

The key is not the first part, 맛. Look at the final stem syllable, 있. Its vowel is 이, so the polite ending is -어요.

‘있다’로 끝나는 형용사 + -어요

‘있다’로 끝나는 형용사 + -어요 — adjectives that end in 있다 + -어요

맛있다, 재미있다, 멋있다 → -어요

있다 → 있어요

있다 → 있어요 — to exist or to be located → exists or is located

Same surface ending, different meaning from 맛있다 / 재미있다

이 케이크는 맛있어요

이 + 케이크 + 는 + 맛있 + 어요 — This cake is delicious.

먼저 자연스러운 예문을 들어 보세요. 이 케이크는 맛있어요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
마시세요	masisseoyo
재미이세요	jaemiisseoyo
머시세요	meosisseoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 예쁘다 / 맛있다 / 재미있다 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
길다 / 짧다 / 멀다 / 가깝다 Conjugating Length and Distance Adjectives	A1 Grammar: compare 길다 / 짧다 / 멀다 / 가깝다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-005
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

My Notes

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