



Korean Ladder Study Note

오다 / 가다 / 있다

Conjugating Come, Go, and Exist

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Verb Conjugation	오다 / 가다 / 있다 Conjugating Come, Go, and Exist

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-007>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83GY70mP6ZY>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I keep wanting to say 오아요, 가아요, and 있어요. Why are the real forms 와요, 가요, and 있어요?

좋은 질문이에요. 오다 becomes 와요, 가다 becomes 가요, and 있다 becomes 있어요. In English, these are the polite present forms.

These three are everywhere. You use them for where you go, who comes, and what exists or what you have.

오늘의 패턴은 동사 어간에 공손한 어미를 붙이는 거예요. In English, verb stem plus a polite ending.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저는 카페에 있어요. —	I am at the cafe.
Hana	저도 카페에 갈까요? —	Should I go to the cafe too?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 오세요. 커피가 있어요. —	Yes, please come. There is coffee.
Hana	좋아요. 지금 가요. —	Great. I am going now.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
오다 → 와요 oda → wayo	to come → comes, come, am coming	좋은 질문이에요. 오다 becomes 와요, 가다 becomes 가요, and 있다 becomes 있어요. In English, these are the polite present forms.
가다 → 가요 gada → gayo	to go → goes, go, am going	These three are everywhere. You use them for where you go, who comes, and what exists or what you have.
동사 어간 + 공손한 어미 donsa eogan + gongsonhan eomi	verb stem + polite ending	오늘의 패턴은 동사 어간에 공손한 어미를 붙이는 거예요. In English, verb stem plus a polite ending.
친구가 집에 와요 chingu-ga jib-e wayo	A friend comes home.	친구가 집에 와요. A friend is coming to my home, toward the speaker's place or focus.
저는 학교에 가요 jeo-neun hakgyo-e gayo	I go to school.	저는 학교에 가요. I am going to school, away from here toward another place.
가방에 책이 있어요 gabang-e chaeg-i isseoyo	There is a book in the bag.	가방에 책이 있어요. There is a book in the bag, or I have a book in my bag.
와요 · 가요 · 있어요 wayo · gayo · isseoyo	Conjugating Come, Go, and Exist	Let me hear the three again: 와요, 가요, 있어요. They feel short, short, and then a little longer.
와요 = 여기 쪽으로 wayo = yeogi jjogeuro	come toward here or toward the focus	Here is the big contrast. 와요 moves toward here, toward me, or toward the conversation focus. 가요 moves away to another place.



Grammar / Structure Notes

오다 → 와요

오다 → 와요 — to come → comes, come, am coming

Polite present

가다 → 가요

가다 → 가요 — to go → goes, go, am going

Polite present

동사 어간 + 공손한 어미

동사 어간 + 공손한 어미 — verb stem + polite ending

A1 polite present

친구가 집에 와요

친구 + 가 + 집 + 에 + 와요 — A friend comes home.

친구가 집에 와요. A friend is coming to my home, toward the speaker's place or focus.

저는 학교에 가요

저 + 는 + 학교 + 에 + 가요 — I go to school.

저는 학교에 가요. I am going to school, away from here toward another place.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
와요 · 가요 · 있어요	wayo · gayo · isseoyo
와요	oda → wayo
가요	gada → gayo
있어요	itda → isseoyo
오아요 말고 와요	oayo malgo wayo
가아요 말고 가요	gaayo malgo gayo
있아요 말고 있어요	issayo malgo isseoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 오다 / 가다 / 있다 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.