



Korean Ladder Study Note

왜냐하면 / 왜요

Answering 'Why?' with a Simple Reason

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Connectors	왜냐하면 / 왜요 Answering 'Why?' with a Simple Reason

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uh30QdjixrM>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I can say I'm staying home. But when someone asks why, do I need a whole new sentence?

왜요? That means, Why? It's a short polite follow-up when you want to know the reason.

왜냐? So I can ask just that, instead of rebuilding the whole question.

오늘은 이유를 말해 봐요. Today we'll give reasons in two sizes: a full explanation and a short conversational reply.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	오늘 영화 보러 가요? —	Are you going to the movies today?
Hana	아니요. 오늘은 집에 있어요. —	No. I'm staying home today.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	왜요? —	Why?
Hana	피곤해서요. —	Because I'm tired.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
피곤하다 → 피곤하 + 기 때문이에요 —	to be tired → because someone is tired	맞아요. For today's full pattern, start with the dictionary form, remove 다, and add 기 때문이에요. 피곤하다 becomes 피곤하기 때문이에요.
오다 → 오기 때문이에요 → 비가 오기 때문이에요 —	to come → because it comes → because it's raining	오다 becomes 오기 때문이에요. Keep 비가 in front, and you get 비가 오기 때문이에요, because it's raining.
피곤해요 때문이에요 → 피곤하기 때문이에요 —	Use the stem plus 기, not the finished polite sentence.	왜냐하면 피곤해요 때문이에요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

왜요?

왜요? — Why?

A short polite follow-up asking for the reason.

왜요?

왜요? — Why?

The previous conversation supplies the context.

왜냐하면 ... 때문이에요.

왜냐하면 ... 때문이에요. — The reason is that ...

Full explanation first; short conversational replies next.

왜냐하면 ... 때문이에요.

왜냐하면 ... 때문이에요. — The reason is that ...

A standard full explanation. Short conversational answers often omit 왜냐하면.

왜요? → 피곤해서요.

왜요? → 피곤해서요. — Why? → Because I'm tired.

A natural short conversational reply.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
왜요?	waeyo?
왜냐하면 피곤하기 때문이에요.	Practice in three meaningful chunks.
피곤해서요.	pigonhaeseoyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 왜냐하면 / 왜요 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
그래도 / 하지만 Two More Ways to Say 'But' Between Sentences	A1 Grammar: compare 그래도 / 하지만 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CON-002
그래서요 Continuing Someone Else's Thought as a Beginner	A1 Grammar: compare 그래서요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CON-006
그러니까 Turning a Reason into Everyday 'So...'	A1 Grammar: compare 그러니까 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CON-004
그리고 / 그래서 / 그런데 Connecting Two Sentences with Conjunctions	A1 Grammar: compare 그리고 / 그래서 / 그런데 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CON-001

My Notes

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