



Korean Ladder Study Note

있어요 / 없어요

There Is / There Isn't

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Sentence Endings	있어요 / 없어요 There Is / There Isn't

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-002)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-002>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mePgSpmWpFY)

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. How do I say 'there's no time,' or 'I have coffee'? In English those feel like two totally different grammars.

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, both of those live in just two little words — 있어요 and 없어요.

있어요는 '존재해요', '가지고 있어요'예요. In English, it means it exists, or you have it. 없어요는 그 반대에요 — it doesn't exist, or you don't have it.

하나만 기억하세요. 한 단어는 '있다', 다른 단어는 '없다'. That's the whole idea — present, or absent.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아이스 아메리카노 있어요? —	Do you have iced americano?
Hana	네, 있어요. —	Yes, we have it.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	디카페인도 있어요? —	Do you have decaf too?
Hana	디카페인은 없어요. —	We don't have decaf.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
있어요 / 없어요 isseoyo / eopseoyo	there is / there isn't (have / don't have)	좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, both of those live in just two little words — 있어요 and 없어요.
있어요 ↔ 없어요 isseoyo ↔ eopseoyo	present / have ↔ absent / don't have	있어요는 '존재해요', '가지고 있어요'예요. In English, it means it exists, or you have it. 없어요는 그 반대에요 — it doesn't exist, or you don't have it.
있어요 = 있다 / 없어요 = 없다 itda / eopda → polite -어요	the polite everyday form of "to exist" and "to not exist"	하나만 기억하세요. 한 단어는 '있다', 다른 단어는 '없다'. That's the whole idea — present, or absent.
시간이 있어요 sigani isseoyo	I have time. (lit. time exists)	들어 보세요. 시간이 있어요. — I have time.
시간이 없어요 sigani eopseoyo	I don't have time. (lit. time doesn't exist)	반대로, 시간이 없어요. — I don't have time. 같은 문장, 동사만 바꿔요.
커피가 있어요 keopiga isseoyo	There's coffee. / I have coffee.	하나 더. 커피가 있어요. — There's coffee, or I have coffee.
받침 O → 이 / 받침 X → 가 consonant-ending → i / vowel-ending → ga	pick the subject marker by the noun's last sound	작은 규칙이 하나 있어요. 받침이 있으면 '이', 받침이 없으면 '가'. 시간 → 시간이, 커피 → 커피가.
있어요 isseoyo	"there is" AND "I have" — same word	Wait — so 있어요 covers BOTH 'there is something' AND 'I have something'? That's two English verbs in one Korean word.



Grammar / Structure Notes

있어요 / 없어요

있어요 / 없어요 — there is / there isn't (have / don't have)

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, both of those live in just two little words — 있어요 and 없어요.

있어요 ↔ 없어요

있어요 ↔ 없어요 — present / have ↔ absent / don't have

One says "it's here," the other says "it's gone."

있어요 = 있다 / 없어요 = 없다

있어요 = 있다 / 없어요 = 없다 — the polite everyday form of "to exist" and "to not exist"

하나만 기억하세요. 한 단어는 '있다', 다른 단어는 '없다'. That's the whole idea — present, or absent.

시간이 있어요

시간 + 이 + 있어요 — I have time. (lit. time exists)

들어 보세요. 시간이 있어요. — I have time.

시간이 없어요

시간 + 이 + 없어요 — I don't have time. (lit. time doesn't exist)

반대로, 시간이 없어요. — I don't have time. 같은 문장, 동사만 바뀌요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
시가니 업써요	sigani eopseoyo
업써요	eopseoyo → [eopsseoyo]
도니 업써요	doni eopseoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 있어요 / 없어요 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
이에요 / 예요 Saying What Something Is	A1 Grammar: compare 이에요 / 예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-001
고 싶어요 Saying What You Want to Do	A2 Grammar: compare 고 싶어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-001
도 Saying 'Also', 'Too', and 'Even' in Korean	A1 Grammar: compare 도 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-006
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

Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.