



Korean Ladder Study Note

-지 마세요

Telling Someone Politely Not to Do Something

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Sentence Endings	-지 마세요 Telling Someone Politely Not to Do Something

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Lo2TtiKINc

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my problem. If 안 means "not," can I say 안 만지세요 to mean "please don't touch it"?

좋은 질문이에요. But for a polite command, Korean does not use 안 like that. You need 지 마세요.

So 안 is for "not doing," but 지 마세요 is for telling someone not to do something.

맞아요. 오늘의 패턴은 verb stem plus 지 마세요. In English, it means "please don't do..."

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	여기에서 커피 마셔도 돼요? —	Is it okay to drink coffee here?
Junho	아니요, 여기에서는 마시지 마세요. —	No, please don't drink it here.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그럼 사진은 찍어도 돼요? —	Then is it okay to take pictures?
Junho	네, 하지만 플래시는 쓰지 마세요. —	Yes, but please don't use flash.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-지 마세요 -ji maseyo	please don't...	좋은 질문이에요. But for a polite command, Korean does not use 안 like that. You need 지 마세요.
만지지 마세요 manjiji maseyo	Please don't touch it.	안 만지세요 sounds more like a statement or question: "You don't touch it?" For "please don't touch," say 만지지 마세요.
안 해요 vs 하지 마세요 an haeyo vs haji maseyo	I don't do it vs Please don't do it	So 안 is for "not doing," but 지 마세요 is for telling someone not to do something.
동사 어간 + 지 마세요 donsa eogan + ji maseyo	verb stem + please don't...	맞아요. 오늘의 패턴은 verb stem plus 지 마세요. In English, it means "please don't do..."
걱정하지 마세요 geokjeonghaji maseyo	Please don't worry.	걱정하지 마세요. 걱정하다 means "to worry." 걱정하 plus 지 마세요 becomes 걱정하지 마세요, "please don't worry."
뛰지 마세요 ttwijji maseyo	Please don't run.	뛰지 마세요. 뛰다 means "to run." Remove 다, attach 지 마세요: 뛰지 마세요.
사진을 찍지 마세요 sajineul jjikji maseyo	Please don't take pictures.	사진을 찍지 마세요. 찍다 means "to take" a photo. 사진을 찍지 마세요 means "please don't take pictures."
먹다 → 먹지 마세요 meokda → meokji maseyo	to eat → please don't eat	I notice every one ends with 지 마세요, and the verb in front changes.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-지 마세요

-지 마세요 — please don't...

Attach to a verb stem to tell someone not to do an action.

만지지 마세요

만지 + 지 마세요 — Please don't touch it.

안 만지세요 sounds more like a statement or question: "You don't touch it?" For "please don't touch," say 만지지 마세요.

안 해요 vs 하지 마세요

안 해요 vs 하지 마세요 — I don't do it vs Please don't do it

statement negation vs negative command

동사 어간 + 지 마세요

동사 어간 + 지 마세요 — verb stem + please don't...

먹다 → 먹지 마세요 / 가다 → 가지 마세요

-지 마세요

-지 마세요 — polite negative command

Use it for rules, warnings, and polite requests not to do something.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
만지지 마세요	manjiji maseyo
걱정하지 마세요	geokjeonghaji maseyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say -지 마세요 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
-(으)르까요? / -(으)브시다 Suggesting and Proposing Together	A1 Grammar: compare -(으)르까요? / -(으)브시다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-003
-(으)세요 Making Polite Requests and Gentle Commands	A1 Grammar: compare -(으)세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-004
맞아요 / 틀려요 Saying Something Is Right or Wrong	A1 Grammar: compare 맞아요 / 틀려요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-008
이 / 가 아니에요 Saying What Something Is Not	A1 Grammar: compare 이 / 가 아니에요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-006

My Notes

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