



Korean Ladder Study Note

-아요 / 어요?

Turning Polite Statements into Yes/No Questions

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Sentence Endings	-아요 / 어요? Turning Polite Statements into Yes/No Questions

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-013>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfEj6r5WMWc>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

In English, I change 'You drink coffee' to 'Do you drink coffee?' Where does the 'do' go in Korean?

따로 넣지 않아요. You don't add a separate word for that English 'do.' Listen: 커피 마세요. 커피 마세요?

Same words? So my voice does the question-making?

오늘은 아요와 어요로 끝나는 질문을 배워요. Today, we're turning polite present-tense statements into yes-or-no questions.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	지금 커피 마세요? —	Are you drinking coffee now?
Junho	아니요, 안 마세요. —	No, I'm not.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	차 마세요? —	Are you drinking tea?
Junho	네, 차 마세요. —	Yes, I'm drinking tea.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-아요 —	Turning Polite Statements into Yes/No Questions	-아요/어요?: Turning Polite Statements into Yes/No Questions
어요? —	Turning Polite Statements into Yes/No Questions	-아요/어요?: Turning Polite Statements into Yes/No Questions



Grammar / Structure Notes

-아요/어요. → -아요/어요?

-아요/어요. → -아요/어요? — Polite statement → polite yes/no question

Keep the ending. Change the delivery.

가요. → 가요?

가요. → 가요? — I'm going. → Are you going?

The subject comes from context in these examples.

가요?

가요? — Are you going?

A gentle rise is a useful beginner default.

지금 가요?

지금 + 가 + 요 + ? — Are you going now?

지금 가요. I'm going now. 지금 가요? Are you going now? Listen for that small lift on the question.

집에 있어요?

집 + 예 + 있 + 어요 + ? — Are you at home?

집에 있어요. I'm at home. 집에 있어요? Are you at home? Again, the words stay the same.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
지금 가요?	Keep the phrase connected. Let the ending rise gently.
지금 가요.	This falling delivery sounds like a statement.
네, 가요.	Let the answer settle rather than rise like a question.
맛있어요?	A small lift at the end

Self-Check

- 1 Say -아요 / 어요? 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
-지 마세요 Telling Someone Politely Not to Do Something	A1 Grammar: compare -지 마세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-005
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

My Notes

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