



Korean Ladder Study Note

Korean Sentence Word Order

Put the Verb at the End

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Modifiers & Clauses	Korean Sentence Word Order Put the Verb at the End

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-MOD-008>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glAiR2K6Gbs>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, here's my problem. In English I say 'I drink coffee,' so I always want to put 'drink' right after 'I.' Is that wrong in Korean?

많은 학생들이 그렇게 해요. 그런데 영어 순서대로만 말하면 한국어로는 조금 어색하게 들려요. Lots of learners do that. If you just follow English order, it sounds a little awkward in Korean.

한국어에서는 동사가 문장 끝에 와요. In Korean, the verb goes at the end of the sentence. Describing words, and 이에요 or 예요, come last too. 편하게 말할 때는 동사 뒤에 말을 붙이기도 하지만, 기본은 동사가 끝이에요. In casual talk, people sometimes add a word after the verb, but the basic rule is: verb last.

맞아요. 주어, 목적어, 동사. Subject, object, verb. That's the basic Korean order.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 오늘 뭐 해요? —	Junho, what are you doing today?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저는 도서관에서 공부해요. 하나 씨는요? —	As for me, I'm studying at the library. And you, Hana?
Hana	카페에서 친구를 만나요. —	(I'm) meeting a friend at a cafe.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
주어 + 목적어 + 동사 jueo + mokjeogeo + dongsa	Subject + Object + Verb	한국어에서는 동사가 문장 끝에 와요. In Korean, the verb goes at the end of the sentence. Describing words, and 이에요 or 예요, come last too. 편하게 말할 때는 동사 뒤에 말을 붙이기도 하지만, 기본은 동사가 끝이에요. In casual talk, people sometimes add a word after the verb, but the basic rule is: verb last.
저는 + 커피를 + 마셔요 jeoneun + keopireul + masyeoyo	Subject + Object + Verb	맞아요. 주어, 목적어, 동사. Subject, object, verb. That's the basic Korean order.
은/는 · 을/를 eun/neun · eul/reul	particles: topic · object	비슷한데, 이건 어미가 아니라 조사예요. Close, but they're called particles, not endings. The particle 은 or 는 marks the topic, and 을 or 를 marks the object. Endings like 요 go on the verb. 그래서 다른 말들은 순서를 조금 바꿔도 괜찮아요. 하지만 동사는 끝에 와요. So the other words can move a little, but the verb comes at the end.
시간 + 장소 + 목적어 + 동사 sigan + jangso + mokjeogeo + dongsa	Time + Place + Object + Verb	이제 시간하고 장소를 넣어 볼게요. 시간하고 장소는 보통 동사 앞에 와요. Now let's add time and place. They usually go before the verb.



Grammar / Structure Notes

주어 + 목적어 + 동사

주어 + 목적어 + 동사 — Subject + Object + Verb

The verb, a describing word, or 이에요/예요 comes last. Casual speech may add a word after it, but verb-last is the basic order.

커피가 맛있어요.

커피 + 가 + 맛있 + 어요. — The coffee is tasty.

예를 들어, 커피가 맛있어요. The coffee is tasty. 맛있어요가 문장 끝에 있어요. The describing word sits at the very end.

저는 학생이에요.

저 + 는 + 학생 + 이에요. — I am a student.

하나 더요. 저는 학생이에요. I am a student. 이에요가 맨 끝에 와요. The 이에요 part comes at the very end.

저는 커피를 마셔요.

저 + 는 + 커피 + 를 + 마셔 + 요. — I drink coffee.

이제 동사로 해 볼게요. 저는 커피를 마셔요. I drink coffee. 저는, then 커피를, and 마셔요 at the end.

저는 커피를 마셔요.

저 + 는 + 커피 + 를 + 마셔 + 요. — I drink coffee.

So in Korean it's like saying, 'I coffee drink.' The action waits until the very end.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
저는 카페에서 커피를 마셔요.	jeoneun kapeeseo keopireul masyeoyo.
저는 커피를 카페에서 마셔요.	jeoneun keopireul kapeeseo masyeoyo.
커피를 마셔요. ↘ · 커피를 마셔요? ↗	keopireul masyeoyo. · keopireul masyeoyo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say Korean Sentence Word Order 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
내 친구 / 제 가방 / 우리 집 Possessives Without Saying 의	A1 Grammar: compare 내 친구 / 제 가방 / 우리 집 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-MOD-005
모든 / 각 / 아무 Every, Each, and Any Before a Noun	A1 Grammar: compare 모든 / 각 / 아무 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-MOD-004
무슨 / 어떤 / 어느 Asking What, What Kind, and Which	A1 Grammar: compare 무슨 / 어떤 / 어느 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-MOD-002
새 / 현 / 낡은 Saying New, Used, and Old Before a Noun	A1 Grammar: compare 새 / 현 / 낡은 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-MOD-003

My Notes

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