



Korean Ladder Study Note

없어요

Two Beginner Ways to Say You Don't Have or Aren't Doing

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Negation	없어요 Two Beginner Ways to Say You Don't Have or Aren't Doing

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my beginner panic question. If I want to say, "I don't have coffee," can I say 커피를 안 있어요?

커피를 안 있어요 is not the beginner pattern you want. 안 negates actions or states, like drink, eat, go, or like.

오늘의 패턴은 두 개예요. 없어요 for absence or lack, and 안 before a verb or adjective for "not."

없어요는 '없다'의 해요체예요. In English, it expresses absence or lack.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	물 있어요? —	Do you have water? / Is there water?
Junho	아니요, 물은 없어요. —	No, there's no water.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	커피 마세요? —	Do you drink coffee?
Junho	아니요, 저는 커피를 안 마세요. —	No, I don't drink coffee.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
커피가 없어요 keopiga eopseoyo	There is no coffee. / I don't have coffee.	좋은 질문이에요. 자연스럽게는 커피가 없어요라고 해요. In English, "There is no coffee," or "I don't have coffee."
안 + 동사/형용사 an + verb/adjective	not do / not be a certain way	커피를 안 있어요 is not the beginner pattern you want. 안 negates actions or states, like drink, eat, go, or like.
명사 + 이/가 없어요 noun + i/ga eopseoyo	There is no noun. / I don't have noun.	오늘의 패턴은 두 개예요. 없어요 for absence or lack, and 안 before a verb or adjective for "not."
없다 → 없어요 eopda → eopseoyo	to not exist / to not have → does not exist / do not have	없어요는 '없다'의 해요체예요. In English, it expresses absence or lack.
돈이 없어요 doni eopseoyo	I don't have money. / There is no money.	먼저 예문이에요. 돈이 없어요. It can mean "There is no money," or naturally, "I don't have money."
시간이 없어요 sigani eopseoyo	I don't have time. / There is no time.	시간이 없어요. This is the natural Korean for "I don't have time."
물이 없어요 muri eopseoyo	There is no water. / We don't have water.	물이 없어요. There is no water, or we don't have water.
안 먹어요 / 안 마세요 / 안 좋아요 an meogeoyo / an masyeoyo / an joayo	I don't eat. / I don't drink. / It's not good or I don't like it.	맞아요. Now let's switch to 안. 안 goes before the action or description word.



Grammar / Structure Notes

커피가 없어요

커피 + 가 + 없어요 — There is no coffee. / I don't have coffee.

좋은 질문이에요. 자연스럽게는 커피가 없어요라고 해요. In English, "There is no coffee," or "I don't have coffee."

안 + 동사/형용사

안 + 동사/형용사 — not do / not be a certain way

Use 안 before a verb or adjective, not as the normal way to say you do not have something.

명사 + 이/가 없어요

명사 + 이/가 없어요 — There is no noun. / I don't have noun.

Use this for possession, lack, and simple absence.

없다 → 없어요

없다 → 없어요 — to not exist / to not have → does not exist / do not have

없어요 is the polite 해요-style form.

돈이 없어요

돈 + 이 + 없어요 — I don't have money. / There is no money.

먼저 예문이에요. 돈이 없어요. It can mean "There is no money," or naturally, "I don't have money."

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
커피가 없어요	doni eopseoyo / keopiga eopseoyo
시간이 없어요	sigani eopseoyo
저는 고기를 안 먹어요	jeoneun gogireul an meogeoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 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
안 Two Ways to Say 'No/Can't'	A1 Grammar: compare 안 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-NEG-001
-(으)ㄴ 리가 없다 / -(으)ㄴ 수밖에 없다 Emphatic Negation and Inevitability	B2 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄴ 리가 없다 / -(으)ㄴ 수밖에 없다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-GRAM-NEG-001
-지 않아요 / -지 못해요 The Long Negative Forms	A2 Grammar: compare -지 않아요 / -지 못해요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-NEG-001
(으)로 Saying 'By', 'With', and 'Toward' in Korean	A1 Grammar: compare (으)로 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-012

My Notes

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