



Korean Ladder Study Note

안은 동사 바로 앞에

Where to Put 안 in a Korean Sentence

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Negation	안은 동사 바로 앞에 Where to Put 안 in a Korean Sentence

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-NEG-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfadFh4k6OI>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I know 안 means “not,” but I keep wanting to say 저는 안 커피를 마셔요. Why does that sound wrong?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, 안 does not go before the thing, like coffee. It goes right before the action or description.

오늘의 핵심은 아주 간단해요. 안은 동사나 형용사 바로 앞에 놓아요. Today, put 안 directly before the verb or adjective.

영어처럼 “not coffee”라고 생각하지 마세요. Think, “do not drink.” The not-word sits with 마셔요, the verb “drink.”

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	커피 마셔요? —	Do you drink coffee?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아니요, 저는 커피를 안 마셔요. —	No, I do not drink coffee.
Hana	그래요? 그럼 차는 마셔요? —	Really? Then do you drink tea?
Junho	네, 차는 마셔요. —	Yes, I drink tea.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
안 + 동사 또는 형용사 an + dongsaneun ttoneun hyeongyongsa	안 + verb or adjective	오늘의 핵심은 아주 간단해요. 안은 동사나 형용사 바로 앞에 놓아요. Today, put 안 directly before the verb or adjective.
커피를 안 마셔요 keopireul an masyeoyo	do not drink coffee	So I should find the action first. For “drink coffee,” the action is 마셔요, not 커피.
주어 + 목적어 + 안 + 동사 jueo + mokjeogeo + an + dongsa	subject + object + 안 + verb	맞아요. That is the key. First, say the person or thing. Then say the object if you have one. Then put 안 right before the verb.
안 마셔요 · 안 봐요 · 안 배워요 an masyeoyo · an bwayo · an baewoyo	do not drink · do not watch · do not learn	안 and the verb are a close pair. 안 마셔요, 안 봐요, 안 배워요. Keep that pair together.
커피를 keopireul	coffee, as the object	The particle 를 belongs to 커피. So 커피를 is one object chunk: “coffee” as the thing being drunk.
커피를 안 마셔요 · 차는 마셔요 keopireul an masyeoyo · chaneun masyeoyo	I do not drink coffee · I drink tea	I heard it. 커피를 안 마셔요, but 차는 마셔요. The negative word stays with the action.
안 + 커피를 ☒ an + keopireul	Do not put 안 before the object.	So 저는 안 커피를 마셔요 is the English-order trap.
영화를 안 봐요 · 한국어를 안 배워요 yeonghwareul an bwayo · hangugeoreul an baewoyo	do not watch movies · do not learn Korean	Find the action, then put 안 before it. 저는 영화를 안 봐요. 저는 한국어를 안 배워요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

안 + 동사 또는 형용사

안 + 동사 또는 형용사 — 안 + verb or adjective

Put 안 immediately before the action or description.

커피를 안 마셔요.

커피를 안 마셔요. — I do not drink coffee.

안 is next to 마셔요.

저는 커피를 안 마셔요.

저 + 는 + 커피 + 를 + 안 + 마셔 + 요. — I do not drink coffee.

먼저 자연스러운 문장을 들어 보세요. 저는 커피를 안 마셔요. I do not drink coffee.

오늘은 안 추워요.

오늘은 안 추워요. — Today, it is not cold.

안 comes before the describing word 추워요.

오늘은 안 추워요.

오늘 + 은 + 안 + 추워 + 요. — Today, it is not cold.

여기서도 순서는 같아요. 오늘은, then 안, then 추워요. The subject or topic comes first, and 안 stays beside the description.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
저는 커피를 안 마셔요.	jeoneun keopireul an masyeoyo.
저는 안 커피를 마셔요.	jeoneun an keopireul masyeoyo.
커피를 안 마셔요.	keopireul, an masyeoyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 안은 동사 바로 앞에 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
아니예요 Choosing 'Is Not' or 'There Isn't'	A1 Grammar: compare 아니예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-NEG-003
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
없어요 Two Beginner Ways to Say You Don't Have or Aren't Doing	A1 Grammar: compare 없어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-NEG-002
-(으)ㄹ 리가 없다 / -(으)ㄹ 수밖에 없다 Emphatic Negation and Inevitability	B2 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄹ 리가 없다 / -(으)ㄹ 수밖에 없다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-GRAM-NEG-001

My Notes

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