



Korean Ladder Study Note

에

The Korean Particle for Place and Time

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	에 The Korean Particle for Place and Time

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-004)

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekNQvm0uCdw)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekNQvm0uCdw>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real talk. Why do I keep mixing up 에 and 에서? They both feel like English 'at'.

좋은 질문이에요. Great question. Today, just 에 — one small particle with three big jobs.

에 is a place-and-time particle. You attach it right onto the noun: 명사 plus 에. 노운, then 에.

에는 세 가지를 나타내요. In English, 에 shows three things — where you're going, where something is, and when.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	어디에 있어요? —	Where are you?
Hana	카페에 있어요. —	I'm at the cafe.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	카페에서 뭐 해요? —	What are you doing at the cafe?
Hana	카페에서 커피를 마셔요. —	I'm drinking coffee at the cafe.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
명사 + 에 myeongsa + e	noun + 에	에 is a place-and-time particle. You attach it right onto the noun: 명사 plus 에. 노운, then 에.
에 = 방향 · 위치 · 시간 e = banghyang · wichi · sigan	direction · location · time	에는 세 가지를 나타내요. In English, 에 shows three things — where you're going, where something is, and when.
학교에 가요 hakgyo-e gayo	I go to school	First job: destination. 학교에 가요 — I go to school. 에 marks the place you move toward.
있다, 없다와 함께 itda, eopda-wa hamkke	with 'to be' / 'to not be'	Second job: location, where something exists. 있다, 없다와 함께 자주 써요. We often use 에 with 있다 'to be' and 없다 'to not be'.
세 시에 만나요 se si-e mannayo	We meet at three	Third job: time. 세 시에 만나요 — we meet at three. 에 also marks the clock time.
집에 가요 jib-e gayo	I'm going home	예문을 볼게요. Let's see it. 집에 가요 — I'm going home. 집 home, 에 the particle, 가요 go.
학교에 있어요 hakgyo-e isseoyo	I'm at school	Now existence. 학교에 있어요 — I'm at school. Same 에, but here it says where I AM.
월요일에 시작해요 wor-yoil-e sijakaeyo	It starts on Monday	And time. 월요일에 시작해요 — it starts on Monday. 월요일 Monday, plus 에.



Grammar / Structure Notes

명사 + 에

명사 + 에 — noun + 에

에 attaches directly to the noun

에 = 방향 · 위치 · 시간

에 = 방향 · 위치 · 시간 — direction · location · time

에는 세 가지를 나타내요. In English, 에 shows three things — where you're going, where something is, and when.

학교에 가요

학교에 가요 — I go to school

에 = destination

있다, 없다와 함께

있다, 없다와 함께 — with 'to be' / 'to not be'

에 = location of existence

세 시에 만나요

세 시에 만나요 — We meet at three

에 = time

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
학교에 가요	hakgyo-e gayo
에 → 'eh'	a soft, short vowel — never 'ay'
집에 있어요 / 집에서 먹어요	jib-e isseoyo / jib-eseo meogeoyo
에 vs 에서	longer particle = the action particle

Self-Check

- 1 Say 에 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
도 Saying 'Also', 'Too', and 'Even' in Korean	A1 Grammar: compare 도 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-006
에서 Where the Action Happens	A1 Grammar: compare 에서 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-005
와 / 과 / 하고 Linking Two Nouns with 'And'	A1 Grammar: compare 와 / 과 / 하고 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-007
은 / 는 The Korean Topic Marker	A1 Grammar: compare 은 / 는 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-001

My Notes

Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.