



Korean Ladder Study Note

에서

Where the Action Happens

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	에서 Where the Action Happens

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-005)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-005>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L02GJpz9A_c)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L02GJpz9A_c

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Core Idea

Okay, real question. I keep mixing up 에 and 에서. They both feel like they mean 'at,' so how do I know which one to use?

좋아요. That's the perfect question. The secret is what's happening in the sentence — is something just there, or is an action happening.

Today's pattern is 에서. 여기서 is 동작이 일어나는 장소를 표시해요. In English, it marks the place where an action happens — 'at' or 'in.'

So if you eat, study, work, or play somewhere, that place takes 에서.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	하나 씨, 어디에서 일해요? —	Hana, where do you work?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저는 학교에서 일해요. —	I work at a school.
Junho	주말에는 어디에서 쉬어요? —	Where do you rest on weekends?
Hana	보통 집에서 쉬어요. —	I usually rest at home.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
장소 + 에서 jangso + eseo	at / in a place — where the action happens	Today's pattern is 에서. 에서는 동작이 일어나는 장소를 표시해요. In English, it marks the place where an action happens — 'at' or 'in.'
카페에서 커피를 마세요 kape-eseo keopireul masyeoyo	I drink coffee at the cafe.	들어 보세요. 카페에서 커피를 마세요. I drink coffee at the cafe.
도서관에서 공부해요 doseogwan-eseo gongbuhaeyo	I study at the library.	들어 보세요. 도서관에서 공부해요. I study at the library. The action is studying, so the library takes 에서.
동작 → 에서 dongjak → eseo	an action → use 에서	Oh, I like that. The verb is the clue — coffee-drinking, studying — those are actions.
집에서 먹어요 jip-eseo meogeoyo	I eat at home.	So 'I eat at home' would be... 집에서 먹어요?
장소 + 에서 = from jangso + eseo	from a place (origin)	에서 has a second job too. 에서는 장소의 출발점, 'from a place,' 도 표시해요. It also means 'from' where you came.
한국에서 왔어요 hanguk-eseo wasseoyo	I came from Korea.	한국에서 왔어요. I came from Korea. Here 에서 is the place you started from.
일하다 · 쉬다 → 에서 ilhada · swida → eseo	work · rest (actions) → 에서	Every place there had 에서 — work, rest, all actions. That's clicking now.



Grammar / Structure Notes

장소 + 에서

장소 + 에서 — at / in a place — where the action happens

Use it when someone DOES something there.

장소 + 에서

장소 + 에서 — the action-spot particle

eat, study, work, play → 에서

카페에서 커피를 마셔요

카페 + 에서 + 커피 + 를 + 마셔요 — I drink coffee at the cafe.

들어 보세요. 카페에서 커피를 마셔요. I drink coffee at the cafe.

도서관에서 공부해요

도서관 + 에서 + 공부해요 — I study at the library.

들어 보세요. 도서관에서 공부해요. I study at the library. The action is studying, so the library takes 에서.

동작 → 에서

동작 → 에서 — an action → use 에서

Find the verb first.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
카페에서 커피를 마셔요	kape-eseo keopireul masyeoyo
에서	eseo
도서관에서 공부해요	doseogwan-eseo gongbuhaeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 에서 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
에 The Korean Particle for Place and Time	A1 Grammar: compare 에 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-004
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.