



Korean Ladder Study Note

한테 / 에게

Saying 'To' a Person in Korean

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	한테 / 에게 Saying 'To' a Person in Korean

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-008)

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y05K2xG9H2I)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y05K2xG9H2I>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real question. I wanted to say 'I gave it to my friend,' so I said 친구에 줬어요. Hana, your face just did a thing.

조금 어색해요. 에는 장소예요. In English, 에 is for places — not for people. So 친구에 sounds like you gave it to the friend's location, not to the friend.

여기 규칙은 간단해요. The rule is simple. To mark a person who receives something, you add 한테.

자, 핵심은 이거예요. 한테는 받는 사람을 표시해요. In English, 한테 marks the receiver — the person you give, send, or tell something to.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 이거 누구한테 줘요? —	Junho, who do I give this to?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	민수한테 주세요. —	Please give it to Minsu.
Hana	민수한테요? 알겠어요. —	To Minsu? Got it.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
명사 + 한테 myeongsa + hante	noun + to (a person)	여기 규칙은 간단해요. The rule is simple. To mark a person who receives something, you add 한테.
친구한테 chinguhante	to a friend	자, 핵심은 이거예요. 한테는 받는 사람을 표시해요. In English, 한테 marks the receiver — the person you give, send, or tell something to.
엄마한테 전화했어요 eommahante jeonhwahaesseoyo	I called mom	엄마한테 전화했어요. I called mom. 엄마 plus 한테 — to mom.
동생한테 말했어요 dongsaenghante malhaesseoyo	I told my younger sibling	동생한테 말했어요. I told my younger sibling. 동생 plus 한테 — the person who hears it.
친구한테 선물을 줬어요 chinguhante seonmureul jwosseoyo	I gave a present to my friend	친구한테 선물을 줬어요. I gave a present to my friend. This is today's keeper sentence — listen for 친구한테.
에 vs 한테 —	place vs person	So let me get this straight. 에 is for places — 학교에, to school. And 한테 is for people. Same English word 'to,' two different Korean particles.
학교에 / 친구한테 hakgyoe / chinguhante	to school / to a friend	맞아요. 장소에는 에, 사람한테는 한테. A place takes 에, a person takes 한테. 그게 핵심이에요.
사람 → 한테 —	person → 한테	Got it. If I can stand inside it, it's 에. If it can talk back to me, it's 한테.



Grammar / Structure Notes

명사 + 한테

명사 + 한테 — noun + to (a person)

Marks the person who receives the action

친구한테

친구한테 — to a friend

Marks the receiver of giving, sending, telling

엄마한테 전화했어요

엄마 + 한테 + 전화했어요 — I called mom

엄마한테 전화했어요. I called mom. 엄마 plus 한테 — to mom.

동생한테 말했어요

동생 + 한테 + 말했어요 — I told my younger sibling

동생한테 말했어요. I told my younger sibling. 동생 plus 한테 — the person who hears it.

친구한테 선물을 줬어요

친구 + 한테 + 선물을 + 줬어요 — I gave a present to my friend

친구한테 선물을 줬어요. I gave a present to my friend. This is today's keeper sentence — listen for 친구한테.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
친구한테	chin-gu-han-te
친구한테 줬어요	chin-gu-han-te jwo-sseo-yo
줬어요	jwo-sseo-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 한테 / 에게 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
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

My Notes

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