



Korean Ladder Study Note

만

Saying 'Only' and 'Just This' with the Particle 만

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	만 Saying 'Only' and 'Just This' with the Particle 만

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-011>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ers-E32YA8>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. If I want to say 'just coffee, please,' where does the word 'only' even go in Korean?

Great question. In English 'only' comes before the noun. In Korean, it hugs the noun from behind. That little tail is 만.

So the shape is simple. 명사 + 만. Noun, then 만. No space, no change to the noun.

And here's the meaning to hold onto. 만은 '오직 이것'이라는 뜻이에요. In English, 만 means 'only this — nothing else.'

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	뭐 드릴까요? —	What can I get you?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	커피만 주세요. —	Just coffee, please.
Hana	물도 드릴까요? —	Water too?
Junho	아니요, 커피만요. —	No, only coffee.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
명사 + 만 myeongsa + man	noun + 만 = only / just that noun	So the shape is simple. 명사 + 만. Noun, then 만. No space, no change to the noun.
만 = 오직 이것 man = o-jik i-geot	only this, nothing else	And here's the meaning to hold onto. 만은 '오직 이것'이라는 뜻이에요. In English, 만 means 'only this — nothing else.'
물만 마세요 mulman masyeoyo	(I) drink only water	Listen to a native line. 저는 물만 마세요. I drink only water.
저만 몰라요 jeoman mollayo	Only I don't know	Another one. 저만 몰라요. Only I don't know — everyone else does.
만 vs 도 man vs do	만 = only · 도 = also / too	Exactly. Now let's compare it to a word you already met — 도, meaning 'also, too.'
커피만 / 커피도 keopiman / keopido	only coffee / coffee too	커피만 주세요 means 'coffee and nothing else.' 커피도 주세요 means 'coffee too — add it to the rest.'
만 = 오직 · 도 = 추가 man = ojik · do = chuga	만 = only · 도 = addition	So think of it this way. 만은 '오직'이에요. 도는 '추가'예요. 만 is 'only'; 도 is 'in addition.'
물도 / 물만 muldo / mulman	water too / only water	Got it. If I want 'water too,' I say 물도. If I want 'water only,' I say 물만. The tail changes everything.



Grammar / Structure Notes

커피만 주세요.

커피만 주세요. — Just coffee, please. (only coffee)

만 attaches to the end of the noun

명사 + 만

명사 + 만 — noun + 만 = only / just that noun

So the shape is simple. 명사 + 만. Noun, then 만. No space, no change to the noun.

만 = 오직 이것

만 = 오직 이것 — only this, nothing else

And here's the meaning to hold onto. 만은 '오직 이것'이라는 뜻이에요. In English, 만 means 'only this — nothing else.'

물만 마세요

물 + 만 + 마세요 — (I) drink only water

Listen to a native line. 저는 물만 마세요. I drink only water.

저만 몰라요

저 + 만 + 몰라요 — Only I don't know

Another one. 저만 몰라요. Only I don't know — everyone else does.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
저만 몰라요	jeoman mollayo
학교에만 가요	hakgyoeman gayo
커피만 주세요	keopiman juseyo
집에만 있어요	jibeman isseoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 만 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
부터 / 까지 Saying 'From' and 'Until' for Time and Place	A1 Grammar: compare 부터 / 까지 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-010
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

My Notes

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