



Korean Ladder Study Note

(으)로

Saying 'By', 'With', and 'Toward' in Korean

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	(으)로 Saying 'By', 'With', and 'Toward' in Korean

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-012>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nv-51S_h4vg

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my English-speaker problem. I know 에 can mean to, and 에서 can mean at or from doing something. So how do I say by bus, with chopsticks, or toward school?

좋은 질문이에요. Plain destination, I go to school, is 학교에 가요. But by bus is 버스로 가요, and toward school is 학교로 가요. That direction and method feeling is where 으로 and 로 shine.

The big idea is movement through something, or action using something. 버스로 가요 means I go by bus. 젓가락으로 먹어요 means I eat with chopsticks.

So it is not just one English word. It is more like, route, tool, or direction.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 학교에 어떻게 가요? —	How are you going to school today?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	비가 와서 버스로 가요. —	Because it is raining, I am going by bus.
Hana	그럼 집에는 지하철로 와요? —	Then do you come home by subway?
Junho	아니요, 택시로 와요. —	No, I come by taxi.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-(으)로 -(eu)ro	by, with, using, toward	좋은 질문이에요. Plain destination, I go to school, is 학교에 가요. But by bus is 버스로 가요, and toward school is 학교로 가요. That direction and method feeling is where 으로 and 로 shine.
버스로 / 젓가락으로 beoseu-ro / jeotgarak-euro	by bus / with chopsticks	The big idea is movement through something, or action using something. 버스로 가요 means I go by bus. 젓가락으로 먹어요 means I eat with chopsticks.
명사 + 로 / 으로 myeongsa + ro / euro	noun + ro / euro	맞아요. And we choose 로 or 으로 by the final sound of the noun. This is the small form rule.
버스로 가요 beoseu-ro gayo	I go by bus.	If the noun ends in a vowel, use 로. 버스 has no final consonant, so 버스로.
지하철로 가요 jihacheol-lo gayo	I go by subway.	If the noun ends in the letter 리을, also use 로. 지하철 ends in 리을, so 지하철로.
책으로 공부해요 chaeg-euro gongbuhayeo	I study with a book.	For most other final consonants, use 으로. 책 ends in 기억, so 책으로.
모음·ㄹ → 로 / 나머지 받침 → 으로 moelum·rieul → ro / nameoji batchim → euro	vowel or ㄹ → 로 / other final consonants → 으로	Let me say the rule back. Vowel or 리을 takes 로. Other final consonants take 으로.
받침 batchim	Saying 'By', 'With', and 'Toward' in Korean	완벽해요. In Korean, we say 받침 for that final consonant at the bottom of a syllable block.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-(으)로

-(으)로 — by, with, using, toward

For method, tool, material, and direction

버스로 / 젓가락으로

버스로 / 젓가락으로 — by bus / with chopsticks

method or tool

명사 + 로 / 으로

명사 + 로 / 으로 — noun + ro / euro

Choose by the noun ending sound

버스로 가요

버스 + 로 + 가요 — I go by bus.

If the noun ends in a vowel, use 로. 버스 has no final consonant, so 버스로.

지하철로 가요

지하철 + 로 + 가요 — I go by subway.

If the noun ends in the letter 리을, also use 로. 지하철 ends in 리을, so 지하철로.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
받침	batchim
젓가락으로	jeotgarak-euro
버스로 가요	beoseu-ro gayo
지하철로 가요	jihacheol-lo gayo
젓가락으로 먹어요	jeotgarak-euro meogeoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say (으)로 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
만 Saying 'Only' and 'Just This' with the Particle 만	A1 Grammar: compare 만 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-011
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

My Notes

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