



Korean Ladder Study Note

도 안 / 도 못 / 도 없어요

Saying 'Not Even' with 도 and Negatives

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	도 안 / 도 못 / 도 없어요 Saying 'Not Even' with 도 and Negatives

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-021>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdoSKdx6wDQ>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my English-speaker problem. I know 커피 안 마셔요 means I don't drink coffee. But how do I say, I don't even drink coffee?

좋은 질문이에요. Korean uses 도 after the noun you want to highlight.

맞아요. 도 replaces the usual topic or object particle in many simple sentences.

Now the frame. 도 can join three beginner negatives today: 안, 못, and 없어요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 너무 바빠요. —	I'm so busy today.
Junho	점심 먹었어요? —	Did you eat lunch?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	아니요, 밥도 못 먹었어요. —	No, I couldn't even eat a meal.
Junho	저도요. 커피도 못 마셨어요. —	Me too. I couldn't even drink coffee.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
N도 + 안 + V N-do + an + V	not even N, with an action you don't do	좋은 질문이에요. Korean uses 도 after the noun you want to highlight.
커피도 안 마셔요 keopi-do an masyeoyo	I don't even drink coffee.	So 커피도 안 마셔요 means I don't even drink coffee. 도 is doing the even feeling.
커피를 안 마셔요 → 커피도 안 마셔요 keopi-reul an masyeoyo → keopi-do an masyeoyo	I don't drink coffee → I don't even drink coffee	맞아요. 도 replaces the usual topic or object particle in many simple sentences.
N도 안 V / N도 못 V / N도 없어요 N-do an V / N-do mot V / N-do eopseoyo	not even N / can't even N / don't even have N	Now the frame. 도 can join three beginner negatives today: 안, 못, and 없어요.
안 = 안 해요 못 = 못 해요 an = an haeyo / mot = mot haeyo	don't do / can't do	안 is for not doing something. 못 is for can't do something, or cannot manage it.
저는 커피도 안 마셔요 jeo-neun keopi-do an masyeoyo	As for me, I don't even drink coffee.	Exactly. First, listen to 안 with 도.
저는 차도 안 마셔요 jeo-neun cha-do an masyeoyo	I don't even drink tea.	좋아요. 저는 차도 안 마셔요 is natural. We kept the real verb 마셔요.
N도 + 못 + V N-do + mot + V	can't even V N	Next is 못. 못 means the action cannot happen, because of ability, time, condition, or situation.



Grammar / Structure Notes

N도 + 안 + V

N도 + 안 + V — not even N, with an action you don't do

도 attaches to the noun.

커피도 안 마셔요

커피 + 도 + 안 + 마셔요 — I don't even drink coffee.

So 커피도 안 마셔요 means I don't even drink coffee. 도 is doing the even feeling.

커피도 안 마셔요

커피 + 도 + 안 + 마셔요 — I don't even drink coffee.

So... 커피도 안 마셔요. The 도 is stuck to 커피, not floating before the verb.

커피를 안 마셔요 → 커피도 안 마셔요

커피를 안 마셔요 → 커피도 안 마셔요 — I don't drink coffee → I don't even drink coffee

를 changes to 도.

N도 안 V / N도 못 V / N도 없어요

N도 안 V / N도 못 V / N도 없어요 — not even N / can't even N / don't even have N

One particle, three useful negatives.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
밥도 못 먹어요	bap-do mot meogeoyo
커피도 안 마셔요	keopi-do an masyeoyo
돈도 없어요	don-do eopseoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 도 안 / 도 못 / 도 없어요 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
(으)로 Saying 'By', 'With', and 'Toward' in Korean	A1 Grammar: compare (으)로 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-012
같이 / 와 함께 / 하고 Saying 'Together With' Someone	A1 Grammar: compare 같이 / 와 함께 / 하고 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-017
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

My Notes

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