



Korean Ladder Study Note

에만 / 에서만

Saying 'Only At' and 'Only From'

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	에만 / 에서만 Saying 'Only At' and 'Only From'

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-022>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GJ-8_Yqlul

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I know 학교에 means “at school.” But why do I hear both 학교에만 and 학교에서만? Are they both “only at school”?

좋은 질문이에요.에만은 있다, 가다처럼 에를 쓰는 동사와 함께 쓰고, 에서만은 행동이 일어나는 장소나 출발점을 말할 때 써요. In English, choose it by the job that the place has in the sentence.

오늘의 핵심은에만과 에서만이에요. Both add the meaning “only,” but 에 and 에서 do different jobs.

먼저 만은 “only”를 더해요. To limit a place, put 만 after the place particle, not directly after the place noun.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 학교에만 있어요? —	Are you only at school today?
Junho	네, 오늘은 학교에만 있어요. 학교에서만 공부해요. —	Yes, I am only at school today. I study only at school.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그럼 카페에는 안 가요? —	Then, are you not going to a cafe?
Junho	네, 오늘은 카페에 안 가요. —	Right, I am not going to a cafe today.
Hana	오늘 학교에만 있어요? —	Are you only at school today?
Junho	네, 오늘은 학교에만 있어요. 학교에서만 공부해요. —	Yes, I am only at school today. I study only at school.
Hana	그럼 카페에는 안 가요? —	Then, are you not going to a cafe?
Junho	네, 오늘은 카페에 안 가요. —	Right, I am not going to a cafe today.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
에만 / 에서만 e-man / eseoman	only at/in a place; only from a place	오늘의 핵심은 에만과 에서만이에요. Both add the meaning “only,” but 에 and 에서 do different jobs.
만 man	only	먼저 만든 “only”를 더해요. To limit a place, put 만 after the place particle, not directly after the place noun.
학교에만 hakgyo-eman	only at school	So, 에만 is noun plus 에 plus 만. Use it with verbs that naturally use 에, such as 있다, “to be,” and 가다, “to go.”
학교에서만 hakgyo-eseoman	only at school, as an action location	여기서는 공부하는 행동이 학교에서 일어나요. That is why we use 에서, the particle for the location of an action.
출발지 + 에서만 chulbalji + eseoman	only from a departure point	에서 can also mark where something starts. Let’s use a train, because a train can have one limited departure point.
에서만 eseoman	verb only at/in a place, or only from a place, depending on the verb	에서만 can mean “only at a place” with an action, or “only from a place” with a starting point. The verb and meaning tell us which one it is.
학교에만 있어요 / 학교에서만 공부해요 hakgyo-eman isseoyo / hakgyo-eseoman gongbuhayeyo	be only at school / study only at school	같은 장소라도 동사에 따라 장소와의 관계가 달라요. 학교에만 있어요는 그곳에 있는 상태를, 학교에서만 공부해요는 그곳에서 하는 행동을 말해요. Same school, but one sentence is about being there and the other is about studying there.



Word	Meaning	Example
공부하다: 행동 장소 → 에서 / 출발하다: 출발지 → 에서 gongbuhada: haengdong jangso → eseo / chulbahlada: chulbalji → eso	Use 에서 for an action location or a departure point.	공부하디 행동 장소를 말할 때는 에서를 쓰고, 출발하디 출발지를 말할 때도 에서를 써요. When you state where studying happens or where something departs from, use 에서.



Grammar / Structure Notes

에만 / 에서만

에만 / 에서만 — only at/in a place; only from a place

Choose 에 or 에서 first. Then attach 만.

만

만 — only

Place + particle + 만

학교에만 있어요.

학교 + 에 + 만 + 있어요. — I am only at school.

학교에만 있어요. This means, “I am only at school.” 있다 uses 에 for the place where someone or something is.

학교에만

학교에만 — only at school

학교 + 에 + 만

학교에서만 공부해요.

학교 + 에서 + 만 + 공부해요. — I study only at school.

Now listen to an action happening in a place. 학교에서만 공부해요. It means, “I study only at school.”

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
학교에만 있어요.	hakgyo-eman isseoyo.
학교에만 있어요	hakgyo-eman isseoyo.
학교에서만 공부해요.	hakgyo-eseoman gongbuhaeyo.
학교에서만 공부해요	hakgyo-eseoman gongbuhaeyo.
도서관에서만	doseogwan-eseoman

Self-Check

- 1 Say 에만 / 에서만 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 안 / 도 못 / 도 없어요 Saying 'Not Even' with 도 and Negatives	A1 Grammar: compare 도 안 / 도 못 / 도 없어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-021
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

My Notes

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