



Korean Ladder Study Note

네

Adding 요 to Single Words and Fragments to Sound Polite

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Speech Levels	네 Adding 요 to Single Words and Fragments to Sound Polite

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GO2JUVZ53t0>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real beginner problem: if I only know the word 이거, can I just say 이거 to a shop staff member, or does that sound too blunt?

좋은 질문이에요. 이거만 말하면 너무 짧고 딱딱하게 들릴 수 있어요. 이거요라고 하면 훨씬 공손해요. In English, add 요 to make a short answer polite.

오늘의 핵심은 공손한 조각말이에요. A fragment is not a full sentence, but in Korean, word plus 요 can work very well in daily service situations.

So it's like I don't need a whole verb every time. I can point and say 이거요?

Conversation Snapshot

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



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아이스 아메리카노요. —	An iced Americano, please.
Hana	물도 드릴까요? —	Would you like water too?
Junho	네, 물이요. —	Yes, water, please.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
이거 → 이거요 igeo → igeoyo	this → this, please / this one politely	좋은 질문이에요. 이거만 말하면 너무 짧고 딱딱하게 들릴 수 있어요. 이거요라고 하면 훨씬 공손해요. In English, add 요 to make a short answer polite.
단어 + 요 daneo + yo	word + polite ending	오늘의 핵심은 공손한 조각말이에요. A fragment is not a full sentence, but in Korean, word plus 요 can work very well in daily service situations.
이거요 igeoyo	This one, please	So it's like I don't need a whole verb every time. I can point and say 이거요?
___요 ___yo	blank + polite tone	요는 존댓말 느낌을 더해요. In English, think of it as a polite tone marker at the end of a small answer.
아이스 아메리카노요 aiseu amerika-noyo	An iced Americano, please.	카페에서 주문할 때 이렇게 말할 수 있어요. 아이스 아메리카노요. In English, "An iced Americano, please."
저요 jeoyo	Me, politely. / I will.	이름을 부르거나 누가 할지 물었을 때는 저요라고 해요. It means "me," politely, or "I'll do it."
네 ne	yes; okay; I understand	네도 중요해요. 네 means "yes" in polite Korean. Usually you do not need to add 요 after 네.
네 ≠ 네요 ne ≠ neyo	yes ≠ noticing ending	맞아요. 네요 is a different ending, like "Oh, it is..." or "I notice that..." For simple yes, say 네.



Grammar / Structure Notes

이거 → 이거요

이거 → 이거요 — this → this, please / this one politely

요 softens a short fragment

단어 + 요

단어 + 요 — word + polite ending

Use it for quick, polite replies

이거요

이거요 — This one, please

A polite fragment

이거요

이거 + 요 — This one, please.

맞아요. 이거요. It means “this one, please,” even though there is no verb in the Korean line.

___요

___요 — blank + polite tone

Spoken as: word plus 요

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
저요	jeoyo
아이스 아메리카노요	aiseu amerika-noyo
물어요	mullyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 네 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
감사합니다 / 죄송합니다 Formal Thanks and Apologies	A1 Honorifics: compare 감사합니다 / 죄송합니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-002
요 Polite and Casual Korean	A1 Honorifics: compare 요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-001
반존대 When Koreans Mix 요 and 반말 in One Breath	B1 Honorifics: compare 반존대 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-LVL-002
하계체 The Familiar Speech Level Elders Use	C1 Honorifics: compare 하계체 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-LVL-001

My Notes

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