



Korean Ladder Study Note

알겠습니다 / 네

Acknowledging Instructions Politely

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Speech Levels	알겠습니다 / 네 Acknowledging Instructions Politely

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-005>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OseLvSBkOP0>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my problem. A teacher tells me, "Submit it by Friday," and I want to say, "Okay, got it." Can I just say 알아요?

좋은 질문이에요. 알아요 can sound like "I already know." When someone gives you an instruction, we usually answer 알겠습니다 or 네, 알겠어요.

The key is not just meaning. It is also politeness, distance, and the situation.

오늘의 표현은 '알겠습니다'와 '네, 알겠어요'예요. These are polite acknowledgments after directions, rules, or requests.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	금요일까지 내세요. —	Please submit it by Friday.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 알겠습니다. —	Yes, I understand.
Hana	내일까지 하세요. —	Please do it by tomorrow.
Junho	네, 알겠습니다. —	Yes, I understand.
Hana	내일까지 하세요. —	Please do it by tomorrow.
Junho	네, 알아요. —	Yes, I know.
Hana	이쪽으로 들어가시면 됩니다. —	Please enter this way. / You can enter this way.
Junho	네, 알겠습니다. —	Yes, I understand.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
알겠습니다 / 네, 알겠어요 algesseumnida / ne, algesseoyo	I understand. / Okay, I understand.	The key is not just meaning. It is also politeness, distance, and the situation.
‘알겠습니다’와 ‘네, 알겠어요’ ‘algesseumnida’wa ‘ne, algesseoyo’	‘I understand’ and ‘Yes, okay, I understand’	오늘의 표현은 ‘알겠습니다’와 ‘네, 알겠어요’예요. These are polite acknowledgments after directions, rules, or requests.
알겠습니다 > 알겠어요 algesseumnida > algesseoyo	more formal > polite and softer	So 알겠습니다 is more formal, and 네, 알겠어요 is polite but a little softer.
알겠습니다 algesseumnida	Acknowledging Instructions Politely	Pronunciation note. 알겠습니다는 자연스럽게 [알겔쌔니다]처럼 들려요. 하지만 쓸 때는 ‘알겠습니다’로 써요.
알겠어요 algesseoyo	Acknowledging Instructions Politely	Listen to the ending 어요: 알겠어요. It feels softer than 알겠습니다.
알겠어요 → polite 알겠습니다 → more formal algesseoyo → polite algesseumnida → more formal	Both are polite; 알겠습니다 is safer upward or formal.	좋아요. 알겠어요 is common in daily polite speech. But for a senior person, a teacher in class, or a public staff setting, 알겠습니다 is safer.



Word	Meaning	Example
알아요 arayo	I know.	Right. That is why 알아요 can feel off after an instruction. 알아요 often just means “I know.”
짧게, 공손하게 jjalpge, gongsonhage	Acknowledging Instructions Politely	맞아요 . So for instructions, keep it short and polite: 네, 알겠습니다.



Grammar / Structure Notes

알겠습니다 / 네, 알겠어요

알겠습니다 / 네, 알겠어요 — I understand. / Okay, I understand.

Use after receiving an instruction or explanation.

‘알겠습니다’와 ‘네, 알겠어요’

‘알겠습니다’와 ‘네, 알겠어요’ — ‘I understand’ and ‘Yes, okay, I understand’

Two polite ways to acknowledge instructions.

네, 알겠습니다.

네, 알겠습니다. — Yes, I understand. / Yes, understood.

Safest in formal or public settings.

네, 알겠습니다.

네 + , + 알 + 겠 + 습니다 + . — Yes, I understand.

Yes. 네, 알겠습니다 is the safest formal polite response.

네, 알겠어요.

네 + , + 알 + 겠 + 어요 + . — Yes, okay, I understand.

And 네, 알겠어요 is still polite, but softer and a little less formal. It is good with a friendly teacher or in a relaxed service situation.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
알겠습니다	algesseumnida
알겠어요	algesseoyo
잘게, 공손하게	jjalpge, gongsonhage
네, 알겠습니다.	ne, algesseumnida.
네, 알겠어요.	ne, algesseoyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 알겠습니다 / 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
네 Two Polite Ways to Say Yes	A1 Honorifics: compare 네 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-006
네 Adding 요 to Single Words and Fragments to Sound Polite	A1 Honorifics: compare 네 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-003
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

My Notes

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