



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 네

## Two Polite Ways to Say Yes

| Level                    | Topic                       | Focus                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A1 · Beginner<br>TOPIK 1 | Honorifics<br>Speech Levels | 네<br>Two Polite Ways to Say Yes |

## Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-006>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cUs0UU6cJI>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

## Core Idea

Okay, real question. I hear 네 all the time, but then on the phone I hear 예. Are they the same, or am I missing something?

좋은 질문이에요. 네 and 예 both mean a polite yes, but they feel different in real situations.

The short version is this. 네 is the everyday polite yes. 예 is also polite, and it often sounds more formal, careful, or official.

오늘의 패턴은 대답이에요. 네. 예. In English, the pattern is not grammar-heavy. It is choosing the right polite response for the mood.

## Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean         | Meaning            |
|---------|----------------|--------------------|
| Hana    | 봉투 필요하세요?<br>— | Do you need a bag? |



| Speaker | Korean          | Meaning                    |
|---------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Junho   | 네, 부탁드립니다.<br>— | Yes, please.               |
| Hana    | 영수증 드릴까요?<br>—  | Would you like a receipt?  |
| Junho   | 네, 주세요.<br>—    | Yes, please give it to me. |

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word                          | Meaning                    | Example                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 네 / 예<br>ne / ye              | yes / yes                  | The short version is this. 네 is the everyday polite yes. 예 is also polite, and it often sounds more formal, careful, or official.                    |
| 네<br>ne                       | yes; okay; right           | Exactly. 네 is safe in most normal polite conversations. 예 can be safe too, but it may sound a little more formal or stiff in casual everyday places. |
| 전화: 네 / 예<br>jeonhwa: ne / ye | Phone: yes / yes           | Not weird. 예 can sound professional. But with a friend or a casual cafe worker, 네 usually feels softer and more everyday.                            |
| 예<br>ye                       | Two Polite Ways to Say Yes | 예 is also short and clean: 예. It is not a long dramatic yay.                                                                                         |
| 일상에서는 네<br>ilsang-eseoneun ne | In daily life, 네           | For A1 learners, yes. In most everyday polite situations, choose 네 first. Use 예 when the setting feels more formal, official, or careful.            |



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 네 / 예

네 / 예 — yes / yes

네 is common everyday polite. 예 is often more formal or careful.

### 네 / 예

네 / 예 — polite yes

Choose by situation and tone.

### 네

네 — yes; okay; right

Most common polite answer in daily life.

### 네, 맞아요.

네 + , + 맞 + 아요 + . — Yes, that's right.

카페에서 주문을 확인할 때는 네가 아주 자연스러워요. In a cafe or shop, 네 often sounds friendly and normal.

### 예, 맞습니다.

예 + , + 맞 + 습니다 + . — Yes, that is correct.

예, 맞습니다 is also correct. But it sounds more formal, like you are giving a careful official answer.

## Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase   | How to practice |
|----------|-----------------|
| 네, 네, 네. | ne, ne, ne.     |
| 예, 예.    | ye, ye.         |
| 네        | ne              |
| 예        | ye              |
| 네. 예.    | ne. ye.         |
| 네, 예.    | ne / ye         |

## 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<br>Formal Thanks and Apologies                | A1 Honorifics: compare 감사합니다 / 죄송합니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-002</a> |
| 네<br>Adding 요 to Single Words and Fragments to Sound Polite | A1 Honorifics: compare 네 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.             | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-003">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-003</a> |
| 알겠습니다 / 네<br>Acknowledging Instructions Politely            | A1 Honorifics: compare 알겠습니다 / 네 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.     | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-005">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-005</a> |
| 요<br>Polite and Casual Korean                               | A1 Honorifics: compare 요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.             | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-001</a> |

## My Notes

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