



Korean Ladder Study Note

네 / 예 / 알겠습니다

Three Polite Acknowledgments

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Speech Levels	네 / 예 / 알겠습니다 Three Polite Acknowledgments

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-008>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShzdCOB3VMQ>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my real beginner panic. A Korean manager says, "Please send it by three." If I just say 네, did I confirm the task, or did I only say yes?

좋은 질문이에요. 네 can be a simple yes, but for an instruction, 알겠습니다 sounds much clearer: understood, I'll do that.

오늘의 핵심은 세 가지예요. 네, 예, and 알겠습니다. They are all polite, but they are not used exactly the same way.

So today is not just "yes." It's choosing the right kind of polite yes.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	자료를 세 시까지 보내 주세요. —	Please send the materials by three.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	예, 알겠습니다. —	Yes, understood.
Hana	그리고 회의실도 예약해 주세요. —	And please reserve the meeting room too.
Junho	네, 알겠습니다. —	Okay, understood.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
네 · 예 · 알겠습니다 ne · ye · algetseumnida	yes/okay · yes, more formal · understood	오늘의 핵심은 세 가지예요. 네, 예, and 알겠습니다. They are all polite, but they are not used exactly the same way.
상황에 맞게 대답해요 sanghwange matge daedaphaeyo	Answer appropriately for the situation	So today is not just “yes.” It’s choosing the right kind of polite yes.
예 ye	yes	Second, 예. 예 also means yes, and it can sound a little more formal or careful than 네.
알겠습니다 algetseumnida	Understood. I’ll do that.	Third, 알겠습니다. This means I understand, and in many situations it also means I’ll do that.
알겠습니다 = 이해했고 하겠습니다 algetseumnida = ihaehaetgo hagetseumnida	Understood, and I will do it	알겠습니다 feels like the task-confirming answer. Not just “yep,” but “I got it.”
네 = 네/알겠어요 · 알겠습니다 = 이해했고 그렇게 하겠습니다 ne = ne/algesseoyo · algetseumnida = ihaehaetgo geureoke hagetseumnida	네: yes/okay · 알겠습니다: understood; I’ll do that	정리하면 이렇게예요. 네 is not literally 들었어요. It can acknowledge you heard someone, but it usually means yes or okay.



Grammar / Structure Notes

네 · 예 · 알겠습니다

네 · 예 · 알겠습니다 — yes/okay · yes, more formal · understood

Three short polite acknowledgments

상황에 맞게 대답해요

상황에 맞게 대답해요 — Answer appropriately for the situation

Everyday yes, formal yes, instruction confirmation

네, 좋아요.

네, + 좋아요. — Yes, it's good. / Okay, that's good.

First, 네. In everyday polite Korean, 네 is the most common yes or okay.

네, 좋아해요.

네, + 좋아해요. — Yes, I like it.

For example, 커피 좋아하세요? Do you like coffee? 네, 좋아해요. Yes, I like coffee.

예

예 — yes

Often sounds a little more formal than 네

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
네, 좋아해요.	ne, joahaeyo.
예, 맞습니다.	ye, matseumnida.
알겠습니다.	algetseumnida.
알겠습니다	algetseumnida

Self-Check

- 1 Say 네 / 예 / 알겠습니다 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
부탁합니다 / 잘 부탁드립니다 Short Polite Asks Without a Full Sentence	A1 Honorifics: compare 부탁드립니다 / 잘 부탁드립니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-007

My Notes

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