



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 가요

끝을 올리면 질문이 돼요

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Intonation	가요 끝을 올리면 질문이 돼요

## Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vwp4P7wg7WI)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vwp4P7wg7WI>

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

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## Core Idea

Okay, real question. I texted my Korean friend '가요' and she replied 'where?' — but I was just saying I'm leaving. What did I do wrong?

Wait, so the exact same word can be a statement OR a question? How does she even know which one?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, 해요 sentences don't change the words for a yes/no question. You just lift the end. The pitch does the work.

In English you flip the words — 'You go' becomes 'Do you go?' In Korean, the words stay. 단어는 그대로예요. Only the melody moves.

## Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	지금 가요? —	Are you going now?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 가요. —	Yes, I'm going.
Hana	커피 마세요? —	Are you drinking coffee?
Junho	네, 마세요. —	Yes, I'm drinking it.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
단어는 그대로, 소리만 변해요 daneoneun geudaero, soriman byeonhaeyo	Words stay the same, only the sound changes	In English you flip the words — 'You go' becomes 'Do you go?' In Korean, the words stay. 단어는 그대로예요. Only the melody moves.
끝을 올리면 질문 · 끝을 내리면 평서문 kkeuteul ollimyeon jilmun · kkeuteul naerimyeon pyeongseomun	End up = question · End level/down = statement	여기가 핵심이에요. 끝을 올리면 질문. 끝을 내리면 평서문. Raise the end, it's a question. Lower the end, it's a plain statement.
가요 gayo	go (polite)	Oh — so it's all on that last '요'. The '가' part doesn't move?
단어는 그대로, 소리만 달라요 daneoneun geudaero, soriman dallayo	The words stay; only the sound differs	So the word never changes — only the sound? That feels almost too easy.
질문은 올라가요, 대답은 내려가요 jilmuneun ollagayo, daedabeun naeryeogayo	The question rises, the reply falls	I heard it! '가요?' tipped up, and '가요.' settled down. The question almost bounces.
흔한 실수 heunhan silsu	A common mistake	이제 흔한 실수예요. Here's the mistake English speakers make most.
평서문인데 끝을 올리면 질문처럼 들려요 pyeongseomunindae kkeuteul ollimyeon jilmuncheoreom deullyeoyo	If you raise the end of a statement, it sounds like a question	In English, you often raise your pitch in the middle of a sentence for emphasis. If you do that in a Korean statement, it sounds like a question by accident.



Word	Meaning	Example
주의: 평서문은 끝을 올리지 마세요 juui: pyeongseomuneun olliji maseyo	Careful: don't raise the end of a statement	그래서 핵심은 이거예요. When you mean to tell, not ask, let the end fall. 평서문은 끝을 올리지 마세요.

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## Grammar / Structure Notes

가요? = 가요.

가요? = 가요. — Same words — pitch decides

해요-style yes/no questions are made by intonation

단어는 그대로, 소리만 변해요

단어는 그대로, 소리만 변해요 — Words stay the same, only the sound changes

In English you flip the words — 'You go' becomes 'Do you go?' In Korean, the words stay. 단어는 그대로예요. Only the melody moves.

끝을 올리면 질문 · 끝을 내리면 평서문

끝을 올리면 질문 · 끝을 내리면 평서문 — End up = question · End level/down = statement

Intonation alone carries the meaning

가요

가 + 요 — go (polite)

Oh — so it's all on that last '요'. The '가' part doesn't move?

가요

가 + 요 — The ending 요 carries the pitch

맞아요. The rise lives on the final 요. 가 stays steady, and 요 either floats up for a question or settles down for a statement.

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
가요 ↓	gayo.
가요 ↑	gayo?
먹어요 ↑	meogeoyo?

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 가요 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
억양 Question vs Statement Intonation	B2 Pronunciation: compare 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-INT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-INT-001</a>
화용적 억양 Sarcasm, Doubt, and Emphasis in Tone	C1 Pronunciation: compare 화용적 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-PRON-INT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-PRON-INT-001</a>
제 이름은 / 만나서 반갑습니다 Introducing Yourself in Korean	A1 Conversation: compare 제 이름은 / 만나서 반갑습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-INT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-INT-001</a>
ㄹ 발음 The Korean R/L Sound at the Start and Middle of Words	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄹ 발음 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-002</a>

## My Notes

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