



Korean Ladder Study Note

거절 억양

Softening 아니요 and 괜찮아요 Without Sounding Cold

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Intonation	거절 억양 Softening 아니요 and 괜찮아요 Without Sounding Cold

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-012>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjYb7stXe7w>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Why does my polite 아니요 sometimes sound cold? I know the word, but people seem to pause.

좋은 질문이에요. 아니요 can be perfectly polite, but your timing and intonation can change the feeling. The words may be the same, but delivery matters.

단어만 맞게 말해도 뜻은 통하지만, 소리의 길이와 끝 억양에 따라 분위기가 달라져요. Even when the words are right, length and final intonation change the mood.

오늘의 핵심은 거절 억양이에요. We'll practice 아니요 and 괜찮아요 so they sound calm and friendly when you decline an offer.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	커피 더 드릴까요? —	Would you like more coffee?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아, 아니요. 괜찮아요. —	Ah, no thank you. I'm okay.
Hana	네, 알겠어요. —	Okay, I understand.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
거절 억양 —	Refusal intonation	단어만 맞게 말해도 뜻은 통하지만, 소리의 길이와 끝 억양에 따라 분위기가 달라져요. Even when the words are right, length and final intonation change the mood.
권유를 거절할 때 —	When declining an offer	먼저 상황을 봐요. Someone offers you more coffee, a ride, or help. In that clear offer context, this reply can politely decline it.
편안한 평서문 마무리 —	A comfortable statement-like finish	So this is not a magic down-arrow rule. A rise can feel question-like, but context and your whole delivery carry meaning. For this calm refusal, aim for an easy, settled ending.
문맥과 말하는 방식 —	Context and delivery	그렇다고 높게 끝나면 항상 질문이라는 뜻은 아니에요. Korean meaning depends on context and delivery. But when you mean a calm no to an offer, make the ending sound settled.



Grammar / Structure Notes

거절 억양

거절 억양 — Refusal intonation

The delivery can change how a refusal feels.

아니요, 괜찮아요.

아니요, 괜찮아요. — No, thank you. I'm okay.

A useful polite refusal when an offer is clear.

아, 아니요. 괜찮아요.

아, + 아니요. + 괜찮아요. — Ah, no thank you. I'm okay.

커피 더 드릴까요? 아, 아니요. 괜찮아요. Here, I'm gently declining more coffee.

아니요, 괜찮아요.

아니요, 괜찮아요. — No, thank you. I'm okay.

The core model works with or without 아.

권유를 거절할 때

권유를 거절할 때 — When declining an offer

Context tells listeners what your answer means.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
아, 아니요. 괜찮아요.	a, aniyo. gwaenchanayo.
괜찮아요.	gwaenchanayo.
아니요, 괜찮아요.	aniyo, gwaenchanayo.
아니요? → 아니요.	aniyo? → aniyo.
아니요? / 아니요.	aniyo? / aniyo.
아, 아니요. 걸어갈게요.	a, aniyo. georeogalkkeyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 거절 억양 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
가요 끝을 올리면 질문이 돼요	A1 Pronunciation: compare 가요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-001
감사해요 Statement vs Soft-Question Pitch on Polite Fragments	A1 Pronunciation: compare 감사해요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-005
공일공에 삼사공팔 전화번호와 숫자를 끊어 읽는 리듬	A1 Pronunciation: compare 공일공에 삼사공팔 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-003
네 Stretching or Cutting Agreement and Refusal	A1 Pronunciation: compare 네 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-004

My Notes

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