



Korean Ladder Study Note

얼마라고요

Echoing Prices and Orders to Confirm

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Intonation	얼마라고요 Echoing Prices and Orders to Confirm

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-014>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Have you ever stood at a cafe counter in Korea, heard the price, and completely froze because you weren't sure if you heard four thousand or five thousand won?

That happens all the time. Many learners just say 뭐예요? with a flat tone, which can sound quite blunt or demanding.

Instead of questioning the clerk bluntly, native speakers echo the number or order with polite rising intonation.

So instead of an awkward silence, we just echo back the item or price with the polite ending 이요?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	주문하시겠어요? —	May I take your order?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	아이스 아메리카노 한 잔이요. —	One iced Americano, please.
Junho	네, 사천오백 원입니다. —	Yes, that is four thousand five hundred won.
Hana	아, 사천오백 원이요? 여기 카드요. —	Ah, four thousand five hundred won? Here is my card.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
끝을 올리는 억양 ↗ kkeut-eul ollineun eogyang ↗	Echoing Prices and Orders to Confirm	What about the pitch? Does it rise at the very end like an English question?



Grammar / Structure Notes

명사 + (이)요?

명사 + (이)요? — Did you say [noun]?

Rising confirmation echo

명사 + (이)요?

명사 + (이)요? — Did you say [noun]?

Rising confirmation echo

얼마라고요?

얼마라고요? — How much did you say it was?

Indirect quote confirmation

사천오백 원이요?

사천오백 원 + 이요 + ? — Four thousand five hundred won?

사천오백 원이요? Notice that 원 ends with a consonant, so we attach 이요.

사천오백 원이요?

사천오백 원 + 이요 + ? — Four thousand five hundred won?

The melody climbs up on 이 and stays lifted on 요, signaling a polite confirmation.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
아메리카노요? ↗	amerikano-yo? ↗
얼마라고요? ↗	eolmaragoyo? ↗
사천오백 원이요? ↗	kkeut-eul ollineun eogyang ↗
아메리카노요?	amerikano-yo? ↗
사천오백 원이요?	sacheon-obaek won-iyo? ↗

Self-Check

- 1 Say 얼마라고요 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
거절 억양 Softening 아니요 and 괜찮아요 Without Sounding Cold	A1 Pronunciation: compare 거절 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-012
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

My Notes

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