



Korean Ladder Study Note

모음 이름

아·야·어·여부터 애·에까지

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Vowels	모음 이름 아·야·어·여부터 애·에까지

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-011>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqCZif9hJS4>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

So here's my problem. A barista in Seoul asked me how to spell my name, and I froze. I knew the shapes, but I had no idea what to call the letters out loud.

In English I'd say 'A as in apple.' Is there a Korean version of that for vowels?

좋은 질문이에요. Good question. And the answer is actually simpler than English.

핵심은 이거예요. 모음의 이름은 그 모음의 소리예요. Here's the key. A Korean vowel's name is just its own sound.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	성함이 어떻게 되세요? —	May I have your name?
Hana	세미예요. —	It's Semi.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	세는 아이 애예요, 어이 에예요? —	For 세, is it ㅐ or ㅔ?
Hana	어이 에예요. —	It's ㅔ.
Junho	네, 세미 씨. 잠시만 기다려 주세요. —	Got it, Semi. One moment, please.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㅏ → 아 a	A vowel's name = its own sound	핵심은 이거예요. 모음의 이름은 그 모음의 소리예요. Here's the key. A Korean vowel's name is just its own sound.
ㅇ + ㅏ = 아 a	The silent ㅇ holds the place	이름을 쓸 때는 앞에 이응을 붙여요. When you write the name, you put a silent 이응 in front. That's why the name looks like a full syllable.
ㅏ 아 · ㅑ 야 · ㅓ 어 · ㅕ 여 a · ya · eo · yeo	The first four vowel names	첫 네 개를 들어 보세요. 아, 야, 어, 여. Listen to the first four. 아, 야, 어, 여.
ㅗ 오 · ㅛ 요 · ㅜ 우 · ㅠ 유 o · yo · u · yu	The next four vowel names	다음은 오, 요, 우, 유. Next: 오, 요, 우, 유. Again, one extra stroke adds a 'y' sound.
ㅡ 으 · ㅣ 이 eu · i	Flat line, standing line	그리고 으, 이. Then 으 and 이. 으 is a flat line, and 이 is a standing line.
ㅐ 애 · ㅔ 에 ae · e	Two letters, nearly one sound today	마지막으로 오늘의 두 개, 애하고 에. Finally, today's last two: 애 and 에. Most Seoul speakers say them almost the same.
ㅏ · ㅑ ㅓ · ㅕ ㅗ · ㅛ ㅓ · ㅕ a · ya eo · yeo o · yo u · yu	Plain vowel and its 'y' partner	And the extra stroke thing. One stroke is plain, two strokes adds a 'y'. So the vowels come in pairs?
ㅐ = 아이 애 · ㅔ = 어이 에 a-i ae · eo-i e	How Koreans tell them apart out loud	좋은 포인트예요. 그래서 한국 사람들은 아이 애, 어이 에라고 말해요. Koreans say 아이 애 for one, and 어이 에 for the other.



Grammar / Structure Notes

ㅏ → 아

ㅏ → 아 — A vowel's name = its own sound

No separate name like 'bee' or 'see'

ㅑ → 아

ㅑ → 아 — A vowel's name = its own sound

No separate name like 'bee' or 'see'

ㅇ + ㅏ = 아

ㅇ + ㅏ = 아 — The silent ㅇ holds the place

ㅇ makes no sound at the start of a syllable

ㅇ + ㅑ = 아

ㅇ + ㅑ = 아 — The silent ㅇ holds the place

ㅇ makes no sound at the start of a syllable

ㅏ 아 · ㅑ 야 · ㅓ 어 · ㅕ 여

ㅏ 아 · ㅑ 야 · ㅓ 어 · ㅕ 여 — The first four vowel names

One extra short stroke adds a 'y' glide

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
아 야 어 여	a · ya · eo · yeo
어, 오	eo vs o
으, 이	eu · i

Self-Check

- 1 Say 모음 이름 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
ㅏ Hearing the Difference in 사다 and 새	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅏ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-029
ㅑ The Two Open Vowels Beginners Blur	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅑ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-006
ㅗ The Vowels That Now Sound the Same	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅗ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-002
ㅛ / ㅜ / ㅠ / ㅠ The 'Y' Glide Vowels	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅛ / ㅜ / ㅠ / ㅠ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-004

My Notes

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