



## Korean Ladder Study Note



### Keeping Polite 요 From Sliding Into 여

| Level                    | Topic                   | Focus                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| A1 · Beginner<br>TOPIK 1 | Pronunciation<br>Vowels | 요<br>Keeping Polite 요 From Sliding Into 여 |

## Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-013>

Watch the full video on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbEV\\_1\\_AA1M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbEV_1_AA1M)

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

## Core Idea

Here is my problem. I try to say 좋아요, but it comes out kind of like 좋아여. Is that a big deal?

좋은 질문이에요. 표준 발음에서는 좋아요의 마지막은 요예요. 입술을 동그랗게 모아야 해요. In standard Korean, the polite ending is 요, with rounded lips.

So for polite Korean, the little ending I keep hearing is 요, not 여.

맞아요. 오늘의 패턴은 공손한 요예요. It makes a sentence or short answer sound polite.

## Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean       | Meaning          |
|---------|--------------|------------------|
| Hana    | 이거 좋아요?<br>— | Is this good?    |
| Junho   | 네, 좋아요.<br>— | Yes, it is good. |



| Speaker | Korean        | Meaning            |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Hana    | 커피예요?<br>—    | Is it coffee?      |
| Junho   | 네, 커피예요.<br>— | Yes, it is coffee. |

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word                                    | Meaning                              | Example                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -요<br>-yo                               | polite ending / polite particle      | 좋은 질문이에요. 표준 발음에서는 좋아요의 마지막은 요예요. 입술을 동그랑게 모아야 해요. In standard Korean, the polite ending is 요, with rounded lips. |
| 요 ↔ 여<br>yo ↔ yeo                       | Keeping Polite 요 From Sliding Into 여 | 여는 입술이 덜 둥글고, 혀가 더 앞쪽으로 가요. 요는 더 둥글고 뒤쪽 느낌이에요. That is the main difference.                                       |
| 문장 끝 + 요<br>munjang kkeut + yo          | sentence end + polite 요              | So for polite Korean, the little ending I keep hearing is 요, not 여.                                               |
| 공손한 말끝: -요<br>gongsonhan mal-kkeut: -yo | polite sentence ending: -요           | 맞아요. 오늘의 패턴은 공손한 요예요. It makes a sentence or short answer sound polite.                                           |
| 좋아요<br>joa-yo                           | It is good. / I like it.             | 예를 들어요. 좋아요. The last syllable is 요, not 여.                                                                       |
| 커피예요<br>keopi-ye-yo                     | It is coffee.                        | 커피예요. 여기서도 마지막은 요예요. It means, it is coffee.                                                                      |
| 저요<br>jeo-yo                            | Me, please. / Me.                    | 저요. This is a polite short answer: me. Again, 요.                                                                  |
| 이거요<br>igeo-yo                          | This one, please.                    | 이거요. It means this one, politely. The particle 요 can attach to a short phrase too.                                |



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### -요

-요 — polite ending / polite particle

Round your lips; do not let it become 여.

### 문장 끝 + 요

문장 끝 + 요 — sentence end + polite 요

A1 survival sound: keep it rounded.

### 공손한 말끝: -요

공손한 말끝: -요 — polite sentence ending: -요

The sound is short, clear, and rounded.

### 좋아요

좋 + 아 + 요 — It is good. / I like it.

예를 들어요. 좋아요. The last syllable is 요, not 여.

### 커피예요

커피 + 예 + 요 — It is coffee.

커피예요. 여기서도 마지막은 요예요. It means, it is coffee.

## Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase | How to practice |
|--------|-----------------|
| 요, 여   | yo ↔ yeo        |
| 요      | yo              |
| 여      | yeo             |
| 좋아요    | joa-yo          |
| 커피예요   | keopi-ye-yo     |
| 예요     | ye-yo           |
| 저요     | jeo-yo          |
| 이거요    | igeo-yo         |

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 요 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<br>The Two Open Vowels<br>Beginners Blur | A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅏ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.             | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-006">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-006</a> |
| ㅗ<br>The Vowels That Now<br>Sound the Same | A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅗ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.             | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-002</a> |
| ㅑ / ㅓ / ㅕ / ㅗ<br>The 'Y' Glide Vowels      | A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅑ / ㅓ / ㅕ / ㅗ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-004">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-004</a> |
| ㅛ<br>The 'Yae' and 'Ye' Glide<br>Vowels    | A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅛ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.             | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-010">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-010</a> |

## My Notes

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