



Korean Ladder Study Note

아이유 / 우아 / 여유

Vowel-to-Vowel Flow Without Extra English Y or W

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Vowels	아이유 / 우아 / 여유 Vowel-to-Vowel Flow Without Extra English Y or W

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-025>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhJhyYKrb1I>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

When I see 아이유, my English mouth wants to glue the vowels together. Should I?

And when I try 우아, it sometimes turns into 와. Why does that happen?

영어식 연결음 때문에 그래요. Your mouth may insert a y or w glide, or merge two Korean syllables into one.

오늘의 패턴은 모음으로 시작하는 음절을 차례로 이어 말하는 거예요. This matters because merging the vowels can change both the rhythm and the word.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	지금 시간 있어요? —	Do you have time now?
Junho	네, 여유 있어요. —	Yes, I have some time.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그럼 우유 마실까요? —	Then shall we drink some milk?
Junho	좋아요. —	Sounds good.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
아·이·유 / 우·아 / 여·유 a-i-yu / u-a / yeo-yu	Connect the syllables smoothly without erasing them.	오늘의 패턴은 모음으로 시작하는 음절을 차례로 이어 말하는 거예요. This matters because merging the vowels can change both the rhythm and the word.
ㅇ + 모음 —	At the start of a syllable, ㅇ is silent.	모음으로 시작하는 음절 앞의 이응은 소리가 없어요. At the beginning of a syllable, 이응 is silent and simply holds the vowel's place.
아이유 aiyu	IU; three syllables: 아, 이, 유	So in 아이유, I see three syllable blocks, and I should let all three begin clearly.
아이 ai	child; two syllables	좋습니다. 아이도 아와 이, 두 음절이에요. The everyday word 아이 also keeps two syllables.
우아 ua	Vowel-to-Vowel Flow Without Extra English Y or W	다음은 우아예요. 우와 아를 부드럽게 이어요. 와로 합치지 않아요. Say 우, then 아, without turning them into 와.
우유 uyu	Vowel-to-Vowel Flow Without Extra English Y or W	우유도 같은 흐름을 연습하기 좋아요. 우, 유. 우유. It has two syllables, and you do not need an extra w between them.
여유 yeoyu	Vowel-to-Vowel Flow Without Extra English Y or W	여유는 두 음절이에요. 여, 유. Both vowels already have their own natural y-like beginning.
아 · 이 · 유 —	Silent initial ㅇ lets each vowel start directly.	각 음절의 첫소리 이응은 발음하지 않아요. There is no consonant sound from 이응 before 아, 이, or 유.



Grammar / Structure Notes

아·이·유 / 우·아 / 여·유

아·이·유 / 우·아 / 여·유 — Connect the syllables smoothly without erasing them.

Each dot marks a syllable boundary.

ㅇ + 모음

ㅇ + 모음 — At the start of a syllable, ㅇ is silent.

The vowel begins immediately.

아이유

아 + 이 + 유 — IU; three syllables: 아, 이, 유

So in 아이유, I see three syllable blocks, and I should let all three begin clearly.

아이

아 + 이 — child; two syllables

좋습니다. 아이도 아와 이, 두 음절이에요. The everyday word 아이 also keeps two syllables.

여유

여 + 유 — room; time to spare; composure

So 여유 keeps two syllables, but I should not remove the natural beginning of 여 or 유.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
아이유	aiyu
우아	ua
우유	uyu
여유	yeoyu
와	wa

Self-Check

- 1 Say 아이유 / 우아 / 여유 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 The Two Open Vowels Beginners Blur	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-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
ㅑ / ㅓ / ㅕ / ㅗ The 'Y' Glide Vowels	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅑ / ㅓ / ㅕ / ㅗ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-VOW-004
ㅑ The 'Ya' and 'Yeo' Glides Beginners Swap	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-017

My Notes

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