



Korean Ladder Study Note

응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라

Casual Yes, No, and 'I Dunno'

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Colloquial Banmal (Casual)	응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라 Casual Yes, No, and 'I Dunno'

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-002)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-002>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBcxhk6S36w)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBcxhk6S36w>

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Core Idea

Quick question. If my close friend asks '커피 마실래?', do I really answer with 네?

Right — 네 feels so polite, almost formal. So what do friends actually say to each other?

좋은 질문이에요. Today's four words are 응, 어, 아니, 몰라. In English — yeah, yeah, no, and 'I dunno.' These are banmal, the casual answers you use with close friends.

친한 친구 사이에서는 네 대신 응이나 어를 써요. In English, with close friends we drop 네 and say 응 or 어 instead.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	커피 마실래? —	Wanna get coffee?
Junho	응, 좋아. —	Yeah, sounds good.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	아메리카노 어때? —	How about an americano?
Junho	어, 그거 좋아. —	Yeah, that one's good.
Hana	민수도 올까? —	Will Minsu come too?
Junho	글썸, 몰라. —	Well... I dunno.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라 eung / eo / ani / molla	yeah / yeah / no / dunno (casual)	좋은 질문이에요. Today's four words are 응, 어, 아니, 몰라. In English — yeah, yeah, no, and 'I dunno.' These are banmal, the casual answers you use with close friends.
응 = 네 (친구 사이) eung = ne (chingu sai)	응 is the casual 'yeah' you use with friends.	친한 친구 사이에서는 네 대신 응이나 어를 써요. In English, with close friends we drop 네 and say 응 or 어 instead.
아니 = 아니요 (반말) ani = aniyo (banmal)	아니 is the casual 'no'.	그리고 아나는 아니요의 반말이에요. In English, 아니 is the casual 'no' — the friend version of 아니요.
몰라 = 몰라요 (반말) molla = mollayo (banmal)	몰라 is the casual 'I dunno'.	모르면 '몰라.' In English, that's 'I dunno.' It's the casual form of 몰라요. 아주 자주 들어요.
응 = 부드러운 네, 어 = 편한 네 eung = budeureoun ne, eo = pyeonhan ne	응 = a softer, warmer 'yeah' · 어 = a more relaxed, casual 'yeah'.	응이랑 어, 둘 다 네예요. 응은 좀 더 부드럽고, 어는 더 편해요. In English — both mean 'yeah'; 응 is a little softer and warmer, 어 is more relaxed and even shorter.
어 eo	the most relaxed casual 'yeah'	남자들이 친구끼리 어를 많이 써요, 하지만 누구나 쓸 수 있어요. In English — guys use 어 a lot among friends, but anyone can use it.
응 → 부드러움 / 어 → 편함 eung → budeureoum / eo → pyeonham	응 leans warm; 어 leans relaxed.	느낌으로 골라요. In English, you pick by feel — 응 when you want to sound a touch warmer, 어 when you're just easy and relaxed. 둘 다 맞아요.
아니 ani	casual 'no'	맞아요. 그리고 거절할 때는 '아니.' In English, when you turn something down, it's 아니 — but the tone really matters here.



Grammar / Structure Notes

응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라

응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라 — yeah / yeah / no / dunno (casual)

Banmal answers — they replace 네/아니요 with close friends.

응 = 네 (친구 사이)

응 = 네 (친구 사이) — 응 is the casual 'yeah' you use with friends.

Same meaning as 네, just relaxed and close.

응, 좋아.

응, 좋아. — Yeah, sounds good.

응 = casual yes · 좋아 = good / I'm in

아니 = 아니요 (반말)

아니 = 아니요 (반말) — 아니 is the casual 'no'.

Drop the 요 — that's what makes it banmal.

몰라 = 몰라요 (반말)

몰라 = 몰라요 (반말) — 몰라 is the casual 'I dunno'.

From 모르다, 'to not know'.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
응, 좋아.	eung, joa.
응	eung
어	eo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라 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
말 놓을까요 Switching to Casual Banmal with Friends	A2 Colloquial: compare 말 놓을까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-001
-어 / -지 / -자 / -래? Casual Sentence Endings Among Friends	B1 Colloquial: compare -어 / -지 / -자 / -래? with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-001
글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 Hedging and Agreeing Naturally	A2 Colloquial: compare 글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001
뭐예요 / 거예요 Everyday Korean Contractions	A2 Colloquial: compare 뭐예요 / 거예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-CTR-001

My Notes

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