



Korean Ladder Study Note

야

친구를 부르고 가리키는 반말

| Level | Topic | Focus |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2 | Colloquial Banmal (Casual) | 야 친구를 부르고 가리키는 반말 |

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeZtuA5Ud-Y>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Real question. In dramas I hear 야, and sometimes it sounds like a fight. Is 야 always rude?

And 너 means 'you,' right? But I keep hearing that I should never say it. So when is it okay?

좋은 질문이에요. 야 and 너 are not rude by themselves. They are close. With a close friend, they can sound warm.

하지만 모르는 사람이나 낯사람에게 쓰면 무례하게 들려요. In English, the relationship is the whole rule here.

Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hana | 야, 재 누구야? — | Hey, who's that over there? |
| Junho | 아, 개? 내 친구야. — | Oh, that one? My friend. |



| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hana | 얘가 너 얘기 많이 했어. — | This one talked about you a lot. |
| Junho | 진짜? 너 뭐라고 했어? — | Really? What did you say? |

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word | Meaning | Example |
|---|--|--|
| 친한 사이의 반말 chinhan sai-ui banmal | Casual speech between close people | 하지만 모르는 사람이나 윗사람에게 쓰면 무례하게 들려요. In English, the relationship is the whole rule here. |
| 야 / 너 / 애 / 개 / 재 ya / neo / yae / gyae / jyae | hey / you / this one / that one / that one over there | 오늘의 세트는 네 가지예요. 야 to call a friend, 너 for you, and 애, 개, 재 for this person, that person, that person over there. |
| 야 = 친구에게 하는 'hey' ya | A casual 'hey' to a friend | 야는 친구 사이에서는 자연스러워요. But if you say it sharply, or to the wrong person, it can sound aggressive. |
| 너 = 친한 사이의 you neo | 'You' for close relationships | 너는 친한 친구나 동생에게 자연스러워요. But to a boss, elder, customer, or stranger, avoid it. |
| 영어 you ≠ 항상 너 yeongeo you an sang neo | English 'you' is not always 너 | That explains it. English has one 'you,' but Korean asks, how close are we? |
| 애 / 개 / 재 yae / gyae / jyae | this one / that one we know / that one over there | 좋아요. Now we point people out. 애, 개, 재 are casual people-words based on 이, 그, 저. |
| 애 = 이 사람 / 개 = 그 사람 / 재 = 저 사람 yae / gyae / jyae | this person / that known person / that person over there | Let me map it. 애 is here, 개 is known but not here, and 재 is over there where we can see them. |
| 개 = 우리 둘 다 아는 그 사람 gyae | that person we both know | 맞아요. 개는 둘 다 아는 사람을 말할 때 자연스러워요. It can sound a little blunt, so use it with close friends. |



Grammar / Structure Notes

친한 사이의 반말

친한 사이의 반말 — Casual speech between close people

Friendly with close friends, rude in the wrong relationship

야 / 너 / 애 / 개 / 재

야 / 너 / 애 / 개 / 재 — hey / you / this one / that one / that one over there

All casual, all need closeness

야, 어디 가?

야, + 어디 + 가? — Hey, where are you going?

먼저 아예요. 친구를 부를 때 짧고 가볍게 말해요. In English, it is like a friendly 'hey.'

야 = 친구에게 하는 'hey'

야 = 친구에게 하는 'hey' — A casual 'hey' to a friend

Tone and relationship matter

야, 어디 가?

야, + 어디 + 가? — Hey, where are you going?

So 야, 어디 가? is fine if I'm calling a close friend, but not a teacher or a stranger.

Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase | How to practice |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 야, 같이 가. | ya, gachi ga |
| 애가 내 친구야. | yae-ga nae chingu-ya |

Self-Check

- 1 Say 야 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 |
| 응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라 Casual Yes, No, and 'I Dunno' | A2 Colloquial: compare 응 / 어 / 아니 / 몰라 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-002 |
| -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 |
| ㅎㅇ / ㅎㅎ / ㄱㅅ Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations | A2 Colloquial: compare ㅎㅇ / ㅎㅎ / ㄱㅅ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-TXT-001 |

My Notes

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