



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 뭐예요 / 거예요

## Everyday Korean Contractions

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Colloquial Contractions	뭐예요 / 거예요 Everyday Korean Contractions

### Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-CTR-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-CTR-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwUDbJD6NgY)

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

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### Core Idea

Okay, real talk. My textbook taught me 무엇이에요, but everyone on the street says 뭐예요. Are those... different words?

Same problem for me with 거예요. I learned 것이에요 — so where did the 것 go?

좋은 질문이에요. 오늘의 핵심은 contractions예요. In English, these are everyday short forms — the spoken version of words you already know.

쉽게 말하면, 무엇 becomes 뭐, and 것 becomes 거. The long forms are for writing; the short forms are for talking.

### Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이거 뭐예요? —	What is this?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	그거 책이에요. —	That's a book.
Hana	누구 거예요? —	Whose is it?
Junho	제 거예요. —	It's mine.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
줄임말 = contractions jurimmal	shortened spoken forms	좋은 질문이에요. 오늘의 핵심은 contractions예요. In English, these are everyday short forms — the spoken version of words you already know.
무엇 → 뭐, 것 → 거 mueot → mwo, geot → geo	what → what (spoken), thing → thing (spoken)	쉽게 말하면, 무엇 becomes 뭐, and 것 becomes 거. The long forms are for writing; the short forms are for talking.
무엇이에요 mueosieyo	What is it?	먼저 '뭐예요' 볼게요. 무엇이에요 means 'what is it.' In speech, 무엇 shrinks to 뭐, so we say 뭐예요.
뭐예요 mwoyeyo	What is it? (spoken)	줄이면 이렇게 돼요. 무엇 → 뭐, 이에요 → 예요. So 무엇이에요 becomes 뭐예요.
무엇 = 뭐 —	same word, shorter in speech	Wait — so it's not a new word at all. 뭐 is just 무엇 with the edges sanded off.
모음 뒤 → 예요 / 자음 뒤 → 이에요 vowel → yeyo / consonant → ieyo	after a vowel use 예요, after a consonant 이에요	여기 규칙이 있어요. 모음 뒤에는 예요, 자음 뒤에는 이에요. After a vowel sound, use 예요; after a consonant, use 이에요. 무엇 ends in a consonant, but 뭐 ends in a vowel.
커피예요 keopiyeyo	It's coffee.	So 커피 ends in the vowel '이', that's why it's 커피예요 — 'it's coffee.' Same logic.
것이예요 geosieyo	It is (the thing).	맞아요. 이제 '거예요'예요. 것이예요 means 'it's the thing' or just 'it is.' 것 shrinks to 거.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 줄임말 = contractions

줄임말 = contractions — shortened spoken forms

Same meaning, just shorter in speech.

### 무엇 → 뭐, 것 → 거

무엇 → 뭐, 것 → 거 — what → what (spoken), thing → thing (spoken)

쉽게 말하면, 무엇 becomes 뭐, and 것 becomes 거. The long forms are for writing; the short forms are for talking.

### 무엇이에요

무엇 + 이에요 — What is it?

먼저 '뭐예요' 볼게요. 무엇이예요 means 'what is it.' In speech, 무엇 shrinks to 뭐, so we say 뭐예요.

### 뭐예요

뭐 + 예요 — What is it? (spoken)

줄이면 이렇게 돼요. 무엇 → 뭐, 이에요 → 예요. So 무엇이예요 becomes 뭐예요.

### 이거 뭐예요?

이거 뭐예요? — What is this?

이거 = this thing (also a contraction of 이것)

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
이거 뭐예요?	igeo mwoyeyo?
뭐예요	mwoyeyo
제 거예요.	je geoyeyo.
거예요	geoyeyo

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 뭐예요 / 거예요 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
-ㄹ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것	B2 Colloquial: compare -ㄹ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001</a>
그럼 / 근데 / 그치 Spoken Shortcuts for 그러면 · 그런데 · 그렇지	B1 Colloquial: compare 그럼 / 근데 / 그치 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-CTR-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-CTR-001</a>
글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 Hedging and Agreeing Naturally	A2 Colloquial: compare 글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001</a>
말 놓을까요 Switching to Casual Banmal with Friends	A2 Colloquial: compare 말 놓을까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-001</a>

## My Notes

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