



Korean Ladder Study Note

고 싶어요

Saying What You Want to Do

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Grammar Sentence Endings	고 싶어요 Saying What You Want to Do

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvp0VdIN5_M)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvp0VdIN5_M

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real talk. In Korea I can say what I want — 'I want coffee' — but the second I want to DO something, I freeze up. 'I want to... go?' How?

Right? I know 주세요 for 'please give me.' But 'I want to eat,' 'I want to sleep' — that feels like a whole different machine.

It's actually one small machine, and once you see it, it never breaks. The pattern is 고 싶어요.

Wait — so the ending 고 싶어요 never changes shape? I just glue it onto any verb stem?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	하나 씨, 오늘 뭐 하고 싶어요? —	Hana, what do you want to do today?
Hana	저는 영화를 보고 싶어요. —	I want to watch a movie.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	좋아요. 저도 보고 싶어요. —	Nice. I want to watch it too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
고 싶어요 -go sip-eo-yo	want to (do)	It's actually one small machine, and once you see it, it never breaks. The pattern is 고 싶어요.
가다 → 가 gada → ga	to go → go- (stem)	여기서 핵심은 동사 어간이에요. The key is the verb stem. Take a verb, drop the 다, and you have the stem.
가고 싶어요 ga-go sip-eo-yo	I want to go	그다음에 고 싶어요를 붙여요. Then you add 고 싶어요 to the stem. 가 plus 고 싶어요 becomes 가고 싶어요.
먹고 싶어요 meok-go sip-eo-yo	I want to eat	들어 보세요. Listen. 먹다 means to eat. The stem is 먹, so 'I want to eat' is 먹고 싶어요.
자고 싶어요 ja-go sip-eo-yo	I want to sleep	하나 더. One more. 자다 is to sleep. Stem 자, so 자고 싶어요 — I want to sleep.
[동사 어간] + 고 싶어요 [verb stem] + go sip-eo-yo	verb stem + want to	Wait — so the ending 고 싶어요 never changes shape? I just glue it onto any verb stem?
가 → 가고 싶어요 / 먹 → 먹고 싶어요 —	go → want to go / eat → want to eat	맞아요. That's right. The stem can end in a vowel or a consonant — 고 싶어요 doesn't care. It stays the same.
먹 + 고 + 싶어요 meok + go + sip-eo-yo	eat + (connector) + want	좋은 질문이에요. Good question. 싶다 carries the 'want' feeling, and 고 connects it to the action verb. Together: want-to-do.



Grammar / Structure Notes

고 싶어요

고 싶어요 — want to (do)

attaches to a verb stem

가다 → 가

가 + 다 — to go → go- (stem)

여기서 핵심은 동사 어간이에요. The key is the verb stem. Take a verb, drop the 다, and you have the stem.

가고 싶어요

가 + 고 싶어요 — I want to go

그다음에 고 싶어요를 붙여요. Then you add 고 싶어요 to the stem. 가 plus 고 싶어요 becomes 가고 싶어요.

먹고 싶어요

먹 + 고 싶어요 — I want to eat

들어 보세요. Listen. 먹다 means to eat. The stem is 먹, so 'I want to eat' is 먹고 싶어요.

자고 싶어요

자 + 고 싶어요 — I want to sleep

하나 더. One more. 자다 is to sleep. Stem 자, so 자고 싶어요 — I want to sleep.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
쉬고 싶어요	swi-go sip-eo-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 고 싶어요 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
이에요 / 예요 Saying What Something Is	A1 Grammar: compare 이에요 / 예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-001
있어요 / 없어요 There Is / There Isn't	A1 Grammar: compare 있어요 / 없어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-002
(으)ㄹ 거예요 The Korean Future Tense and Plans	A2 Grammar: compare (으)ㄹ 거예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-TNS-002
아서 / 어서 Saying 'Because' and 'And Then'	A2 Grammar: compare 아서 / 어서 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-001

My Notes

Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.