



Korean Ladder Study Note

부탁과 제안의 억양

Softening Requests with Pitch

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Pronunciation Intonation	부탁과 제안의 억양 Softening Requests with Pitch

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_po8QJwPK1A

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, honest question. When I say 해 주세요, people look a little startled. It feels like I'm giving an order.

Same here. My 도와주세요 comes out flat, like 'Help me. Now.' What am I missing?

재미있는 질문이에요. 문제는 단어가 아니라 억양이에요. It's not the words — it's the pitch.

오늘의 핵심은 이거예요. 부탁과 제안은 부드러운 억양으로 말해요. A gentle rise, then a soft fall, makes a request feel like an invitation.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	커피 한잔 할까요? —	Shall we grab a coffee?
Junho	좋아요. 창가에 앉을까요? —	Sounds good. Shall we sit by the window?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	네, 메뉴 좀 보여 주세요. —	Yes, please show me the menu.
Junho	여기요. 천천히 골라요. —	Here you go. Take your time.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
억양 eogyang	intonation — the rise and fall of your voice	재미있는 질문이에요. 문제는 단어가 아니라 억양이에요. It's not the words — it's the pitch.
해 주세요 ↗↘ hae juseyo	please do it — said with a soft rise, then a gentle fall	오늘의 핵심은 이거예요. 부탁과 제안은 부드러운 억양으로 말해요. A gentle rise, then a soft fall, makes a request feel like an invitation.
같은 말, 다른 마음 gateun mal, dareun maeum	same words, different heart	억양만 바뀌어도 느낌이 완전히 달라져요. The words stay polite, but your voice decides if it's warm or cold.
해 주세요 hae juseyo	Softening Requests with Pitch	여기서 '주세요'를 살짝 올렸다가 부드럽게 내려요. Rise a little on 주, then let 세요 fall gently — 해 주세요.
초대처럼 chodaechereom	like an invitation	맞아요. 올렸다가 살짝 내리면 초대처럼 들려요. Up, then a soft landing — that's the invitation.
할까요 / 앓을까요 / 주세요 halkkayo / anjeulkkayo / juseyo	all said with the same gentle rise-then-fall	들으셨죠? 끝이 부드럽게 올랐다가 내려요. Every ending floated up and then settled — soft, never sharp.
도와주세요 dowajuseyo	Softening Requests with Pitch	이제 따라 해 보세요. 도와주세요. Soft rise on 와, gentle fall on 주세요.
해 주세요 ↘ (뚝) hae juseyo	a flat, hard drop = sounds like a command	흔한 실수예요. 끝을 뚝 떨어뜨리면 명령처럼 들려요. If you drop the ending flat and hard, 해 주세요 sounds like an order.



Grammar / Structure Notes

억양

억양 — intonation — the rise and fall of your voice

Same sentence, different feeling.

해 주세요 ↗↘

해 주세요 ↗↘ — please do it — said with a soft rise, then a gentle fall

Warmth lives in the ending.

같은 말, 다른 마음

같은 말, 다른 마음 — same words, different heart

Pitch carries the kindness.

문 좀 닫아 주세요.

문 + 좀 + 닫아 + 주세요. — Please close the door.

예문이에요. 문 좀 닫아 주세요. In English, 'Please close the door.'

같이 갈까요?

같이 + 갈까요? — Shall we go together?

제안도 똑같아요. 같이 갈까요? In English, 'Shall we go together?'

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
해 주세요 ↗↘	hae juseyo
도와주세요 ↗↘	dowajuseyo
도와주세요	dowajuseyo
같이 갈까요?	gachi galkkayo?
같이 갈까요? ↗↘	gachi galkkayo?
잠깐 실까요? ↗↘	jamkkan swilkkayo?
잠깐 실까요?	jamkkan swilkkayo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 부탁과 제안의 억양 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
가요 끝을 올리면 질문이 돼요	A1 Pronunciation: compare 가요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-001
억양 Question vs Statement Intonation	B2 Pronunciation: compare 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-INT-001
화용적 억양 Sarcasm, Doubt, and Emphasis in Tone	C1 Pronunciation: compare 화용적 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-PRON-INT-001
ㅅ Plain and Tense Sibilants	A2 Pronunciation: compare ㅅ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-CNS-001

My Notes

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