



Korean Ladder Study Note

-아도 / -어도

Saying 'Even If' and 'No Matter What'

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Grammar Connectors	-아도 / -어도 Saying 'Even If' and 'No Matter What'

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VEEykyGq6w>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my problem. I know 비가 오면 means if it rains, and 비가 오지만 means but it rains. So how do I say, even if it rains, I'm still going?

오늘의 연결 표현은 양보를 나타내는 어미 -아도, -어도입니다. In English, it means even if A, still B.

오늘의 패턴은 동사나 형용사 어간에 붙는 어미 -아도, -어도예요. The first part is a possible situation. The second part still happens.

맞아요. A-아도 / -어도, B는 A가 있어도 B는 그대로라는 느낌입니다. More naturally, even if A happens, B stays the same.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 비가 많이 오네요. —	It's raining a lot today.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	그래도 갈 거예요. 아무리 비가 와도 약속은 지켜야죠. —	I'll still go. No matter how much it rains, I should keep the appointment.
Hana	맞아요. 늦어도 연락만 하면 괜찮아요. —	Right. Even if you're late, it's okay as long as you contact them.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
비가 와도 갈 거예요 bi-ga wa-do gal geo-ye-yo	Even if it rains, I'll go.	좋은 질문이에요. 한국어에서는 비가 와도 갈 거예요라고 해요. Even if it rains, I'll go.
A-아도 / -어도 B A-a-do / -eo-do B	Even if A, B	오늘의 연결 표현은 양보를 나타내는 어미 -아도, -어도입니다. In English, it means even if A, still B.
어간 + -아도 / -어도 stem + -a-do / -eo-do	even if...; even though...	오늘의 패턴은 동사나 형용사 어간에 붙는 어미 -아도, -어도예요. The first part is a possible situation. The second part still happens.
A-아도 / -어도, B A-a-do / -eo-do, B	Even if A happens, B still happens	맞아요. A-아도 / -어도, B는 A가 있어도 B는 그대로라는 느낌입니다. More naturally, even if A happens, B stays the same.
늦어도 괜찮아요 neujeodo gwaenchanayo	Even if you're late, it's okay.	두 번째 예문입니다. 늦어도 괜찮아요. Even if you are late, it's okay.
먹어도 돼요 meogeodo dwae-yo	It's okay to eat it. / You may eat it.	여기서 조심하세요. 먹어도 돼요는 often means may I eat it, or it's okay to eat it. The same form can also make a permission phrase.
몰라도 돼요 mollado dwae-yo	It's okay if you don't know.	몰라도 돼요도 permission or allowance입니다. It means it is okay not to know.
ㅏ, ㅑ → -아도 a, o → -a-do	If the last stem vowel is ㅏ or ㅑ, use -아도.	맞아요. Now let's choose the shape. Look at the stem vowel.



Grammar / Structure Notes

비가 와도 갈 거예요

비 + 가 + 와도 + 갈 거예요 — Even if it rains, I'll go.

좋은 질문이에요. 한국어에서는 비가 와도 갈 거예요라고 해요. Even if it rains, I'll go.

A-아도 / -어도 B

A-아도 / -어도 B — Even if A, B

A may happen, but B does not change.

어간 + -아도 / -어도

어간 + -아도 / -어도 — even if...; even though...

Use with verb and adjective stems.

비가 와도 갈 거예요

비 + 가 + 와도 + 갈 거예요 — Even if it rains, I'll go.

So 비가 와도 갈 거예요 means rain can happen, but my going does not change.

A-아도 / -어도, B

A-아도 / -어도, B — Even if A happens, B still happens

The speaker accepts A, but keeps B.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
먹어도 / 해도	meogeodo / haedo
먹어도	meogeodo
먹어도 괜찮아요	meogeodo gwaenchanayo
아무리 바빠도	amuri bappado

Self-Check

- 1 Say -아도 / -어도 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
-(으)니까 Reason, Discovery, and Why It Isn't 아서/어서	B1 Grammar: compare -(으)니까 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-002
는데 / Setting Up Background and Soft Contrast	B1 Grammar: compare 는데 / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-001
-(으)ㄴ / 는 탓에 / 덕분에 / 바람에 Assigning Blame, Credit, and Cause	C1 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄴ / 는 탓에 / 덕분에 / 바람에 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-CON-002
-(으)수록 The More X, the More Y	B2 Grammar: compare -(으)수록 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-GRAM-CON-001

My Notes

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