



Korean Ladder Study Note

부가의문 억양

-지? / -잖아? / -죠? Tag-Question Pitch

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Pronunciation Intonation	부가의문 억양 -지? / -잖아? / -죠? Tag-Question Pitch

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ex4QbEDVb9Q>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real confession. I told my coworker in Korean, 'Nice weather today, right?' And she answered very seriously, like I'd asked a real question. She told me the whole forecast.

아, 그 마음 알아요. Your words were right, Alice. The problem was the pitch at the end. 끝을 너무 높이 올렸을 거예요.

So in English I go way up at the end for 'right?' And that's too much in Korean?

Exactly. 한국어에서 확인하는 질문은 조금만 올라가요. In Korean, checking questions only rise a little.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 내일 회의 있죠? —	Junho, we have a meeting tomorrow, right? (gentle rise ↗)
Junho	네, 있죠. 열 시잖아요. —	Yes, we do. It's at ten, you know. (falling ↘)



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	아, 맞다. 자료는 준호 씨가 가져오죠? —	Oh, right. You're bringing the materials, right? (gentle rise ↗)
Junho	그럼요. 회의실은 삼 층 맞죠? —	Of course. The meeting room is on the third floor, right? (gentle rise ↗)
Hana	네, 지난번에도 거기서 했잖아요. —	Yes, we had it there last time too, you know. (falling ↘)

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
억양 = 신호 eogyang = sinho	Intonation is the signal	맞아요. And the pitch tells your listener which one you mean. 억양이 바로 그 신호예요.
-잖아요 ↘ -janayo	'You already know this.'	And the reminding one falls because I'm not really asking. I'm saying, 'You know this already.'
질문 ↗ · 확인 ↗ · 상기 ↘ —	Real question: up a lot · Checking: up a little · Reminding: down	So, three tunes. 진짜 질문은 많이 올라가요. 확인할 때는 조금 올라가요. 상기시킬 때는 내려가요. Real question: up a lot. Checking: up a little. Reminding: down.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-지? / -잖아(요) / -죠?

-지? / -잖아(요) / -죠? — ..., right? / ..., you know. / ..., right? (polite)

Same words, different pitch = different meaning

-지? / -잖아(요) / -죠?

-지? / -잖아(요) / -죠? — Check shared knowledge, ask for agreement

Not 'tell me' but 'we agree, yeah?'

-지? / -잖아(요) / -죠?

-지? / -잖아(요) / -죠? — Less 'tell me', more 'we agree, yeah?'

So it's less 'please tell me,' and more 'we agree, yeah?'

억양 = 신호

억양 = 신호 — Intonation is the signal

맞아요. And the pitch tells your listener which one you mean. 억양이 바로 그 신호예요.

오늘 날씨 좋지?

오늘 + 날씨 + 좋 + 지? — Nice weather today, right? (gentle rise ↗)

먼저 지부터 들어 볼게요. 오늘 날씨 좋지? Did you hear it? It goes up, but only a little, like a small hill.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
[오늘 날씨 조치↗]	oneul nalssi jochi?
오늘 날씨 좋지?	oneul nalssi jochi?
[내일 회의 일짜나요↘]	naeil hoeui itjanayo.
내일 회의 있잖아요.	naeil hoeui itjanayo.
[이 길 맏쪼↗]	i gil matjyo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 부가의문 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
뭐 먹어 Wh-Question Intonation Without a Rising End	B1 Pronunciation: compare 뭐 먹어 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-PRON-INT-001
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
감사해요 Statement vs Soft-Question Pitch on Polite Fragments	A1 Pronunciation: compare 감사해요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-005
거절 억양 Softening 아니요 and 괜찮아요 Without Sounding Cold	A1 Pronunciation: compare 거절 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-INT-012

My Notes

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