



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 머리 / 배 / 목이 아파요

## Body Parts and Saying Where It Hurts

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Vocabulary Body & Health	머리 / 배 / 목이 아파요 Body Parts and Saying Where It Hurts

### Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-BOD-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-BOD-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhkPVfq2gAA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhkPVfq2gAA>

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

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### Core Idea

Okay, real situation. I'm in Seoul, my head is pounding, I walk into a pharmacy — and I just freeze. How do I even say 'it hurts'?

Same. I know the word for medicine, but I can't point at my stomach and explain anything. It's so frustrating.

좋아요. The whole thing rides on one little pattern: a body part, then 이 또는 가, then 아파요. In English, '\_\_\_ hurts.'

아파요 comes from 아프다. It means 'to hurt' or 'to be in pain.' You attach 이 또는 가 to the body part to mark it as the subject — the thing that hurts.

### Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	어서 오세요. 어디가 아파요? —	Welcome. Where does it hurt?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	목이 아파요. 그리고 머리도 아파요. —	My throat hurts. And my head hurts too.
Junho	감기인 것 같아요. 이 약을 드세요. —	It looks like a cold. Take this medicine.
Hana	감사합니다. —	Thank you.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
[몸의 부분] + 이/가 + 아파요 [mom-ui bubun] + i/ga + apayo	[body part] hurts	좋아요. The whole thing rides on one little pattern: a body part, then 이 또는 가, then 아파요. In English, '___ hurts.'
아프다 → 아파요 apeuda → apayo	to hurt → hurts (polite)	아파요 comes from 아프다. It means 'to hurt' or 'to be in pain.' You attach 이 또는 가 to the body part to mark it as the subject — the thing that hurts.
머리 · 목 · 배 · 눈 meori · mok · bae · nun	head · throat/neck · stomach · eye(s)	Let me show you real examples. Listen first, then we'll break each one apart.
머리가 아파요 meori-ga apayo	My head hurts.	첫 번째. 머리가 아파요. My head hurts.
머리 + 가 + 아파요 meori + ga + apayo	head + (subject) + hurts	Oh, so 머리 is the part, 가 is the little glue, and 아파요 does the work. That's clean.
목이 아파요 mok-i apayo	My throat hurts.	두 번째. 목이 아파요. 목 is 'throat' or 'neck,' 이 marks the subject, 아파요 is 'hurts.' My throat hurts.
목 + 이 + 아파요 mok + i + apayo	throat + (subject) + hurts	Wait — that one used 이, not 가. Same as 머리가 but different glue. We'll come back to that, right?
배가 아파요 bae-ga apayo	My stomach hurts.	네, 곧이요. 세 번째. 배가 아파요. 배 is 'stomach' or 'belly,' 가 is the subject marker, 아파요 'hurts.' My stomach hurts.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### [몸의 부분] + 이/가 + 아파요

[몸의 부분] + 이/가 + 아파요 — [body part] hurts

아파요 = the polite form of 아프다, 'to hurt / be sore'

### 아프다 → 아파요

아프다 → 아파요 — to hurt → hurts (polite)

Plain dictionary form 아프다, everyday polite form 아파요

### 머리 · 목 · 배 · 눈

머리 · 목 · 배 · 눈 — head · throat/neck · stomach · eye(s)

Four very common parts to start with

### 머리가 아파요

머리가 아파요 — My head hurts.

첫 번째. 머리가 아파요. My head hurts.

### 머리가 아파요

머리 + 가 + 아파요 — My head hurts.

머리가 아파요. 머리 is 'head,' 가 marks it as the subject, and 아파요 is 'hurts.' Put together — 'My head hurts.'

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
머리가 아파요	meori-ga apayo
목이 아파요	mok-i apayo
모기 아파요 (linked)	mok-i apayo

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 머리 / 배 / 목이 아파요 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
공항 / 기차역 / 표 Getting Around While Traveling	B1 Vocabulary: compare 공항 / 기차역 / 표 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-TRV-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-TRV-001</a>
속상하다 / 답답하다 / 뿌듯하다 Saying How You Really Feel	B1 Vocabulary: compare 속상하다 / 답답하다 / 뿌듯하다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-EMO-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-EMO-001</a>
Counting in Korean Native vs Sino Numbers	A1 Vocabulary: compare Counting in Korean with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-001</a>
맵다 / 짜다 / 달다 / 시다 Describing How Food Tastes	A2 Vocabulary: compare 맵다 / 짜다 / 달다 / 시다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FOO-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FOO-001</a>

## My Notes

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