



Korean Ladder Study Note

오래된 친구 반말

농담·빈정·진심을 가르는 말투

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Colloquial Banmal (Casual)	오래된 친구 반말 농담·빈정·진심을 가르는 말투

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-BAN-001>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk — my Korean friend called me 야, 인마 and then burst out laughing. Was he... insulting me?

좋아요. 반말에서는 단어가 아니라 말투가 뜻을 정해요. In English, the same casual word can flip meaning depending on the tone.

핵심은 이거예요. In English—in banmal, the tone decides the meaning, not the word.

예를 들어볼게요. 오랜만에 친구를 만나면, 야, 오랜만이야. 따뜻하게 부르는 인사예요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	야, 인마, 또 늦었어? —	Hey, you rascal, late again?
Hana	됐어, 됐어. 내가 커피 사줄게. —	Alright, alright — I'll buy the coffee.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	알았어, 알았어. 네가 항상 맞지. —	Yeah, yeah — you're always right.
Junho	야, 그런 뜻 아니잖아. —	Hey, that's not what I meant.
Junho	야... 오랜만이야. 보고 싶었어. —	Hey... it's been so long. I missed you.
Hana	나도. 됐어, 말 안 해도 알아. —	Me too. It's okay — you don't have to say it, I know.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
말투가 뜻을 정해요 maltu-ga tteus-eul jeonghaeyo	The tone decides the meaning.	좋아요. 반말에서는 단어가 아니라 말투가 뜻을 정해요. In English, the same casual word can flip meaning depending on the tone.
농담 · 빈정 · 진심 nongdam · binjeong · jinsim	Teasing · sarcasm · sincerity	핵심은 이거예요. In English—in banmal, the tone decides the meaning, not the word.
야, 오랜만이야 ya, oraenman-iya	Hey, it's been a while.	예를 들어볼게요. 오랜만에 친구를 만나면, 야, 오랜만이야. 따뜻하게 부르는 인사예요.
야 ya	hey (to a friend)	So 야 by itself isn't rude — with a smile it's basically 'hey you.' And 오랜만이야 just means 'it's been forever.'
인마 inma	you rascal	인마도 그래요. 원래는 거친 말이지만, 오랜 친구 사이에서는 애정이에요. In English—rough on paper, but warmth in disguise.
됐어 dwaesseo	It's okay / forget it / enough	이번엔 됐어. 두 얼굴을 가진 말이에요. 따뜻할 수도 있고, 차가울 수도 있어요.
됐어, 괜찮아 dwaesseo, gwaenchana	It's okay, don't worry.	부드럽게 말하면, 됐어, 괜찮아. 걱정하지 말라는 뜻이에요. In English—'it's okay, don't worry.'
알았어 arasseo	okay / got it / fine	하나 더 볼게요. 알았어. 알겠다는 말이지만, 말투에 따라 진심일 수도, 짜증일 수도 있어요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

말투가 뜻을 정해요

말투가 뜻을 정해요 — The tone decides the meaning.

Banmal words are neutral clay — intonation shapes them.

농담 · 빈정 · 진심

농담 · 빈정 · 진심 — Teasing · sarcasm · sincerity

Three tones, one set of words.

야, 오랜만이야

야, 오랜만이야 — Hey, it's been a while.

Said warm, 야 is just 'hey, friend.'

야, 오랜만이야

야 + , + 오랜만이야 — Hey, long time no see.

여기 보세요. 야는 친구를 부르는 말이고, 오랜만이야는 오랜만 더하기 이야, 명사에 붙는 말이에요.

야

야 — hey (to a friend)

Warm 야 ≈ 'hey you'; sharp 야 ≈ a scold.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
야, 오랜만이야~	ya, oraenman-iyā
야, 오랜만이야	ya, oraenman-iyā
됐어~ 인마	dwaesseo, inma
됐어, 인마	dwaesseo, inma

Self-Check

- 1 Say 오래된 친구 반말 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
-어 / -지 / -자 / -래? Casual Sentence Endings Among Friends	B1 Colloquial: compare -어 / -지 / -자 / -래? with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-001
말 놓을까요 Switching to Casual Banmal with Friends	A2 Colloquial: compare 말 놓을까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-001
반말 의문·명령 -냐? / -어라 / -지 마	B2 Colloquial: compare 반말 의문·명령 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-BAN-001
야 친구를 부르고 가리키는 반말	A2 Colloquial: compare 야 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-003

My Notes

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