



LANGOFLY

A Foreign Language Institute

Korean Grammar: 은/는 & 이에요 / 예요 (Detailed Explanation)

By Langofly — A Foreign Language Institute

Korean sentences are formed using **particles** and **verb endings**. Two very important beginner grammar points are 은/는 and 이에요/예요. These are commonly used when introducing yourself or describing something.

1. 은 / 는 (Topic Particles)

은/는 are called **topic particles**. They indicate **what the sentence is about**.

In English, we usually say:

“As for ___” or “Regarding ___”

But in Korean, we use 은/는 after the noun.

Usage Rule

- 은 → used after a noun ending with a **consonant** (받침)
- 는 → used after a noun ending with a **vowel**



LANGOFLY

A Foreign Language Institute

Examples:

저는 학생이에요.

Jeoneun haksang-ieyo.

→ *I am a student.*

저 (I) + 는 = 저는

이 책은 재미있어요.

I chaegun jaemiisseoyo.

→ *This book is interesting.*

책 (book) ends with consonant → 은

Another Examples:

저는 한국어를 공부해요.

→ *I study Korean.*

오늘은 날씨가 좋아요.

→ *Today the weather is nice.*

Important Note

은/는 shows the topic of the sentence.

Example:

저는 학생이에요.

→ *As for me, I am a student.*



LANGOFLY

A Foreign Language Institute

2. 이에요 / 예요 (Polite “to be” – Present Tense)

이에요 / 예요 means “is / am / are” in Korean.

It is used when a **noun describes another noun**.

Usage Rule

- **이에요** → used after nouns ending with **consonant**
- **예요** → used after nouns ending with **vowel**

Examples:

학생이에요
→ *is a student*

선생님이에요
→ *is a teacher*

With vowel ending nouns

의사예요
→ *is a doctor*

가수예요
→ *is a singer*



LANGOFLY

A Foreign Language Institute

Sentence Examples:

저는 의사예요.

→ I am a doctor.

그는 학생이에요.

→ He is a student.

이것은 책이에요.

→ This is a book.

3. 은/는 + 이에요/예요 Together

These two grammar points are often used **together in sentences**.

Structure:

Noun + 은/는 + Noun + 이에요/예요

Examples:

저는 학생이에요.

→ I am a student.

그 사람은 선생님이에요.

→ That person is a teacher.

이것은 사과예요.

→ This is an apple.



LANGOFLY

A Foreign Language Institute

4. Simple Structure

Korean sentence pattern:

Subject + Topic Particle + Noun + 이에요/예요

Example:

저는 학생이에요.

Breakdown

저 = I

는 = topic particle

학생 = student

이에요 = am/is/are

Meaning:

I am a student.

5. Quick Summary Table

| Grammar | Function | Usage Rule |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| 은 | Topic particle | After consonant |
| 는 | Topic particle | After vowel |
| 이에요 | "Is/Am/Are" | After consonant |
| 예요 | "Is/Am/Are" | After vowel |



LANGOFLY

A Foreign Language Institute

6. Practice Examples

저는 한국 사람이에요.

→ I am Korean.

이것은 책이에요.

→ This is a book.

그녀는 가수예요.

→ She is a singer.

오늘은 금요일이에요.

→ Today is Friday.

✓ Tip for learners:

These grammar patterns are very common in beginner Korean conversations, especially when introducing yourself.

Example:

안녕하세요. 저는 민지예요.

→ Hello, I am Minji.