

Lesson 1: 은/는 + 예요/이에요

Welcome to LearnKorean24's free Korean language course. In this first lesson, you will learn how to use the pattern 은/는 + 예요/이에요 to say things like "It's a book", "I am American.", "I am a teacher.", etc.

KEY INFORMATION

예요/이에요 [ye-yo/i-e-yo] = Ending which means 'equal to'.

은/는 [eun/neun] = Topic Marking Particle

예요/이에요 [ye-yo/i-e-yo]

First, let's take a look at the ending 예요/이에요 [ye-yo/i-e-yo]. 예요/이에요 is used at the end of a sentence and is similar to the English word 'is' in the sense of 'is equal to'. To help you understand what we mean, let's look at an example.

- 책 [chaek] = **book**
- 책 [chaek] + ~이에요 [i-e-yo] = 책이에요 [chae-gi-e-yo]
- 책이에요. [chae-gi-e-yo] = **It is a book.**

When making your own sentences using 예요/이에요 you must choose either 예요 [ye-yo] or 이에요 [i-e-yo] to attach to the noun. The one you use depends on whether the final letter in the preceding noun is a vowel or a consonant. See the table below.

Conjugation Rule	Examples
Noun Ending In Consonant + 이에요	가방이에요. (It's a bag.)
Noun Ending In Vowel + 예요	바나나요. (It's a banana.)

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은/는 [eun/neun]

Next, let's look at how to say things like "This is a book.", "I am American.", "I am a teacher.". To make sentences like this you can use 은/는 [eun/neun] together with 예요/이에요.

은/는 [eun/neun] is what is known as a 'topic marking particle' and is used to mark a noun or pronoun as the topic of the sentence. Here are some examples:

이것 [i-geot] = *this*

이것은 [i-geo-seun] = *this (with topic marking particle attached)*

이것은 책이에요 [i-geo-seun chae-gi-e-yo]. = *This is a book.*

저 [jeo] = *I*

저는 [jeo-neun] = *I (with topic marking particle attached)*

미국 사람 [mi-guk sa-ram] = *American Person*

저는 미국 사람이에요. [jeo-neun mi-guk sa-ra-mi-e-yo] = *I am American.*

In the first example, the topic of the sentence is 'this' and so 이것 is marked with the topic particle 은. In the second example, the topic is 'I' and so 저는 is marked with the topic particle 는.

Here are the conjugation rules for choosing 은 or 는:

Conjugation Rule	Examples
Noun Ending In Consonant + 은	이것은 (This)
Noun Ending In Vowel + 는	저는 (I)

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Example Sentences

Now let's look at some example sentences using the structure 은/는 + 예요/이에요. To make your own sentences using this structure, you can simply substitute the nouns in the sentences. You can find many free vocabulary lists on LearnKorean24.com that you can use.

바나나예요. **[ba-na-na-ye-yo]** = *It's a banana.*

가방이에요. **[ga-bang-i-e-yo]** = *It's a bag.*

이것은 사과예요. **[i-geo-seun sa-gwa-ye-yo]** = *This is an apple.*

이것은 책이에요. **[i-geo-seun chae-gi-e-yo]** = *This is a book.*

저는 제니예요. **[jeo-neun je-ni-ye-yo]** = *I am Jenny.*

저는 케빈이에요. **[jeo-neun ke-bi-ni-e-yo]** = *I am Kevin.*

저는 미국 사람이에요. **[jeo-neun mi-guk sa-ra-mi-e-yo]** = *I am American.*

마이클은 영국 사람이에요. **[ma-i-keu-reun yeong-guk sa-ra-mi-e-yo]** = *Michael is British.*

저는 선생님이에요. **[jeo-neun seon-saeng-ni-mi-e-yo]** = *I am a teacher.*

마르틴은 요리사예요. **[ma-reu-ti-neun yo-ri-sa-ye-yo]** = *Martin is a chef.*