

Lesson 42: 아/어/여도 돼요

In this lesson, you will learn how to use the structure 아/어/여도 돼요 to ask or give permission. By the end of this lesson, you will be able to say things like "May I take a picture?", "May I sit here?", "You may go home." etc.

KEY INFORMATION

아/어/여도 돼요 = **may/to be allowed**

Conjugation Rule 1: Last vowel in verb stem is ㅏ or ㅑ + 아도 돼요

Conjugation Rule 2: Last vowel in verb stem is NOT ㅏ or ㅑ + 어도 돼요

Conjugation Rule 3: Verb ends in 하다 + 여도 돼요

The structure 아/어/여도 돼요 is similar to saying "may", "allowed", "okay", in English. It is used to ask permission from another person in a question, or to give permission in a statement. Let's look at some examples.

가다 = **to go**

가도 돼요? = **May I go?**

가도 돼요. = **You may go.**

열다 = **to open**

열어도 돼요? = **May I open it?**

열어도 돼요. = **You may open it.**

앉다 = **to sit**

앉아도 돼요? = **May I sit?**

앉아도 돼요. = **You may sit.**

전화하다 = **to call**

전화해도 돼요? = **May I call you?**

전화해도 돼요. = **You may call me.**

먹다 = **to eat**

먹어도 돼요? = **May I eat it?**

먹어도 돼요. = **You may eat it.**

Lesson 42: 아/어/여도 돼요

The structure 아/어/여도 돼요 is made up of the ending 아/어/여도 and the verb 돼요. 아/어/여도 means 'even if ~', and 돼요 is the present form of the verb 되다 which means 'to function/work' or 'to be okay'. So, the structure 아/어/여도 돼요 literally means 'Even if you do it, it's okay.'

Conjugation Rules

Conjugation Rule	Examples
Last vowel in verb stem is ㅏ or ㅑ + 아도 돼요	가다 (to go) → 가도 돼요
Last vowel in verb stem is NOT ㅏ or ㅑ + 어도 돼요	먹다 (to eat) → 먹어도 돼요
Verb ends in 하다 + 여도 돼요	전화하다 (to call) → 전화해도 돼요

Things To Note:

In the structure 아/어/여도 돼요, the verb 돼요 can be replaced with 괜찮아요 or 좋아요. 괜찮아요 means 'okay' in Korean. And 좋아요 means 'good/great'.

창문을 열어도 돼요? = **May I open the window?**

네, 열어도 괜찮아요. = **Yes, you may open.**

Another thing to note is that if you add the negative adverb 안 before 아/어/여도 돼요, this structure means 'don't have to', 'don't need to', or 'it's not necessary to'.

오늘 이거 해야 돼요? = **Should I do this today?**

아니요, 오늘 안 해도 돼요. 내일 해도 돼요. = **No, you don't have to do it today. You may do it tomorrow.**

Lesson 42: 아/어/여도 돼요

Example Sentences

이거 먹어도 돼요? = **May I eat this?**

네. 드세요. = **Sure. Help yourself.**

지금 들어가도 돼요? = **May I come in?**

들어오세요. = **Please come in.**

저기에 주차해도 돼요? = **Can I park over there?**

네, 주차해도 돼요. = **Yes, you may park.**

여기에서 사진을 찍어도 돼요? = **May I take a picture here?**

아니요. 찍지 마세요. = **No. Please don't take any pictures.**

에어컨을 켜도 돼요? = **May I turn on the air conditioner?**

네, 돼요. * = **Yes, you may turn it on.**

*아/어도 돼요 can be shortened to 돼요 when answering a question and giving permission.