Your first Korean introduction

Use 이에요 and 예요 with nouns in polite everyday speech.

YOUR GOAL Introduce yourself and choose an ending from the noun's final written syllable.

예요

The usual short form after a noun ending in a vowel, with no 받침.

저는 민아예요.
Jeoneun Mina-yeyo.
I'm Mina.

이건 의자예요.
Igeon uija-yeyo.
This is a chair.

저는 의사예요.
Jeoneun uisa-yeyo.
I'm a doctor.

이에요

After a noun with 받침, a consonant at the bottom of its last written syllable.

저는 학생이에요.
Jeoneun haksaeng-ieyo.
I'm a student.

이건 책이에요.
Igeon chaeg-ieyo.
It's a book.

제 이름은 지민이에요.
Je ireumeun Jimin-ieyo.
My name is Jimin.

Three useful patterns

Vowel ending	의사 → 의사예요	I'm a doctor.
Final consonant	책 → 책이에요	It's a book.
Question	학생이에요?	Are you a student?

After a vowel, 예요 is the usual contraction. Full 이에요 is also valid; 이예요 is not standard. This style is polite, not formal speech.

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Make it a conversation.

Read the meaning, choose a form, then check why it fits.

Look at the written ending

책이에요.
It's a book.

의자예요.
This is a chair.

책 ends in written ㄱ, so use 이에요. 의자 ends in a vowel, so usually use 예요.

A question changes the intonation

의사예요?
Are you a doctor?

네, 의사예요.
Yes, I'm a doctor.

The ending stays the same in a statement and a question. Intonation and ? signal the question.

Your turn

Fill the gaps with the usual spoken form 이에요 or 예요.

01 저는 민아_____.
I'm Mina.

02 저는 학생_____.
I'm a student.

03 이건 책_____.
It's a book.

04 이건 의자_____.
This is a chair.

05 저는 의사_____.
I'm a doctor.

06 제 이름은 지민_____.
My name is Jimin.

07 학생_____?
Are you a student?

08 의사_____?
Are you a doctor?

Check your answers

1. 예요 Vowel ending: 민아 → 예요.
2. 이에요 Final written consonant: 학생 → 이에요.
3. 이에요 Final written consonant: 책 → 이에요.
4. 예요 Vowel ending: 의자 → 예요.
5. 예요 Vowel ending: 의사 → 예요.
6. 이에요 Final written consonant: 지민 → 이에요.
7. 이에요 Final written consonant: 학생 → 이에요.
8. 예요 Vowel ending: 의사 → 예요.

MAKE IT YOURS Introduce yourself with your name. Then ask someone if they are a student. Say both aloud.