



Korean Ladder Study Note

난 / 넌 / 뭘 / 날

Everyday Spoken Contractions of Particles

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Contractions	난 / 넌 / 뭘 / 날 Everyday Spoken Contractions of Particles

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE0hR60NGmI>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. I learned 나는 and 너는, but in dramas I keep hearing 난 and 넌. Are those totally different words?

좋은 질문이에요. In English, great question. They are not new words. They are casual spoken contractions.

In everyday speech, a word and its particle can squeeze together. 나 plus 는 becomes 난. 너 plus 는 becomes 넌.

오늘의 핵심은 간단해요. In English, today's key is simple. Full forms are clearer, short forms are casual and fast.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	넌 뭘 마셔? —	What are you drinking?
Junho	난 아메리카노. 넌? —	I'm having an americano. You?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	난 라떼. 날 기다려 줘. —	I'm having a latte. Wait for me.
Junho	알았어. 널 기다릴게. —	Okay. I'll wait for you.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
나 + 는 → 난 na + neun → nan	I / me as topic, shortened	In everyday speech, a word and its particle can squeeze together. 나 plus 는 becomes 난. 너 plus 는 becomes 넌.
나는 = 난 naneun = nan	same meaning, different feel	오늘의 핵심은 간단해요. In English, today's key is simple. Full forms are clearer, short forms are casual and fast.
나는 → 난 · 너는 → 넌 naneun → nan · neoneun → neon	I as topic · you as topic	Let's start with the topic particle 는. 나는 becomes 난, and 너는 becomes 넌.
난 커피 좋아해 nan keopi joahae	I like coffee.	문장으로 볼게요. In English, let's see it in a real sentence. 난 커피 좋아해 means I like coffee.
나는 커피 좋아해 naneun keopi joahae	I like coffee. Full form.	난 already contains 나 and 는. The full sentence 나는 커피 좋아해 means the same thing, just a little more complete.
넌 학생이야 neon haksengiya	You're a student.	Now listen to 넌. 넌 학생이야 means you're a student. 너는 학생이야 is the full form.
나는→난 · 너는→넌 naneun→nan · neoneun→neon	topic forms, shortened	So 난 is not a new pronoun. It is 나는 spoken short. And 넌 is 너는 spoken short.
뜻은 같아요 tteuseun gatayo	The meaning is the same.	맞아요. In English, exactly. The meaning stays the same. The style becomes more casual.



Grammar / Structure Notes

나 + 는 → 난

나 + 는 → 난 — I / me as topic, shortened

The topic particle 는 is already inside 난.

나는 = 난

나는 = 난 — same meaning, different feel

Full is clear. Short is casual.

나는 → 난 · 너는 → 넌

나는 → 난 · 너는 → 넌 — I as topic · you as topic

These are common in casual speech.

난 커피 좋아해

난 + 커피 + 좋아해 — I like coffee.

문장으로 볼게요. In English, let's see it in a real sentence. 난 커피 좋아해 means I like coffee.

나는 커피 좋아해

나 + 는 + 커피 + 좋아해 — I like coffee. Full form.

난 already contains 나 and 는. The full sentence 나는 커피 좋아해 means the same thing, just a little more complete.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
난 커피 좋아해	nan keopi joahae
날 봐	nal bwa
뭘 먹어?	mwol meogeo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 난 / 넌 / 뭘 / 날 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
이건 / 저건 / 그건 Everyday Spoken Contractions of 이것은	A1 Colloquial: compare 이건 / 저건 / 그건 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-001
-르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것	B2 Colloquial: compare -르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001
-다는 게 / -라는 거 / -다니까 Spoken Reductions of Reported Speech	C1 Colloquial: compare -다는 게 / -라는 거 / -다니까 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-CTR-001
그럼 / 근데 / 그치 Spoken Shortcuts for 그러면 · 그런데 · 그렇지	B1 Colloquial: compare 그럼 / 근데 / 그치 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-CTR-001

My Notes

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