



Korean Ladder Study Note

이걸 / 그걸 / 저걸

Object-Particle Contractions in Everyday Speech

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Contractions	이걸 / 그걸 / 저걸 Object-Particle Contractions in Everyday Speech

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-007>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA-2eozFuk0>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

So, Hana and Junho, I've been studying hard, and my textbook always says 이것을 주세요 when ordering food. But when I went to a bakery yesterday, every single local in line said 이걸 주세요 instead. Why does nobody say 이것을 out loud?

That is such a common observation, Alice. In formal writing, 이것을 is standard, but in spoken Korean, saying three syllables takes too much effort.

맞아요. In real life, Korean speakers naturally smooth out sounds so conversations flow faster.

So if I keep saying 이것을 out loud, do I sound like a robot reading a textbook?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저기요, 저걸 보고 싶어요. —	Excuse me, I want to see that one over there.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	이걸 말씀하시는 건가요? —	Are you referring to this one?
Hana	아니요, 그 옆에 있는 그걸 보여 주세요. —	No, please show me that one next to it.
Junho	네, 확인해 보세요. —	Sure, please take a look.
Hana	저기요, 저걸 보고 싶어요. —	Excuse me, I want to see that one over there.
Junho	이걸 말씀하시는 건가요? —	Are you referring to this one?
Hana	아니요, 그 옆에 있는 그걸 보여 주세요. —	No, please show me that one next to it.
Junho	네, 확인해 보세요. —	Sure, please take a look.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
이것을 → 이걸 igeoseul → igeol	this thing (object)	A little bit, yes. To sound natural on the street, you need spoken object contractions.
이 · 그 · 저 + 겔 i / geu / jeo + geol	this / that / that over there + object	Okay, let me break this down. The first syllable is the distance pointer, right? 이 is near me, 그 is near the listener, and 저 is far away from both of us.
이것을 → 이걸 / 그것을 → 그걸 / 저것을 → 저걸 igeoseul → igeol / geugeoseul → geugeol / jeogeoseul → jeogeol	Full forms contracting into spoken forms	Notice that 이것을, 그것을, and 저것을 are never wrong. They are just formal. In day-to-day spoken Korean, native speakers choose 이걸, 그걸, and 저걸 over ninety percent of the time.



Grammar / Structure Notes

이것을 → 이걸

이것을 → 이걸 — this thing (object)

것을 contracts into the single syllable 걸 in spoken Korean

이것을 → 이걸

이것을 → 이걸 — this thing (object)

것을 contracts into the single syllable 걸 in spoken Korean

이것을 → 이걸

이것을 → 이걸 — this thing (object)

것을 contracts into the single syllable 걸 in spoken Korean

이것을 → 이걸

이것을 → 이걸 — this thing (object)

것을 contracts into the single syllable 걸 in spoken Korean

이것을 → 이걸

이것을 → 이걸 — this thing (object)

것을 contracts into the single syllable 걸 in spoken Korean

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
이걸 주세요	igeol juseyo.
저걸 봐요	jeogeol bwayo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 이걸 / 그걸 / 저걸 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
그치 / 그니까 / 아냐 Tiny Casual Confirmations Friends Say	A1 Colloquial: compare 그치 / 그니까 / 아냐 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-003
난 / 넌 / 뭐 / 날 Everyday Spoken Contractions of Particles	A1 Colloquial: compare 난 / 넌 / 뭐 / 날 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-002
뭐예요 / 어디예요 How Beginners Hear and Write Spoken 예요	A1 Colloquial: compare 뭐예요 / 어디예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-006
어디 / 뭐 / 누구 Dropping Particles in Casual Speech	A1 Colloquial: compare 어디 / 뭐 / 누구 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-CTR-004

My Notes

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