



Korean Ladder Study Note

ㅋ / ㅎㅎ / ㅋㅋ

Your First Korean Chat Reactions

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Texting	ㅋ / ㅎㅎ / ㅋㅋ Your First Korean Chat Reactions

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-TXT-001>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6fB9MerZv8>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I opened a Korean chat and saw tiny symbols everywhere. 키읔, 히읏, and 유유. Is this a code, or is everyone laughing and crying at the same time?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean texting, some Hangul letters can act like emoji-style reactions.

Today we will keep it to three basics: 웃음, a soft smile, and crying.

오늘의 패턴은 채팅 반응이에요. 키읔 is used for laughter, 히읏 is a softer smile or chuckle, and 유유 looks like crying eyes.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 회의 몇 시예요? —	What time is the meeting today?
Junho	두 시예요. 저도 방금 확인했어요 ㅎㅎ —	It's at two. I just checked too, hehe.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	아, 고마워요. 늦을 뻔했어요 ㅋㅋ —	Oh, thank you. I almost ran late, sob.
Junho	괜찮아요 ㅋㅋ 이제 알았으니까요. —	It's okay, haha. You know now.
Hana	늦을 뻔했어요 ㅋㅋ —	I almost ran late, sob.
Junho	괜찮아요 ㅋㅋ —	It's okay, haha.
Junho	저도 확인했어요 ㅎㅎ —	Friendly, light tone
Hana	늦을 뻔했어요 ㅋㅋ —	Oh no, emotional tone

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㅋ / ㅎ / ㅋㅋ kieuk / hieut / yuyu	laugh / soft smile / crying	오늘의 패턴은 채팅 반응이에요. 키읃 is used for laughter, 히읃 is a softer smile or chuckle, and 유 유 looks like crying eyes.
채팅 반응 chaeting baneung	chat reaction	So these are not words I pronounce in a regular sentence. They are more like chat reactions.
문장 + ㅋㅋ munjang + keukeu	sentence + haha	맞아요. In real chat, you may send them alone, or attach them after a sentence.
ㅋ → ㅋㅋ → ㅋㅋㅋㅋ kieuk → keukeu → keukeukeu	small laugh → normal laugh → bigger laugh	중요한 점은 강도예요. One letter is tiny, two is normal, and many letters can feel stronger or very casual.
ㅋㅋ keukeu	haha / lol	먼저 키읃을 볼게요. The card shows two 키읃 letters, and in chat that often means haha.
농담 ㅋㅋ nongdam keukeu	A joke, haha	예를 들어, 친구가 농담을 했어요. You can answer with ㅋㅋ, like haha.
ㅎㅎ hehe	hehe / soft smile	다음은 히읃이에요. The card shows two 히읃 letters. ㅎㅎ is a lighter, softer smile.
좋아요 ㅎㅎ joayo hehe	Sounds good, hehe	ㅎㅎ can feel friendly, shy, or lightly amused. It is usually softer than ㅋㅋ.



Grammar / Structure Notes

ㅋ / ㅎ / ㅇㅇ

ㅋ / ㅎ / ㅇㅇ — laugh / soft smile / crying

Basic Korean chat reactions

채팅 반응

채팅 반응 — chat reaction

Short emotional replies in texts

문장 + ㅋㅋ

문장 + ㅋㅋ — sentence + haha

Often attached at the end

ㅋ → ㅋㅋ → ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

ㅋ → ㅋㅋ → ㅋㅋㅋㅋ — small laugh → normal laugh → bigger laugh

More letters usually means more feeling

ㅋㅋ

ㅋㅋ — haha / lol

먼저 키읔을 볼게요. The card shows two 키읔 letters, and in chat that often means haha.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
ㅋㅋ	keukeu
ㅎㅎ	hehe
ㅇㅇ	yuyu
ㅋㅋ → ㅋㅋㅋㅋ	keukeu → keukeukeukeu

Self-Check

- 1 Say ㅋ / ㅎ / ㅇㅇ 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
ㄹㅇ / ㅇㅈㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋㅋ Texting 'For Real' in Korean Chat	B1 Colloquial: compare ㄹㅇ / ㅇㅈㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋㅋ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-003
ㅇㅇ / ㄴㄴ / ㅈㅈ / ㅇㅈ More Korean Chat Shorthand	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅇ / ㄴㄴ / ㅈㅈ / ㅇㅈ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-002
ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001
ㅎㅇ / ㅎㅎ / ㄱㅈ Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations	A2 Colloquial: compare ㅎㅇ / ㅎㅎ / ㄱㅈ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-TXT-001

My Notes

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