



Korean Ladder Study Note

잘 먹었습니다 / 정말 맛있었어요

Finishing a Meal Politely

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Restaurant & Cafe	잘 먹었습니다 / 정말 맛있었어요 Finishing a Meal Politely

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HC6J-_9wZs

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I know how to order, and maybe how to pay. But after a Korean meal, I freeze. Do I say thank you, delicious, or I'm full?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, the end of a meal has a few warm, fixed phrases.

오늘의 핵심 표현은 잘 먹었습니다예요. You say it to the person who provided the meal, cooked, hosted, or treated you.

그리고 음식이 좋았으면 정말 맛있었어요라고 말해요. In English, it means, it was really delicious.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	정말 맛있었어요. —	It was really delicious.
Junho	감사합니다. 잘 먹었습니다. —	Thank you. Thank you for the meal.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	배불러요? —	Are you full?
Junho	네, 정말 배불러요. —	Yes, I'm really full.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
잘 먹었습니다 jal meogeosseumnida	Thank you for the meal / I ate well	좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, the end of a meal has a few warm, fixed phrases.
정말 맛있었어요 jeongmal masisseosseoyo	It was really delicious	그리고 음식이 좋았으면 정말 맛있었어요라고 말해요. In English, it means, it was really delicious.
배불러요 baebulleoyo	I'm full.	배불러요. It means, I'm full. Soft, simple, and useful.
아주 잘 먹었습니다 aju jal meogeosseumnida	I ate very well / Thank you very much for the meal.	아주 잘 먹었습니다. You can add 아주 for very, but the basic phrase is already polite.
정말 배불러요 jeongmal baebulleoyo	I'm really full.	정말 배불러요. This gently signals you are full, not that you disliked the food.
먹었습니다 meogeosseumnida	ate, formal-polite	먹었습니다 is formal-polite. It is a little more respectful than 먹었어요, so it fits after a meal with a host or restaurant staff.
맛있었어요 masisseosseoyo	It was delicious.	Then if I say 맛있었어요, I'm focusing on the taste.
아니요, 배불러요 aniyo, baebulleoyo	No, I'm full.	So if someone says, do you want more, I can say, 아니요, 배불러요?



Grammar / Structure Notes

잘 먹었습니다

잘 먹었습니다 — Thank you for the meal / I ate well

Polite phrase after eating

잘 먹었습니다

잘 먹었습니다 — Thank you for the meal

Use after eating

정말 맛있었어요

정말 맛있었어요 — It was really delicious

A friendly compliment

잘 먹었습니다

잘 + 먹었습니다 — Thank you for the meal.

먼저 자연스러운 예문을 들어 보세요. 잘 먹었습니다.

정말 맛있었어요

정말 + 맛있었어요 — It was really delicious.

정말 맛있었어요. This is a very natural compliment after the meal.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
정말 맛있었어요. 잘 먹었습니다	jeongmal masisseosseoyo. jal meogeosseumnida
정말 맛있었어요	jeongmal masisseosseoyo
잘 먹었습니다	jal meogeosseumnida
머거쌌니다	meogeosseumnida
마시써썬요	masisseosseoyo
마시써썬요 / 머거쌌니다	masisseosseoyo / meogeosseumnida
정말 마시써썬요. 잘 머거쌌니다	jeongmal masisseosseoyo. jal meogeosseumnida

Self-Check

- 1 Say 잘 먹었습니다 / 정말 맛있었어요 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
메뉴판 좀 주세요 / 뭐가 맛있어요 Asking for the Menu and Recommendations	A1 Conversation: compare 메뉴판 좀 주세요 / 뭐가 맛있어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-002
물 좀 주세요 / 계산해 주세요 Your First Words Inside a Korean Restaurant	A1 Conversation: compare 물 좀 주세요 / 계산해 주세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-001
아이스 아메리카노 한 잔이요 Ordering a Drink at a Korean Café	A1 Conversation: compare 아이스 아메리카노 한 잔이요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-005
이거 매워요 Asking Whether Food Is Spicy Before You Order	A1 Conversation: compare 이거 매워요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-RES-004

My Notes

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