



Korean Ladder Study Note

음식물쓰레기

Korean Home Waste-Sorting Basics

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Etiquette	음식물쓰레기 Korean Home Waste-Sorting Basics

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-027>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I finished dinner, but now I'm stuck. Does a banana peel go with food waste? What about a chicken bone or an empty can?

좋은 질문이에요. 바나나 껍질은 보통 음식물쓰레기지만, 닭 뼈는 일반쓰레기예요. The empty can is recycling.

그리고 세부 규칙은 지역마다 조금 다를 수 있어요. The basic categories are consistent, but always check your local rules.

먼저 네 가지 길을 기억하세요. 음식물쓰레기, 일반쓰레기, 재활용품, 그리고 일반쓰레기에 쓰는 종량제 봉투예요. Remember these four ideas first.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 바나나 껍질은 어디에 버려요? —	Where do I throw away this banana peel?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	음식물쓰레기에 버려요. —	Put it in the food waste.
Hana	그럼 이 닭 뼈는요? —	Then what about this chicken bone?
Junho	일반쓰레기예요. 종량제 봉투에 넣어요. —	It's regular trash. Put it in a pay-by-volume bag.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
음식물쓰레기 · 일반쓰레기 · 재활용품 · 종량제 봉투 eumsikmul sseuregi · ilban sseuregi · jaehwaryongpum · jongnyangje bongtu	food waste · regular trash · recyclables · pay-by-volume bag	먼저 네 가지 길을 기억하세요. 음식물쓰레기, 일반쓰레기, 재활용품, 그리고 일반쓰레기에 쓰는 종량제 봉투예요. Remember these four ideas first.
종량제 봉투 jongnyangje bongtu	official pay-by-volume garbage bag	So 종량제 봉투 is not another kind of trash. It's the official bag for regular trash?
종량제 = 버리는 양에 따라 비용을 내는 제도 jongnyangje = beorineun yang-e ttara biyongeul naeneun jedo	Pay-by-volume system: the fee depends on how much you discard.	맞아요. 종량제 means the fee depends on the amount you throw away. You buy an official bag in the correct local size.
남은 밥과 김치 → 음식물쓰레기 nameun bagpwa gimchi → eumsikmul sseuregi	Leftover rice and kimchi → food waste	남은 밥이나 김치 같은 음식도 보통 음식물쓰레기예요. Leftover rice or kimchi normally belongs there too, after you remove excess liquid.
달걀 껍데기 → 일반쓰레기 dalgyal kkeopdegi → ilban sseuregi	eggshells → regular trash	달걀 껍데기도 보통 일반쓰레기예요. Eggshells are not placed in the food-waste container.
빈 캔 → 비우고 헹군 뒤 재활용 bin kaen → biugo haenggun dwi jaehwaryong	Empty can → empty, rinse, then recycle	빈 캔은 내용물을 비우고 헹군 뒤 재활용품으로 분리해요. Empty and rinse a can, then put it with the recyclables.
모든 음식 찌꺼기 ≠ 음식물쓰레기 modeun eumsik jjikkeori ≠ eumsikmul sseuregi	Not every food-related scrap is food waste.	핵심은 모든 음식 찌꺼기가 음식물쓰레기는 아니라는 거예요. The key contrast is that not every scrap from food counts as food waste.



Word	Meaning	Example
일반쓰레기 → 종량제 봉투 ilban sseuregi → jongnyangje bongtu	regular trash → pay-by-volume bag	재활용할 수 없는 일반쓰레기는 보통 종량제 봉투에 넣어요. Non-recyclable regular trash normally goes in the official pay-by-volume bag.



Grammar / Structure Notes

지역마다 규칙이 다를 수 있어요.

지역마다 규칙이 다를 수 있어요. — Rules may differ by area.

Check your city, district, or building instructions.

음식물쓰레기 · 일반쓰레기 · 재활용품 · 종량제 봉투

음식물쓰레기 · 일반쓰레기 · 재활용품 · 종량제 봉투 — food waste · regular trash · recyclables · pay-by-volume bag

Sort first, then use the correct disposal method.

종량제 봉투

종량제 봉투 — official pay-by-volume garbage bag

Used for non-recyclable regular trash.

종량제 = 버리는 양에 따라 비용을 내는 제도

종량제 = 버리는 양에 따라 비용을 내는 제도 — Pay-by-volume system: the fee depends on how much you discard.

Bag designs and accepted bags vary by municipality.

바나나 껍질은 음식물쓰레기예요.

바나나 + 껍질 + 은 + 음식물쓰레기 + 예요 + . — A banana peel is food waste.

바나나 껍질은 보통 음식물쓰레기예요. A banana peel normally goes into food waste.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
음식물쓰레기예요	banana kkeopjireun eumsikmul sseuregiyeyo.
음식물쓰레기	eumsikmul sseuregi
닭 뼈는 음식물쓰레기예요.	dak ppyeoneun eumsikmul sseuregiyeyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 음식물쓰레기 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
가방·충전기는 자리를 막지 않게 카페·스터디 공간 짐 예절	A1 Culture: compare 가방·충전기는 자리를 막지 않게 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-013
가방은 앞으로 Crowded Subway and Bus Bag Etiquette	A1 Culture: compare 가방은 앞으로 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-012
계산대 트레이와 장바구니 Checkout Tray and Bagging Etiquette	A1 Culture: compare 계산대 트레이와 장바구니 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-015
고개 숙여 인사 How Koreans Bow and Greet Elders	A1 Culture: compare 고개 숙여 인사 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-003

My Notes

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