



Korean Ladder Study Note

김치 / 반찬 / 밥

Korean Table Basics

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Food Culture	김치 / 반찬 / 밥 Korean Table Basics

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-001)

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX_FO4pLLao)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX_FO4pLLao

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real question. When I see a Korean meal, there are like ten little dishes. Which one is the actual food?

Right, and which word do I even point at? I've heard 김치, 반찬, 밥 — but I mix them all up.

좋은 질문이에요. Today we learn just three words, and the whole table makes sense. 김치, 반찬, 밥.

김치는 발효된 채소예요. In English, kimchi is fermented vegetables — usually napa cabbage with chili. 발효 means fermented.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	밥 더 드릴까요? —	Shall I give you more rice?
Junho	네, 반찬도 더 주세요. —	Yes, more side dishes too, please.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	김치 좋아하세요? —	Do you like kimchi?
Junho	네, 아주 좋아해요. —	Yes, I like it a lot.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
김치 · 반찬 · 밥 gimchi · banchan · bap	kimchi · side dishes · rice/meal	좋은 질문이에요. Today we learn just three words, and the whole table makes sense. 김치, 반찬, 밥.
김치 gimchi	kimchi	First, 김치. Everyone knows the word — but let's see what it really is.
반찬 banchan	side dish(es)	Next word — 반찬. This one confuses a lot of learners.
밥 bap	cooked rice / a meal	And the center of it all — 밥.
밥 + 반찬 bap + banchan	rice at the center, side dishes around it	그 반대예요. It's the opposite. 밥 is the center — and 반찬 surround it. The rice anchors the whole meal.
밥 = 쌀밥 / 식사 bap = ssalbab / siksa	밥 = cooked rice OR a meal	맞아요. 밥 먹었어요 means 'Did you eat?' Two meanings, one little word. Context always tells you which.
식당에서 sikdang-eseo	At the restaurant	Let's hear it at a real table. Listen to how 밥 and 반찬 work together in a quick exchange.



Grammar / Structure Notes

김치 · 반찬 · 밥

김치 · 반찬 · 밥 — kimchi · side dishes · rice/meal

Learn these three and you can read any Korean table.

김치

김치 — kimchi

First, 김치. Everyone knows the word — but let's see what it really is.

김치는 발효된 채소예요.

김치는 발효된 채소예요. — Kimchi is a fermented vegetable.

발효된 = fermented (passive form)

반찬

반찬 — side dish(es)

Next word — 반찬. This one confuses a lot of learners.

반찬

반찬 — side dishes (shared)

김치 is one type of 반찬.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
김치	gimchi
밥	bap
반찬	banchan

Self-Check

- 1 Say 김치 / 반찬 / 밥 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
배달 음식 / 치맥 Korea's Delivery and Late-Night Food Culture	B2 Culture: compare 배달 음식 / 치맥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-FCL-001
두 손으로 주세요 Why Koreans Give and Receive with Two Hands	A1 Culture: compare 두 손으로 주세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-002
새해 복 많이 받으세요 The Korean New Year Greeting Everyone Uses	A1 Culture: compare 새해 복 많이 받으세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-HOL-001
잘 먹겠습니다 What Koreans Say Before Eating	A1 Culture: compare 잘 먹겠습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-001

My Notes

Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.