



Korean Ladder Study Note

숟가락 / 젓가락 / 밥그릇은 안 들어요

Korean Table Utensils and Bowl Manners

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Food Culture	숟가락 / 젓가락 / 밥그릇은 안 들어요 Korean Table Utensils and Bowl Manners

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnu1cG6QEEI>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk — at a Korean restaurant I grabbed my rice bowl and lifted it to my mouth. Everyone looked at me. What did I do wrong?

아, 그거요. In Korea, we leave the rice bowl on the table. 밥그릇은 안 들어요 — we don't lift it.

In Japan you lift the bowl. In Korea, the bowl stays down and the spoon goes to the food. Different table, different manners.

먼저 도구예요. First, our tools. 숟가락 is the spoon, and 젓가락 is chopsticks.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	국은 숟가락으로 드세요. —	Eat the soup with a spoon.
Junho	네, 반찬은 젓가락으로 먹을게요. —	Sure, I'll eat the side dishes with chopsticks.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그리고 밥그릇은 안 들어요. —	And don't lift the rice bowl.
Junho	아, 놓고 먹을게요. —	Ah, I'll eat with it placed down.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
숟가락 / 젓가락 sutgarak / jeotgarak	spoon / chopsticks	먼저 도구예요. First, our tools. 숟가락 is the spoon, and 젓가락 is chopsticks.
숟가락 · 젓가락 sutgarak · jeotgarak	Korean Table Utensils and Bowl Manners	숟가락 and 젓가락 — they even sound like a matched pair.
-가락 -garak	the shared 'stick' part	좋은 귀예요. 가락 is the shared piece — think of it as 'stick.' 숟 for scooping, 젓 for stirring or picking.
안 + 동사 = not (do) an + verb	안 들어요 = don't lift	맞아요. 은/는은 주제를 표시해요. In English, it marks the topic — 'as for the rice bowl.' And 안 before the verb means 'not.'
들다 → 안 들어요 deulda → an deureoyo	to lift → don't lift	One more piece: to lift is 들다, and 'don't lift' is 안 들어요. Let's hear a real table exchange.
밥그릇은 bapgeureuseun	Korean Table Utensils and Bowl Manners	좋아요. One tweak — 그릇 has a soft final sound, 'geu-reut.' Try 밥그릇은 once more.



Grammar / Structure Notes

밥그릇은 안 들어요.

밥그릇은 안 들어요. — We don't lift the rice bowl.

밥그릇 = rice bowl · 들다 = to lift

숟가락 / 젓가락

숟가락 / 젓가락 — spoon / chopsticks

Korean chopsticks are flat metal.

-가락

-가락 — the shared 'stick' part

숟가락 spoon · 젓가락 chopsticks

숟가락으로 밥과 국을 먹어요.

숟가락으로 + 밥과 + 국을 + 먹어요 — With the spoon, we eat rice and soup.

이제 규칙이에요. Here is the rule. The spoon is for 밥 and 국 — rice and soup.

젓가락으로 반찬을 먹어요.

젓가락으로 + 반찬을 + 먹어요 — With chopsticks, we eat the side dishes.

그리고 젓가락은 반찬이에요. And chopsticks are for 반찬 — the side dishes. Kimchi, vegetables, meat.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
숟가락, 젓가락	sutgarak · jeotgarak
밥그릇은 안 들어요	bapgeureuseun an deureoyo
밥그릇은	bapgeureuseun
완벽해요	wanbyeokhaeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 숟가락 / 젓가락 / 밥그릇은 안 들어요 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
김치 / 반찬 / 밥 Korean Table Basics	A1 Culture: compare 김치 / 반찬 / 밥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-001
떡볶이 / 김밥 / 라면 Inside a Korean 분식 Snack Bar	A2 Culture: compare 떡볶이 / 김밥 / 라면 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-FCL-001
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
복날 / 삼계탕 Why Koreans Eat Hot Soup on the Hottest Days	A2 Culture: compare 복날 / 삼계탕 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-FCL-002

My Notes

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