



Korean Ladder Study Note

떡 / 인절미 / 가래떡 / 꿀떡

Your First Korean Rice-Cake Words

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Food Culture	떡 / 인절미 / 가래떡 / 꿀떡 Your First Korean Rice-Cake Words

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-008>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6eKXmOCd_0

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. I see 떡 in Korean dramas, at markets, and during holidays. But is all of it just called 떡?

좋은 질문이에요. 떡 is the big word, like rice cake. But there are many kinds with their own names.

오늘은 네 단어를 잡아 볼게요. 떡, 인절미, 가래떡, 꿀떡. You will hear these in daily life and on holidays.

So today is not grammar-heavy. We'll learn what each rice cake is called, recognize it, and say when people eat it.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이건 뭐예요? —	What is this?
Junho	인절미예요. 간식으로 먹어요. —	It is injeolmi. People eat it as a snack.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	떡국에는 뭐를 넣어요? —	What do people put in tteokguk?
Junho	가래떡을 넣어요. —	They put garaetteok in it.
Hana	꿀떡은 어때요? —	How about kkultteok?
Junho	안에 달콤한 소가 있어요. —	It has a sweet filling inside.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
떡 · 인절미 · 가래떡 · 꿀떡 tteok · injeolmi · garaetteok · kkultteok	rice cake · injeolmi · garaetteok · kkultteok	오늘은 네 단어를 잡아 볼게요. 떡, 인절미, 가래떡, 꿀떡. You will hear these in daily life and on holidays.
떡 tteok	Korean rice cake	네, 떡 is made mainly from rice. It can be chewy, soft, sweet, plain, long, round, or filled.
인절미 injeolmi	soft rice cake coated in roasted soybean powder	이제 첫 번째 이름이에요. 인절미. 인절미 is soft rice cake covered with roasted soybean powder.
떡국 tteokguk	rice-cake soup	맞아요. 가래떡 is often sliced into oval pieces for 떡국, the rice-cake soup many people eat for New Year.
꿀떡 kkultteok	rice cake with a sweet filling	여기서 꿀 literally means honey, but in 꿀떡 it usually points to the sweet syrup-like filling inside.
떡국 → 가래떡 tteokguk → garaetteok	rice-cake soup → garaetteok	So for 떡국, I should not picture little sweet 꿀떡. I should picture sliced 가래떡.
떡 → 큰 이름 tteok → keun ireum	tteok → the broad name	That helps. 떡 is safe as the category, and the special names are more specific.



Grammar / Structure Notes

떡 · 인절미 · 가래떡 · 꿀떡

떡 · 인절미 · 가래떡 · 꿀떡 — rice cake · injeolmi · garaetteok · kkultteok

Four common rice-cake words

이건 ____예요 / 이에요.

이건 ____예요 / 이에요. — This is ____.

So today is not grammar-heavy. We'll learn what each rice cake is called, recognize it, and say when people eat it.

이건 ____예요.

이건 ____예요. — This is ____.

맞아요. 오늘의 기본 문장은 이걸 빈칸 예요, 입니다. In English, this means, this is blank.

이건 떡이에요.

이건 + 떡 + 이에요. — This is rice cake.

If the word ends in a consonant, use 이에요. 이걸 떡이에요. This is rice cake.

이건 떡이에요.

이건 + 떡 + 이에요. — This is rice cake.

이걸 떡이에요. So 떡 is the big category word.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
떡	tteok
가래떡이에요	garaetteok-ieyo
가래떡이에요.	garaetteok-ieyo
꿀떡이에요	kkultteok-ieyo
꿀떡이에요.	kkultteok-ieyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 떡 / 인절미 / 가래떡 / 꿀떡 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
계란말이 / 시금치나물 / 콩나물무침 Naming the Banchan on Your Table	A1 Culture: compare 계란말이 / 시금치나물 / 콩나물무침 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-007
국 Telling Korea's Everyday Soups Apart	A1 Culture: compare 국 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-004
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
누룽지 / 송늬 밥술 바닥에서 태어난 한국의 구수한 마무리	A1 Culture: compare 누룽지 / 송늬 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-005

My Notes

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