



Korean Ladder Study Note

무슨 / 어떤 / 어느

Asking What, What Kind, and Which

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Modifiers & Clauses	무슨 / 어떤 / 어느 Asking What, What Kind, and Which

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kp3zGKh868>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I keep wanting one Korean word for English “what.” What movie, what kind of movie, which movie... then I freeze.

좋은 질문이에요. 무슨, 어떤, and 어느 all come before a noun, but they ask different things.

Today’s goal is simple: use 무슨 for a thing or name, 어떤 for a kind or type, and 어느 for a choice.

먼저 큰 그림이에요. 무슨 asks “what thing.” 어떤 asks “what kind.” 어느 asks “which one among options.”

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어떤 커피 좋아해요? —	What kind of coffee do you like?
Junho	저는 따뜻한 라테 좋아해요. —	I like warm lattes.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그럼 어느 커피 마실래요? —	Then which coffee do you want to drink?
Junho	이 라테 마실래요. —	I'll drink this latte.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
무슨 / 어떤 / 어느 + 명사 museum / eotteon / eoneu + myeongsa	what / what kind of / which + noun	Today's goal is simple: use 무슨 for a thing or name, 어떤 for a kind or type, and 어느 for a choice.
무슨 = what · 어떤 = what kind · 어느 = which museum = what · eotteon = what kind · eoneu = which	Three question words, three jobs	먼저 큰 그림이에요. 무슨 asks "what thing." 어떤 asks "what kind." 어느 asks "which one among options."
무슨 ≠ 어떤 ≠ 어느 —	Not the same question	So they are not just three versions of the same word. They each have a job.
무슨 영화 / 어떤 영화 / 어느 영화 museum yeonghwa / eotteon yeonghwa / eoneu yeonghwa	what movie / what kind of movie / which movie	맞아요. Listen to the difference: 무슨 영화, 어떤 영화, 어느 영화.
무슨 + 명사 museum + myeongsa	what + noun	Let's unpack them one by one, starting with 무슨.
무슨 책 · 무슨 노래 · 무슨 음식 museum chaek · museum norae · museum eumsik	what book · what song · what food	무슨 is very common with things: 무슨 책, 무슨 노래, 무슨 음식. In English, "what book," "what song," "what food."
어떤 + 명사 eotteon + myeongsa	what kind of + noun	Now 어떤. 어떤 asks about kind, style, quality, or description: 어떤 사람, 어떤 음식, 어떤 날씨.
어느 + 명사 eoneu + myeongsa	which + noun	Now 어느. 어느 asks "which" when there is a set of options, even if the options are only understood from the situation.



Grammar / Structure Notes

무슨 / 어떤 / 어느 + 명사

무슨 / 어떤 / 어느 + 명사 — what / what kind of / which + noun

All three modify a noun.

무슨 = what · 어떤 = what kind · 어느 = which

무슨 = what · 어떤 = what kind · 어느 = which — Three question words, three jobs

Use them directly before nouns.

무슨 ≠ 어떤 ≠ 어느

무슨 ≠ 어떤 ≠ 어느 — Not the same question

So they are not just three versions of the same word. They each have a job.

무슨 영화 / 어떤 영화 / 어느 영화

무슨 영화 / 어떤 영화 / 어느 영화 — what movie / what kind of movie / which movie

맞아요. Listen to the difference: 무슨 영화, 어떤 영화, 어느 영화.

무슨 영화 봐요?

무슨 + 영화 + 봐요? — What movie are you watching?

무슨 영화 봐요? means “What movie are you watching?” The answer can be the title.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
무슨 노래예요?	museun noraeyeyo?
어떤 음식 좋아해요?	eotteon eumsik joahaeyo?
어느 가방이 좋아요?	eoneu gabangi joayo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 무슨 / 어떤 / 어느 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
이 / 그 / 저 Pointing at Things Near and Far	A1 Grammar: compare 이 / 그 / 저 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-MOD-001
-(으)ㄴ / 는 / (으)ㄹ 것 같다 Expressing Guesses and Impressions	B2 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄴ / 는 / (으)ㄹ 것 같다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-GRAM-MOD-001
-(으)ㄹ 만큼 / -(으)ㄹ 정도로 Expressing Degree and Extent	C1 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄹ 만큼 / -(으)ㄹ 정도로 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-MOD-002
-는 중이다 / -는 길에 In the Middle of Doing and On the Way	B1 Grammar: compare -는 중이다 / -는 길에 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-MOD-002

My Notes

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