



Korean Ladder Study Note

쯤 / 경

Saying 'About' and 'Around' for Time and Amounts

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	쯤 / 경 Saying 'About' and 'Around' for Time and Amounts

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-015>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mF72Oasm-Xs>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

If I want to say “around seven,” do I say 일곱 시쯤, or 일곱 시경? And can I use those for money too?

좋은 질문이에요. English speakers often need “about” for time, price, age, and number. Korean uses **쯤** very often for everyday estimates.

And **경** also means around, but it is mainly for time or dates, and it sounds more formal or written.

오늘의 패턴은 noun plus **쯤**이에요. In English, it means “about” or “approximately.”

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	몇 시쯤 만날까요? —	About what time shall we meet?
Junho	일곱 시쯤 어때요? —	How about around seven?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	좋아요. 커피는 얼마쯤 해요? —	Good. About how much is coffee?
Junho	오천 원쯤 해요. —	It's about 5,000 won.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
명사 + 쯔 myeongsa + jjeum	noun + about / approximately	오늘의 패턴은 noun plus 쯔이에요. In English, it means “about” or “approximately.”
시간/날짜 + 경 sigan/naljja + gyeong	around a time/date	For time or dates, you can also use noun plus 경. It means “around,” but feels a little more official.
쯔 = everyday estimate —	경 = formal time/date estimate	So 쯔 is my friendly everyday “about,” and 경 is more like “around” for a schedule or notice.
일곱 시쯔 만나요 ilgop sijjeum mannayo	Let's meet around seven o'clock.	맞아요. First, time. 일곱 시쯔 만나요 means “Let's meet around seven o'clock.”
일곱 시쯔 ilgop sijjeum	around seven o'clock	Here, 쯔 attaches right after the time expression. 일곱 시쯔. Around seven.
만 원쯔 해요 man wonjjeum haeyo	It costs about 10,000 won.	For price, 만 원쯔 해요 means “It costs about ten thousand won.”
서른 살쯔이에요 seoreun saljjeumieyo	About thirty years old.	For age, 서른 살쯔이에요 means “I'm about thirty,” or “They are about thirty,” depending on context.
다섯 개쯔 필요해요 daseot gaejjeum piryo haeyo	I need about five.	For quantity, 다섯 개쯔 필요해요 means “I need about five.”



Grammar / Structure Notes

명사 + 쯤

명사 + 쯤 — noun + about / approximately

Everyday speech: time, price, age, quantity

시간/날짜 + 경

시간/날짜 + 경 — around a time/date

More formal than 쯤

쯤 = everyday estimate

쯤 = everyday estimate — 경 = formal time/date estimate

Use 쯤 much more often in daily conversation.

일곱 시쯤 만나요

일곱 시 + 쯤 + 만나요 — Let's meet around seven o'clock.

맞아요. First, time. 일곱 시쯤 만나요 means "Let's meet around seven o'clock."

일곱 시쯤

일곱 시 + 쯤 — around seven o'clock

Here, 쯤 attaches right after the time expression. 일곱 시쯤. Around seven.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
몇 시쯤 만날까요?	myeot sijjeum mannalkkayo?
쯤	jjeum
오전 원쯤 해요	ocheon wonjjeum haeyo
원쯤 · 살쯤 · 개쯤	wonjjeum saljjeum gaejjeum

Self-Check

- 1 Say 쯤 / 경 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
(으)로 Saying 'By', 'With', and 'Toward' in Korean	A1 Grammar: compare (으)로 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-012
도 Saying 'Also', 'Too', and 'Even' in Korean	A1 Grammar: compare 도 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-006
만 Saying 'Only' and 'Just This' with the Particle 만	A1 Grammar: compare 만 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-011
부터 / 까지 Saying 'From' and 'Until' for Time and Place	A1 Grammar: compare 부터 / 까지 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-010

My Notes

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