



Korean Ladder Study Note

끼리

Saying 'Among Ourselves' and 'Between Friends'

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	끼리 Saying 'Among Ourselves' and 'Between Friends'

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-023>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5rcm35FfVQ>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

If I want to say, “Let’s eat, just us,” why can’t I simply use the Korean word for “with”?

좋은 질문이에요. 친구하고는 “with a friend”에 가깝고, 친구끼리는 친구들만 함께한다는 느낌이에요.

예를 들어, 친구끼리 영화 봐요라고 하면 친구들이 함께 영화를 본다는 말이에요. 우리끼리 커피 마셔요는 “just us”라는 뜻이 돼요.

Ah, 끼리 makes the group feel closed, like there are no outsiders.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘은 우리끼리 점심 먹어요. —	Let’s have lunch, just us, today.
Junho	좋아요. 조용한 카페에 가요. —	Sounds good. Let’s go to a quiet café.



Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
친구끼리 · 우리끼리 chingukkiri · urikkiri	among friends · just us	예를 들어, 친구끼리 영화 봐요라고 하면 친구들이 함께 영화를 본다는 말이에요. 우리끼리 커피 마셔요는 “just us”라는 뜻이 돼요.
명사 + 끼리 myeongsa + kkiri	noun + among that group	오늘의 패턴은 명사 뒤의 끼리예요. It means among that group, or just that group.
우리끼리 urikkiri	just us	끼리는 사람이나 모임을 나타내는 말 뒤에 붙어요. It attaches directly to the noun, with no space.
친구끼리 영화 봐요 chingukkiri yeonghwa bwayo	Friends watch a movie together.	친구끼리 영화 봐요. Friends watch a movie together, as friends.
우리끼리 커피 마셔요 urikkiri keopi masyeoyo	Let's drink coffee, just us.	우리끼리 커피 마셔요. It means, “Let's drink coffee, just us.”
가족끼리 gajokkkiri	among family members	네, 맞아요. 가족끼리 여행 가요도 자연스러워요. Family members take a trip together as one family group.
가족끼리 여행 가요 gajokkkiri yeohaeng gayo	Family members go on a trip together.	가족끼리 여행 가요. Family members go on a trip together.
사람이나 모임 + 끼리 saramina moim + kkiri	a person/group noun + among themselves	끼리는 한 사람을 꼭 집지 않아요. 그 안의 사람들 전체를 묶어 줘요. It names the whole in-group, not one partner.



Grammar / Structure Notes

친구끼리 · 우리끼리

친구끼리 · 우리끼리 — among friends · just us

끼리 highlights the people inside one group.

명사 + 끼리

명사 + 끼리 — noun + among that group

Use it after a person or group noun.

우리끼리

우리끼리 — just us

우리 + 끼리, written together

친구끼리 영화 봐요

친구 + 끼리 + 영화 + 봐요 — Friends watch a movie together.

친구끼리 영화 봐요. Friends watch a movie together, as friends.

우리끼리 커피 마세요

우리 + 끼리 + 커피 + 마세요 — Let's drink coffee, just us.

우리끼리 커피 마세요. It means, "Let's drink coffee, just us."

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
끼리	kkiri
우리끼리	urikkiri

Self-Check

- 1 Say 끼리 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
같이 / 와 함께 / 하고 Saying 'Together With' Someone	A1 Grammar: compare 같이 / 와 함께 / 하고 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-017
도 안 / 도 못 / 도 없어요 Saying 'Not Even' with 도 and Negatives	A1 Grammar: compare 도 안 / 도 못 / 도 없어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-021
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

My Notes

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