



Korean Ladder Study Note

누구

Asking Who Did It and Who Someone Is

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Particles	누구 Asking Who Did It and Who Someone Is

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-030>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gs9XWSpgxTQ>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, confession. Last week I wanted to ask my Korean friend, 'Who is coming to the party?' I took the word for who, stuck the subject particle on the end, and she smiled at me. Kindly. But she smiled.

아마 '누구가 와요?'라고 했죠? 규칙은 잘 따랐어요. 그런데 한국 사람들은 그렇게 말하지 않아요. You followed the rule, but Koreans don't say it that way.

자연스러운 질문은 '누가 와요?'예요. The natural question is 누가 와요? Who is coming?

Wait, so the word actually changed shape? Why does that happen?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	오늘 저녁에 누가 와요? —	Who's coming tonight?
Hana	민수 씨하고 지아 씨가 와요. —	Minsu and Jia are coming.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	지아 씨요? 지아 씨는 누구예요? —	Jia? Who is Jia?
Hana	제 대학교 친구예요. —	She's my college friend.
Junho	아, 그렇군요. 그럼 내일은 누구를 만나요? —	Oh, I see. Then who are you meeting tomorrow?
Hana	내일은 동생을 만나요. —	Tomorrow I'm meeting my younger sibling.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
누구 + 가 → 누가 nugu + ga → nuga	who + subject particle = who (as the subject)	'누구'는 'who'라는 뜻이에요. 그런데 주어 조사 '가'를 붙이면 '누구가'가 아니라 '누가'가 돼요. When who is the subject, 누구 plus 가 becomes 누가.
저 + 가 → 제가 · 누구 + 가 → 누가 jeo + ga → jega · nugu + ga → nuga	I → I (subject) · who → who (subject)	이런 단어는 많지 않아요. 저에 가를 붙이면 제가가 되는 것처럼요. Only a few short words change shape before 가, like 제가 for I. 누가 is one of them.
누구를 → 누굴 nugureul → nugul	whom — the relaxed spoken form	말할 때는 '누굴 만나요?'라고 줄여서도 많이 말해요. In everyday speech, 누구를 often shortens to 누굴.
누가 + action nuga + verb	Who does it?	Let me reason it out in English. If the person is doing something, like coming or calling, I use the short subject form. Right?
누구를 + 만나요 · 봐요 · 좋아해요 nugureul + mannayo · bwayo · joahaeyo	meet whom · see whom · like whom	And the third one. If someone is the target of the action, like I meet someone or I call someone, then it's the object form with the extra syllable.



Grammar / Structure Notes

누구 + 가 → 누가

누구 + 가 → 누가 — who + subject particle = who (as the subject)

Never 누구가 ☒

저 + 가 → 제가 · 누구 + 가 → 누가

저 + 가 → 제가 · 누구 + 가 → 누가 — I → I (subject) · who → who (subject)

A few short words change shape before 가

누가 · 누구예요? · 누구를

누가 · 누구예요? · 누구를 — who does it · who is it · whom (object)

그래서 오늘은 세 가지 질문을 배워요. 누가, 누구예요, 그리고 누구를. Three questions, three different jobs.

누가 · 누구예요? · 누구를

누가 · 누구예요? · 누구를 — who does it · who is it · whom (object)

Three jobs for one little word. Okay, I'm ready. Show me.

누가 와요?

누 + 가 + 와 + 요? — Who is coming?

첫 번째. '누가 와요?' Who is coming? 여기서 누가는 오는 사람이에요. 누가 is the one doing the action.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
누가 와요?	nu-ga wa-yo?
누구예요?	nu-gu-ye-yo?
누굴 만나요?	nu-gu-reul man-na-yo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 누구 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
끼리 Saying 'Among Ourselves' and 'Between Friends'	A1 Grammar: compare 끼리 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-023
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

My Notes

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