



Korean Ladder Study Note

가·간·갈·감

Open Syllables vs Nasal and Liquid Finals

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Batchim	가·간·갈·감 Open Syllables vs Nasal and Liquid Finals

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-007>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N4iTrE3FZU>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, confession. I told someone in my building I live on the third floor, and they pressed the button for the fourth floor.

아, 그거 정말 혼한 실수예요. 삼을 말할 때 입술을 안 닫으면 사처럼 들려요. If your lips don't close at the end, three sounds like four.

Wait, so one tiny sound at the very end changes the whole number?

네, 맞아요. 받침 하나로 뜻이 완전히 달라져요. One final consonant, and you have a different word.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	몇 층 가세요? —	Which floor are you going to?
Hana	사 층이요. —	Fourth floor, please.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	삼 층이요? —	Third floor?
Hana	아니요, 삼 말고 사 층이요. —	No, not three. Fourth floor.
Junho	아, 사 층. 알겠습니다. —	Ah, fourth floor. Got it.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
가 · 간 · 갈 · 감 ga · gan · gal · gam	open vowel vs. ㄴ, ㄹ, ㅁ finals	오늘 연습할 소리는 가, 간, 갈, 감이에요. Four syllables with the same start and four different endings.
받침 batchim	final consonant (the bottom of the syllable block)	글자 아래에 붙는 자음을 받침이라고 해요. The consonant sitting at the bottom of the block is called 받침, the final consonant.
가 vs 간 · 갈 · 감 ga vs gan · gal · gam	no final vs. a final	So the first one has no bottom piece at all. Why does that tiny piece matter so much?
사 · 산 · 살 · 삼 sa · san · sal · sam	four · mountain · years old · three	한국어에는 이런 짝이 정말 많아요. Korean has lots of sets like this. Four, mountain, years old, three, all one sound apart.
가 ga	Open Syllables vs Nasal and Liquid Finals	먼저 가. 입을 벌린 채로 모음에서 끝내요. 가. Keep your mouth open and end on the vowel. Nothing comes after it.
간 gan	Open Syllables vs Nasal and Liquid Finals	간. 혀끝을 윗잇몸에 대요. 니은 받침은 코로 울려요. Put your tongue tip up behind your top teeth, keep your lips open, and let it hum through your nose.
갈 gal	Open Syllables vs Nasal and Liquid Finals	갈. 리을 받침은 혀끝을 윗잇몸에 살짝 대고 멈춰요. Tongue tip up, air slips around the sides, and then you simply stop. 갈.
감 gam	Open Syllables vs Nasal and Liquid Finals	감. 미음 받침은 입술을 닫아요. Close your lips at the end and hum. 감. That one means persimmon.



Grammar / Structure Notes

가 · 간 · 갈 · 감

가 · 간 · 갈 · 감 — open vowel vs. ㄴ, ㄹ, ㅁ finals

Same start. Only the ending changes.

받침

받침 — final consonant (the bottom of the syllable block)

가 has none. 간, 갈, 감 each have one.

가 vs 간 · 갈 · 감

가 vs 간 · 갈 · 감 — no final vs. a final

So the first one has no bottom piece at all. Why does that tiny piece matter so much?

사 · 산 · 살 · 삼

사 · 산 · 살 · 삼 — four · mountain · years old · three

Everyday words, one final apart.

가 · 간 · 갈 · 감

가 · 간 · 갈 · 감 — open · tongue + nose · light L · lips closed

So the first one stays open, the second hums with my tongue up, the third is a light L, and the last one closes my lips.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
가	ga
간	gan
갈	gal
감	gam
사 산 살 삼	sa · san · sal · sam
살	sal
삼	sam
사 · 산 · 살 · 삼	sa · san · sal · sam

Self-Check

1 Say 가 · 간 · 갈 · 감 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
가 Hearing Whether a Syllable Ends in a Batchim	A1 Pronunciation: compare 가 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-003
갓·갈·갸·간 Hearing Near-Identical Batchim in Minimal Sets	A1 Pronunciation: compare 갓·갈·갸·간 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-010
달 · 단 · 담 Minimal Pairs for ㄹ, ㄴ, and ㅁ Finals	A1 Pronunciation: compare 달 · 단 · 담 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-008
받침 ㅈ 낮과 낮을 소리로 구별하기	A1 Pronunciation: compare 받침 ㅈ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-016

My Notes

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