



Korean Ladder Study Note

달 · 단 · 담

Minimal Pairs for ㄹ, ㄴ, and ㄷ Finals

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Batchim	달 · 단 · 담 Minimal Pairs for ㄹ, ㄴ, and ㄷ Finals

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-008>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my problem. When I hear 달, 단, and 담, they can all sound like just 다 to me.

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, the last consonant is often short, but it changes the word.

Today's pattern is simple: listen to the final batchim, then say it cleanly without adding an extra vowel.

Listen first, no repeating yet. 달.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 달이 밝아요. —	The moon is bright today.
Junho	네, 그런데 담이 높아서 잘 안 보여요. —	Yes, but the wall is high, so I can't see it well.
Hana	그럼 계단 한 단만 올라가요. —	Then go up just one step.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	좋아요. 이제 달이 보여요. —	Good. Now I can see the moon.
Hana	달이 밝아요. —	The moon is bright.
Junho	담이 높아요. —	The wall is high.
Hana	한 단만 올라가요. —	Go up just one step.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
달 · 단 · 담 dal · dan · dam	moon · step · wall	Today's pattern is simple: listen to the final batchim, then say it cleanly without adding an extra vowel.
달 dal	Minimal Pairs for ㄹ, ㄴ, and ㄷ Finals	달 ends with final 리을. Your tongue touches lightly, and the sound is like a clean Korean L at the end.
단 dan	Minimal Pairs for ㄹ, ㄴ, and ㄷ Finals	단 ends with final 니은. The tongue is in front, and the air goes through your nose.
담 dam	Minimal Pairs for ㄹ, ㄴ, and ㄷ Finals	담 ends with final 미음. Close your lips, and let the sound hum through your nose.
달이 밝아요 dari balgayo	The moon is bright.	Now in real short sentences. 달이 밝아요 means the moon is bright.
계단 한 단이 높아요 gyedan han dani nopayo	One stair step is high.	계단 한 단이 높아요 means one step of the stairs is high. Here 단 is a step or level.
담이 높아요 dami nopayo	The wall is high.	담이 높아요 means the wall is high.
달이 높아요 dari nopayo	The moon is high.	So if I say 달이 높아요, that means the moon is high, not the wall is high.



Grammar / Structure Notes

달 · 단 · 담

달 · 단 · 담 — moon · step · wall

Focus on the final batchim: ㄹ, ㄴ, ㅁ

달

달 — moon; month

Final ㄹ

단

단 — a step; a level

Final ㄴ

담

담 — wall; fence

Final ㅁ

달이 밝아요

달 + 이 + 밝 + 아요 — The moon is bright.

Now in real short sentences. 달이 밝아요 means the moon is bright.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
달	dal
단	dan
담	dam
달, 단, 담	dal · dan · dam

Self-Check

- 1 Say 달 · 단 · 담 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
받침 Final Consonants Made Simple	A1 Pronunciation: compare 받침 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-001
받침은 A Beginner's Map of the 7 Final Sounds	A1 Pronunciation: compare 받침은 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-002
사랑 / 공 / 방 Final ㅇ Without an English 'g' Kick	A1 Pronunciation: compare 사랑 / 공 / 방 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-005

My Notes

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