



Korean Ladder Study Note

갓·갈·갸·간

Hearing Near-Identical Batchim in Minimal Sets

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Batchim	갓·갈·갸·간 Hearing Near-Identical Batchim in Minimal Sets

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-010>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I hear 갓, 갈, and 갸, and honestly, they all sound almost the same to me. How can one tiny final sound change the word?

That is a very real beginner question. At the end of a syllable, several Korean final consonants can sound very close. The next sound, the word boundary, and the situation help you hear the difference.

오늘은 갓, 갈, 갸, 그리고 간을 들어 볼게요. Today, we will hear four short forms and learn the clues that separate them.

핵심은 받침만 따로 듣지 않는 거예요. The key is not to hear the final consonant by itself. Listen to the whole word and what comes next.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 국 간이 좀 세요. —	The soup is a little too strongly seasoned today.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	그래요? 물을 좀 가져올게요. —	Really? I'll get some water.
Hana	저도 같이 가요. —	I'll go with you too.
Junho	아까 마트에 갔어요? —	Did you go to the market earlier?

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
갓 · 갈 · 갯 · 간 gat · gat · gat · gan	Four short forms with very close final sounds.	오늘은 갓, 갈, 갯, 그리고 간을 들어 볼게요. Today, we will hear four short forms and learn the clues that separate them.
받침 + 다음 소리 + 상황 —	Final consonant + next sound + context	핵심은 받침만 따로 듣지 않는 거예요. The key is not to hear the final consonant by itself. Listen to the whole word and what comes next.
갓 → [갓] gat	Hearing Near-Identical Batchim in Minimal Sets	갓이 혼자 끝나면 [갓]처럼 들려요. The final 시옷 is heard as a short stop at the end, so do not expect a clear s sound there.
간이 세요 gani seyo	The seasoning is strong.	간은 음식의 맛을 내는 정도예요. '간이 세요'는 음식의 양념이나 짭맛이 강하다는 뜻이에요. In English, it means the food is strongly seasoned or too salty.
갓 [갓] · 간 [간] gat · gan	Short stop versus final n sound.	Compare 갓 and 간. 갓 ends in a short stop, but 간 keeps the nasal 니은 sound. That final n sound is an important clue.
같이 → [가치] gachi	together	Now meet 갈. By itself, 갈 also ends very close to [갓]. But when it meets 이 in 같이, the sound changes clearly.
같이 gachi	Hearing Near-Identical Batchim in Minimal Sets	같이 means 'together.' Here, the final sound does not stay as a stop. Before 이, it becomes the ch sound you hear in [가치].
받침 뒤에 모음 —	A following vowel can change what you hear.	So, do not freeze the final consonant at the end of the first syllable. Korean sounds often connect to the vowel after them.



Grammar / Structure Notes

갓 · 갈 · 갔 · 간

갓 · 갈 · 갔 · 간 — Four short forms with very close final sounds.

Do not rely on one final sound alone.

받침 + 다음 소리 + 상황

받침 + 다음 소리 + 상황 — Final consonant + next sound + context

Use all three clues together.

갓 왔어요.

갓 + 왔 + 어요. — I just arrived.

먼저 갓이에요. 갓은 'just'라는 뜻이에요. In 갓 왔어요, it means 'I just arrived.'

간이 세요.

간 + 이 + 세요. — The seasoning is strong.

이번에는 간이에요. 간 is the seasoning level or flavor balance in food. It ends with a clear 니은 sound.

간이 세요

간이 세요 — The seasoning is strong.

간 = seasoning level or flavor balance

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
갓	gat
가치	gachi
가씨요	gasseoyo
가니 세요	gani seyo
가니	gani
가뒤편	gat wasseoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 갓·갈·갔·간 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
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 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

My Notes

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