



Korean Ladder Study Note

ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅍ

The Three Korean D/T Sounds

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅍ The Three Korean D/T Sounds

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-006>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXrEh_Az7R4

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Honest question — 달, 탈, 딸. To my ears? Same word three times. What am I missing?

영어에는 D와 T, 두 개뿐이에요. 한국어에는 세 개예요 — 디귤, 티을, 쌍디귤. English gives you two; Korean opens up three.

차이는 바람과 힘이에요. 디귤은 부드럽게, 티을은 바람을 세게, 쌍디귤은 목에 힘을 줘요. Breath and tension — that's the whole secret.

Okay so it's like... 도 is relaxed, 토 I basically breathe out, and 또 I tense up my throat? 도, 토, 또.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	또 만났네요. 오늘 뭐 해요? —	We meet again. What are you up to today?
Junho	토요일이라 좀 쉬어요. —	It's Saturday, so I'm resting a bit.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그럼 도서관 갈래요? —	Then shall we go to the library?

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㄷ · ㅌ · ㅌ d / t / tt	one English D/T → three Korean consonants	영어에는 D와 T, 두 개뿐이에요. 한국어에는 세 개예요 — 디귤, 티을, 쌍디귤. English gives you two; Korean opens up three.
달 dal	The Three Korean D/T Sounds	먼저 디귤. 달 — 밤하늘의 달이에요. 바람 없이 아주 부드럽게, 달.
탈 tal	The Three Korean D/T Sounds	이번엔 티을. 탈 — 얼굴에 쓰는 탈, a mask. 바람을 확 내보내요. 탈.
딸 ttal	The Three Korean D/T Sounds	마지막 쌍디귤. 딸 — 엄마 아빠의 딸, a daughter. 바람은 없지만 목에 힘을 줘요, 조금 높게. 딸.
도 do	The Three Korean D/T Sounds	같은 소리를 짧게도 해볼게요. 도 — 부드럽게, 바람 없이. 도.
토 to	The Three Korean D/T Sounds	토 — 티을이니깐 바람을 세게. 손에 숨이 느껴질 거예요. 토.
또 tto	The Three Korean D/T Sounds	또 — 쌍디귤, 목에 힘을 주고 조금 높게. 바람은 없어요. 또.
도 · 토 · 또 do · to · tto	relaxed → breathy → tense	Okay so it's like... 도 is relaxed, 토 I basically breathe out, and 또 I tense up my throat? 도, 토, 또.



Grammar / Structure Notes

ㄷ · ㅌ · ㅍ

ㄷ · ㅌ · ㅍ — one English D/T → three Korean consonants

평음 · 격음 · 경음

ㄷ · ㅌ · ㅍ

ㄷ · ㅌ · ㅍ — soft → breathy → tense

바람과 힘으로 나눠요

도 · 토 · 또

도 · 토 · 또 — relaxed → breathy → tense

느슨하게 · 바람 · 힘

토 = 바람 O · 도 · 또 = 바람 X

토 = 바람 O · 도 · 또 = 바람 X — only 토 has the puff of air

종이가 흔들리면 티을

ㄷ ㅏ ㄹ

ㄷ + ㅏ + ㄹ — 달 (moon) — plain, soft ㄷ

천천히 뜯어볼게요. 달은 디글, 아, 리을. 첫소리 디글이 부드러워요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
달	dal
탈	tal
딸	ttal
도	do
토	to
또	tto

Self-Check

- 1 Say ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅍ 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
ㄹ 발음 The Korean R/L Sound at the Start and Middle of Words	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄹ 발음 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-002
ㅇ의 두 얼굴 첫소리 묵음과 받침 받침 'ㅇ'	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅇ의 두 얼굴 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-004
ㅈ / ㅊ / ㅉ The Three Korean 'J/Ch' Sounds	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅈ / ㅊ / ㅉ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-003
ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ Aspirated and Tense Consonants	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-001

My Notes

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