



Korean Ladder Study Note

혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리

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Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리 혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-015>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

My question today is very real. Why do 다, 타, 나, and 라 start to blur when I speak faster?

좋은 질문이에요. These four sounds share one neighborhood in your mouth, but they use different air and different movement.

Today's pattern is not a grammar pattern. It is a tongue-tip pattern: put the tongue tip just behind the upper teeth.

혀끝 means tongue tip. 윗니 뒤 means behind the upper teeth. In English, think: touch the small ridge right behind your top teeth.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	다리 보여요? —	Do you see the bridge?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 저 다리 보여요. —	Yes, I see that bridge.
Hana	달도 보여요. —	I can see the moon too.
Junho	맞아요. 나라가 조용해 보여요. —	Right. The country looks quiet.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
혀끝을 윗니 뒤에 hyeokkeuteul winni dwie	tongue tip just behind the upper teeth	Today's pattern is not a grammar pattern. It is a tongue-tip pattern: put the tongue tip just behind the upper teeth.
혀끝 + 윗니 뒤 hyeokkeut + winni dwi	tongue tip + behind the upper teeth	혀끝 means tongue tip. 윗니 뒤 means behind the upper teeth. In English, think: touch the small ridge right behind your top teeth.
앞쪽에 가볍게 apjjoge gabyeopge	lightly toward the front	Right. For these Korean sounds, the tongue tip stays forward. Not tense, not curled deep back.
다 da	혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리	First sound: 디글, written ㄷ. The tongue touches, then releases with a small, soft burst. Listen: 다.
타 ta	혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리	Second sound: 티을, written ㅌ. Same place, but stronger air. Listen: 타.
다 → 타 da → ta	혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리	타. You should feel more air than with 다.
나 na	혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리	Third sound: 니은, written ㄴ. Same tongue place again, but the sound goes through the nose. Listen: 나.
라 ra	혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리	Fourth sound: 리을, written ㄹ. At the start of a syllable, the tongue tip taps quickly. Listen: 라.



Grammar / Structure Notes

혀끝을 윗니 뒤에

혀끝을 윗니 뒤에 — tongue tip just behind the upper teeth

The shared home base for ㄷ, ㅌ, ㄴ, ㄹ

혀끝 + 윗니 뒤

혀끝 + 윗니 뒤 — tongue tip + behind the upper teeth

A light, front-of-mouth contact

앞쪽에 가볍게

앞쪽에 가볍게 — lightly toward the front

Forward and relaxed

소리 + 단어

소리 + 단어 — sound + word

Practice inside real words

달

다 + ㄹ — moon

Listen to 달. It means moon. The first sound is 디글, ㄷ: 달.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
다	da
타	ta
다, 타	da → ta
나	na
라	ra
다 · 타 · 나 · 라	da · ta · na · ra
달, 탈	dal · tal
라, 다리, 나라	ra · dari · nara

Self-Check

- 1 Say 혀끝 자음 ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄴ · ㄹ 자리 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
ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅌ The Three Korean D/T Sounds	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅌ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-006
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
ㄹ / ㄴ / ㅎ The Soft Korean Consonants Beginners Overlook	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄹ / ㄴ / ㅎ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-008
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

My Notes

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