



Korean Ladder Study Note

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Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	ㅁ · ㅍ · ㅂ · ㅅ Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-016>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lggjWJt1Z0>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my beginner problem. 불, 풀, 뽕, and 물 all look kind of tiny and similar, but Koreans hear totally different words. How?

좋은 질문이에요. These are not just spelling differences. Your lips do a different job for each first sound.

핵심은 세 가지예요. 입술 닫기, 공기 내보내기, 그리고 코 울림이에요.

오늘의 패턴은 입술소리예요. In English, these are lip sounds, or bilabial consonants, because both lips close together.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	물 있어요? —	Do you have water?
Junho	네, 물 있어요. —	Yes, we have water.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	풀도 있어요? —	Do you also have grass?
Junho	풀은 없어요. —	We do not have grass.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
입술 닫기 → 공기 내보내기 → 코 울림 ipsul datgi → gonggi naebonaegi → ko ullim	close the lips → release air → nasal vibration	핵심은 세 가지예요. 입술 닫기, 공기 내보내기, 그리고 코 울림이에요.
입술소리 ipsul-sori	lip sound; bilabial sound	오늘의 패턴은 입술소리예요. In English, these are lip sounds, or bilabial consonants, because both lips close together.
ㅂ · ㅍ · ㅃ · ㅁ b/p · p · pp · m	Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants	비읍, 피읚, 쌍비읍, 미읍. 네 소리 모두 입술에서 시작해요.
입술을 먼저 닫아요 ipsureul meonjeo dadayo	Close the lips first.	So I should feel my lips close first, before I worry about the rest of the word.
불 bul	Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants	맞아요. 먼저 불이에요. 비읍은 입술을 닫았다가 가볍게 열어요. 불.
풀 pul	Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants	풀이에요. 피읚은 입술을 닫았다가 공기를 더 세게 내보내요. 풀.
뽕 ppul	Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants	뽕이에요. 쌍비읍은 입술에 힘을 주고 짧게 터뜨려요. 공기를 길게 세게 내는 소리가 아니예요. 뽕.
물 mul	Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants	물이에요. 미읍은 입술을 닫고, 공기를 코로 보내서 울려요. 물.



Grammar / Structure Notes

입술 닫기 → 공기 내보내기 → 코 울림

입술 닫기 → 공기 내보내기 → 코 울림 — close the lips → release air → nasal vibration

Feel the sound, not just the letter.

입술소리

입술소리 — lip sound; bilabial sound

Both lips meet first.

입술을 먼저 닫아요

입술을 먼저 닫아요 — Close the lips first.

Start from the body feeling.

불

ㅅ + ㅍ + ㄴ — fire

이제 하나씩 풀어 볼게요. 불은 비읍으로 시작해요. 입술을 닫았다가 살짝 열어요.

풀

ㅍ + ㅍ + ㄴ — grass

풀은 피읍으로 시작해요. 작은 종이나 티슈를 입 앞에 두면, 공기가 더 잘 느껴져요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
불 · 풀 · 뽕 · 물	b/p · p · pp · m
불	bul
풀	pul
뽕	ppul
물	mul
불, 풀, 뽕, 물	bul · pul · ppul · mul
물, 풀	mul · pul
뽕, 풀	ppul ≠ pul

Self-Check

1 Say ㅅ + ㅍ + ㄴ 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.