



Korean Ladder Study Note

혀 앞 ㄷ · ㅌ

Feeling Front and Back Consonants

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	혀 앞 ㄷ · ㅌ Feeling Front and Back Consonants

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-020>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIAR1Amk0VU>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

When I try 다 and 가, I sometimes land on the same sound. Should I just blow more air?

먼저 혀 위치를 바꿔요. First, change your tongue position. More air alone won't turn 다 into 가.

오늘은 두 위치를 연습해요. Today we practice two places: front for 디글 and 티을, back for 기역 and 키읓.

디글과 티을은 혀끝 쪽을 써요. Use the tip and blade of your tongue near the ridge just behind your upper front teeth.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	감 있어요? —	Do you have a persimmon?
Hana	네. 칼 주세요. —	Yes. Please give me a knife.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	여기 있어요. —	Here you go.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
다 · 가 —	Feeling Front and Back Consonants	다. 가. Listen to the beginning of each syllable. That's the part we're training.
앞: ㄷ · ㅌ / 뒤: ㄱ · ㅋ —	Front: ㄷ and ㅌ. Back: ㄱ and ㅋ.	오늘은 두 위치를 연습해요. Today we practice two places: front for 디글 and 티을, back for 기억 and 키을.
ㄷ · ㅌ → 혀 앞쪽 —	Use the front part of the tongue.	디글과 티을은 혀끝 쪽을 써요. Use the tip and blade of your tongue near the ridge just behind your upper front teeth.
ㄱ · ㅋ → 혀 뒤쪽 —	Use the back part of the tongue.	기억과 키을은 혀 뒤쪽을 써요. Lift the back of your tongue to the soft roof toward the back of your mouth.
다 · 타 —	Feeling Front and Back Consonants	다. 타. Both begin at the front. Keep the tongue's contact point in the same area.
가 · 카 —	Feeling Front and Back Consonants	가. 카. Both begin at the back. Your tongue tip doesn't make the seal.
달 dal	moon	달. 달 means moon. Notice the front contact at the start.
탈 tal	mask	탈. 탈 means mask. Again, start at the front, with an airy release.



Grammar / Structure Notes

앞: ㄷ · ㅌ / 뒤: ㄱ · ㅋ

앞: ㄷ · ㅌ / 뒤: ㄱ · ㅋ — Front: ㄷ and ㅌ. Back: ㄱ and ㅋ.

Two places where the tongue briefly blocks the air.

ㄷ · ㅌ → 혀 앞쪽

ㄷ · ㅌ → 혀 앞쪽 — Use the front part of the tongue.

Contact near the ridge behind the upper front teeth.

ㄱ · ㅋ → 혀 뒤쪽

ㄱ · ㅋ → 혀 뒤쪽 — Use the back part of the tongue.

The back of the tongue contacts the soft palate.

달

달 — moon

ㄷ: front contact.

탈

탈 — mask

ㅌ: front contact with an airy release.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
다 · 가	Listen to the opening consonant.
다, 타	Same front contact area.
가, 카	The back of the tongue makes the closure.
타 → 카	Move the closure. Don't just add force.
가	Relax the tip. Lift the back. Don't squeeze the throat.
목표: 다 · 가	The second syllable needs back contact.
타 · 카	Airy front, then airy back.
탈 · 칼	Mask versus knife: same ending, different opening place.

Self-Check

1 Say 혀 앞 ㄷ · ㅌ 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
ㄴ / ㄷ / ㅎ The Soft Korean Consonants Beginners Overlook	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄴ / ㄷ / ㅎ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-008
ㅁ · ㄴ · ㅇ 콧소리 자리 Feeling Where Korean Nasals Are Made	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅁ · ㄴ · ㅇ 콧소리 자리 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-019

My Notes

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