



Korean Ladder Study Note

바다

Hearing and Producing Initial ㅂ and ㅍ

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	바다 Hearing and Producing Initial ㅂ and ㅍ

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-026>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hd_guNYRdQ8

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, confession. At a Korean barbecue, I asked for water, and the server reached for the grill instead.

And when Koreans say the word for water, I sometimes hear fire. Are those really that close?

오늘의 핵심은 첫소리에요. Today's key is the first sound. 비읍과 미읍, 둘 다 입술을 닫고 시작해요. Both start with closed lips.

차이는 공기가 나가는 길이에요. The difference is the path of the air. 비읍은 입으로, 미읍은 코로 나가요. 비읍 goes out through the mouth. 미읍 goes through the nose.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저 말을 보세요. —	Look at that horse.
Junho	네, 저기 있는 갈색 말이에요. —	Yes, it's the brown horse over there.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	말이 정말 빨라요. —	The horse is really fast.
Junho	말에서 내릴 때 발을 조심하세요. —	Watch your feet when you get off the horse.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
물 좀 주세요 mul jom juseyo	Water, please.	네, 정말 비슷하게 들릴 수 있어요. They really can sound close. 물 좀 주세요는 'water, please.' 그리고 불은 fire예요.
ㅂ · ㅁ b · m	Both start with closed lips.	오늘의 핵심은 첫소리예요. Today's key is the first sound. 비읍과 미음, 둘 다 입술을 닫고 시작해요. Both start with closed lips.
ㅂ = 입 · ㅁ = 코 b = ip · m = ko	ㅂ: air out the mouth · ㅁ: air through the nose	차이는 공기가 나가는 길이에요. The difference is the path of the air. 비읍은 입으로, 미음은 코로 나가요. 비읍 goes out through the mouth. 미음 goes through the nose.
불 · 물 · 발 · 말 bul · mul · bal · mal	fire · water · foot · horse	단어가 바뀌니까요. Because the word changes. 불은 fire, 물은 water. 발은 foot, 말은 horse.
불 · 물 bul · mul	Hearing and Producing Initial ㅂ and ㅁ	들어 보세요. Listen. 불. 물.
발 · 말 bal · mal	Hearing and Producing Initial ㅂ and ㅁ	발. 말. 발은 foot, 말은 horse.
바다 bada	Hearing and Producing Initial ㅂ and ㅁ	그리고 바다. 바다는 sea예요. 비읍으로 시작해요. It starts with 비읍.
날마다 nalmada	every day	마다는 조금 달라요. 마다 is a little particle that means 'every.' 명사에 붙여요. You attach it to a noun, like 날마다, every day.



Grammar / Structure Notes

물 좀 주세요

물 + 좀 + 주세요 — Water, please.

네, 정말 비슷하게 들릴 수 있어요. They really can sound close. 물 좀 주세요는 'water, please.' 그리고 불은 fire예요.

ㅁ · ㅁ

ㅁ · ㅁ — Both start with closed lips.

The difference is where the air goes.

ㅁ = 입 · ㅁ = 코

ㅁ = 입 · ㅁ = 코 — ㅁ: air out the mouth · ㅁ: air through the nose

차이는 공기가 나가는 길이에요. The difference is the path of the air. 비읍은 입으로, 미읍은 코로 나가요. 비읍 goes out through the mouth. 미읍 goes through the nose.

ㅁ = 입 · ㅁ = 코

ㅁ = 입 · ㅁ = 코 — ㅁ: air out the mouth · ㅁ: air through the nose

So same lips, but a different exit for the air. Why does that matter so much?

불 · 물 · 발 · 말

불 · 물 · 발 · 말 — fire · water · foot · horse

단어가 바뀌니까요. Because the word changes. 불은 fire, 물은 water. 발은 foot, 말은 horse.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
불 · 물	bul · mul
발 · 말	bal · mal
바다	bada
물	mul
불	bul
물 · 불	mul · bul
ㅁ	m
ㅂ	b

Self-Check



- 1 Say 바다 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 / ㅍ The Three Korean D/T Sounds	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅍ 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
ㄴ · ㄷ · ㄹ · ㅎ 콧소리 자리 Feeling Where Korean Nasals Are Made	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄴ · ㄷ · ㄹ · ㅎ 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.