



Korean Ladder Study Note

사람 / 친구 / 남자 / 여자 / 아이

Your First Words for People

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Family & People	사람 / 친구 / 남자 / 여자 / 아이 Your First Words for People

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FAM-001>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3GQiAs9fyU>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. I learned 엄마 and 아빠 — mom and dad. But what do I call a random person on the street? I don't have a word for just... a person.

Right! And when I point and say "that man" or "that kid" — I just freeze. I only know family words.

완벽한 질문이에요. That's exactly today's lesson. Five words that unlock almost anyone you'll ever need to talk about.

여기 다섯 단어예요. Here are the five. 사람 means person. In English, just "person" or "people."

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 사람은 누구예요? —	Who is this person?
Junho	이 사람은 제 친구예요. —	This person is my friend.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저 남자는요? —	And that man?
Junho	저 남자는 제 친구의 아이예요. —	That man is my friend's child.
Hana	이 ___은/는 누구예요? —	Who is this ___?
Junho	이 ___은/는 제 친구예요. —	This ___ is my friend.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
사람 saram	person / people	여기 다섯 단어예요. Here are the five. 사람 means person. In English, just "person" or "people."
친구 chingu	friend	친구예요. 친구 means friend. In English, "friend."
남자 namja	man / male	남자예요. 남자 means man, or male. In English, "man."
여자 yeoja	woman / female	여자예요. 여자 means woman, or female. In English, "woman."
아이 ai	child / kid	그리고 아이예요. 아이 means child, or kid. In English, "child."
이 사람은 제 친구예요 i saram-eun je chingu-yeyo	This person is my friend	좋은 질문이에요. We combine each word with the little markers you already met — 이 사람은 제 친구예요.
저 여자가 제 친구예요 jeo yeoja-ga je chingu-yeyo	That woman is my friend	그리고 이/가 도 있어요. We also have 이 and 가 — those mark the subject, the doer. 저 여자가 제 친구예요. That woman is my friend.
사람은 / 사람이 saram-eun / saram-i	for words ending in a consonant	받침으로 결정해요. It's decided by the last sound. If the word ends in a consonant, use 은 or 이. 사람 ends in ㅁ 미음, so — 사람은, 사람이.



Grammar / Structure Notes

사람

사람 — person / people

the most useful people word

친구

친구 — friend

same word for one friend or friends

남자

남자 — man / male

any male person

여자

여자 — woman / female

any female person

아이

아이 — child / kid

often shortened to 애 in speech

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
이 사람은 제 친구예요	i saram-eun je chingu-yeyo
사라문	saram-eun

Self-Check

- 1 Say 사람 / 친구 / 남자 / 여자 / 아이 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
사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 Extended Family and In-Law Terms	C1 Vocabulary: compare 사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-VOCAB-FAM-001
엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 Naming Your Family	A2 Vocabulary: compare 엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FAM-001
Counting in Korean Native vs Sino Numbers	A1 Vocabulary: compare Counting in Korean with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-001
물 / 커피 / 밥 Essential Food Words	A1 Vocabulary: compare 물 / 커피 / 밥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FOO-001

My Notes

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