



Korean Ladder Study Note

이웃 / 옆집 / 아랫집 / 윗집

Talking About Your Neighbors

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Family & People	이웃 / 옆집 / 아랫집 / 윗집 Talking About Your Neighbors

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FAM-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmOlsxs2V7c>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Real question. If someone lives near me, do I call them 이웃, 옆집, 윗집, or 아랫집? I keep mixing them up.

좋은 질문이에요. Korean has handy words for exactly where a neighbor lives: next door, upstairs, or downstairs.

오늘의 핵심은 네 단어예요. 이웃 is neighbor in general. 옆집 is the home next door. 아랫집 is the downstairs home. 윗집 is the upstairs home.

여기서 집 means home or house. So 옆집 is literally the home beside yours, but in daily Korean it often means the next-door neighbor too.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저분은 누구예요? —	Who is that person?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	옆집 분이에요. —	They are the person next door.
Hana	아, 이웃이시군요. —	Oh, they are a neighbor.
Junho	네, 자주 인사해요. —	Yes, we often say hello.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
이웃 · 옆집 · 아랫집 · 윗집 iut · yeopjip · araetjip · witjip	neighbor · next-door home · downstairs home · upstairs home	오늘의 핵심은 네 단어예요. 이웃 is neighbor in general. 옆집 is the home next door. 아랫집 is the downstairs home. 윗집 is the upstairs home.
옆 + 집 = 옆집 yeop + jip = yeopjip	side + home = the home next door	여기서 집 means home or house. So 옆집 is literally the home beside yours, but in daily Korean it often means the next-door neighbor too.
옆집 사람 · 옆집 분 yeopjip saram · yeopjip bun	the person next door · the person next door, polite	But if you want to be very clear that you mean a person, say 사람, or more politely, 분.
이웃이에요 iut-ieyo	They are a neighbor.	먼저 이웃이에요. 이웃 is a general neighbor, someone who lives nearby.
옆집 사람이예요 yeopjip saram-ieyo	They are the next-door neighbor.	다음은 옆집 사람이예요. This means the person from next door, or the next-door neighbor.
옆집 분이에요 yeopjip bun-ieyo	They are the person next door, polite.	옆집 분이에요 is a little more polite. In English, think, the person next door.
아랫집 사람이예요 araetjip saram-ieyo	They are the downstairs neighbor.	아랫집 사람이예요. This means the downstairs neighbor, the person living below you.
윗집 사람이예요 witjip saram-ieyo	They are the upstairs neighbor.	윗집 사람이예요. This means the upstairs neighbor, the person living above you.



Grammar / Structure Notes

이웃 · 옆집 · 아랫집 · 윗집

이웃 · 옆집 · 아랫집 · 윗집 — neighbor · next-door home · downstairs home · upstairs home

Add 사람 or 분 when you clearly mean the person.

옆 + 집 = 옆집

옆 + 집 = 옆집 — side + home = the home next door

Often used for the next-door neighbor in context.

옆집 사람 · 옆집 분

옆집 사람 · 옆집 분 — the person next door · the person next door, polite

분 is a polite word for person.

이웃이에요

이웃 + 이에요 — They are a neighbor.

먼저 이웃이에요. 이웃 is a general neighbor, someone who lives nearby.

이웃이에요

이웃 + 이에요 — They are a neighbor.

이웃이에요. Use this when the exact direction is not important.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
옆집	yeopjip
아랫집	araetjip
윗집	witjip

Self-Check

- 1 Say 이웃 / 옆집 / 아랫집 / 윗집 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
사람 / 친구 / 남자 / 여자 / 아이 Your First Words for People	A1 Vocabulary: compare 사람 / 친구 / 남자 / 여자 / 아이 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FAM-001
아들 / 딸 / 손자 / 손녀 Talking About Children and Grandchildren	A1 Vocabulary: compare 아들 / 딸 / 손자 / 손녀 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FAM-003
할아버지 / 할머니 / 누나 / 동생 More Family Members	A1 Vocabulary: compare 할아버지 / 할머니 / 누나 / 동생 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FAM-002
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

My Notes

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