



Korean Ladder Study Note

배추 / 무 / 오이 / 고추

Grocery Vegetables for Everyday Korean Cooking

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Food & Dining	배추 / 무 / 오이 / 고추 Grocery Vegetables for Everyday Korean Cooking

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FOO-019>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzVZO8tVzsl>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

At a Korean market, I can point at vegetables. But how do I actually ask for cucumbers instead of just saying, 'That green thing'?

오이는 cucumber예요. The name is 오이. Once you know the name, a very short phrase can do the shopping work.

Good. Give me a tiny vegetable shopping list, not the whole supermarket.

오늘의 채소는 배추, 무, 오이, 고추예요. Today's four vegetables are napa cabbage, Korean radish, cucumber, and chili pepper.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	배추 있어요? —	Do you have napa cabbage?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 있어요. —	Yes, we do.
Hana	이거 주세요. —	This one, please.
Junho	네. —	Certainly.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
배추 · 무 · 오이 · 고추 —	Napa cabbage · Korean radish · Cucumber · Chili pepper	오늘의 채소는 배추, 무, 오이, 고추예요. Today's four vegetables are napa cabbage, Korean radish, cucumber, and chili pepper.
배추 —	Napa cabbage	배추. Napa cabbage. 배추는 김치에 많이 써요. Napa cabbage is often used in kimchi. Think of the long cabbage with pale, crinkly leaves.
무 —	Korean radish	무. Korean radish. 무는 국에 넣어요. We put Korean radish in soup. It is a thick root, usually white with a pale green shoulder.
오이 —	Cucumber	오이. Cucumber. 오이는 아삭아삭해요. Cucumbers are crunchy. Think of a long green cucumber, ready to slice.
고추 —	Chili pepper	고추. Chili pepper. 고추는 매운 것도 있어요. Some chili peppers are spicy. The word alone does not tell you exactly how hot they are.
배추 ≠ 양배추 —	Napa cabbage ≠ Round green cabbage	배추와 양배추는 달라요. Napa cabbage and round cabbage have different names. English often calls both 'cabbage,' but Korean makes this distinction.



Grammar / Structure Notes

배추 · 무 · 오이 · 고추

배추 · 무 · 오이 · 고추 — Napa cabbage · Korean radish · Cucumber · Chili pepper

Four everyday produce names

이거 주세요.

이거 주세요. — This one, please.

Use while pointing to your choice.

배추 있어요?

배추 있어요? — Do you have napa cabbage?

Vegetable name + 있어요?

배추

배추 — Napa cabbage

Long, leafy cabbage often used in kimchi

무

무 — Korean radish

A thick root vegetable used in soups and side dishes

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
오이	Two clear syllables, joined smoothly.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 배추 / 무 / 오이 / 고추 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
국물 / 건더기 / 육수 Broth Words You'll Hear at Every Korean Table	A1 Vocabulary: compare 국물 / 건더기 / 육수 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FOO-007
국물 있는 거 Ordering Brothy Versus Mixed Dishes	A1 Vocabulary: compare 국물 있는 거 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FOO-009
국수 / 라면 / 칼국수 / 냉면 Your First Korean Noodle Words	A1 Vocabulary: compare 국수 / 라면 / 칼국수 / 냉면 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FOO-006
군것질 / 간식 / 후식 Snacks, Nibbles, and Dessert	A1 Vocabulary: compare 군것질 / 간식 / 후식 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FOO-005

My Notes

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