



Korean Ladder Study Note

강아지 / 고양이 / 새

Your First Korean Animal Words

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Nature & Weather	강아지 / 고양이 / 새 Your First Korean Animal Words

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NAT-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6GWdLJEKrs>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question — I know 강아지 means puppy, but I keep pointing at every dog and saying it. Is that wrong?

그건 아주 좋은 질문이에요. That's a great question. 강아지 really means 'puppy,' but Koreans say it for any cute dog too.

So today we learn five everyday animals, and one little counting word. Let's build them one at a time.

네 번째, 물고기. The fourth — 물고기, a fish. 물 means water, so it's literally a 'water-fish.'

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	집에 강아지가 있어요. —	There's a puppy at home.
Junho	몇 마리 있어요? —	How many are there?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	두 마리 있어요. —	There are two.
Junho	저는 고양이를 좋아해요. —	I like cats.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
강아지 gang-a-ji	puppy (also a sweet word for 'dog')	그건 아주 좋은 질문이에요. That's a great question. 강아지 really means 'puppy,' but Koreans say it for any cute dog too.
동물 dong-mul	animal	So today we learn five everyday animals, and one little counting word. Let's build them one at a time.
고양이 go-yang-i	Your First Korean Animal Words	두 번째, 고양이. The second one — 고양이, a cat. 고양이는 조용해요. The cat is quiet.
새 sae	Your First Korean Animal Words	세 번째, 새. The third — 새, a bird. It's short, just one syllable.
물고기 mul-go-gi	fish	네 번째, 물고기. The fourth — 물고기, a fish. 물 means water, so it's literally a 'water-fish.'
토끼 to-kki	Your First Korean Animal Words	다섯 번째, 토끼. The fifth — 토끼, a rabbit. 토끼는 귀여워요. The rabbit is cute.
있어요 iss-eo-yo	there is / I have	완벽해요. Perfect. Now, how do we say 'there is a puppy'? We add the word 있어요.
강아지가 있어요 gang-a-ji-ga iss-eo-yo	There is a puppy.	강아지가 있어요. There is a puppy. The little 가 marks 강아지 as the one that exists.



Grammar / Structure Notes

강아지

강아지 — puppy (also a sweet word for 'dog')

개 = dog, but 강아지 sounds friendlier

동물

동물 — animal

Today's five friends

물고기

물고기 — fish

물 (water) + 고기 → the fish you see swimming

있어요

있어요 — there is / I have

Your all-purpose 'exists' word

강아지가 있어요

강아지 + 가 + 있어요 — There is a puppy.

강아지가 있어요. There is a puppy. The little 가 marks 강아지 as the one that exists.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
강아지	gang-a-ji
고양이	go-yang-i
새	sae
토끼	to-kki
새가 있어요	sae-ga iss-eo-yo
물고기를 좋아해요	mul-go-gi-reul jo-a-hae-yo
토끼 세 마리 있어요	to-kki se ma-ri iss-eo-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 강아지 / 고양이 / 새 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
산 / 바다 / 하늘 / 나무 Your First Korean Nature Words	A1 Vocabulary: compare 산 / 바다 / 하늘 / 나무 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NAT-001
기후 변화 / 생태계 / 지속 가능성 Talking About the Environment	C1 Vocabulary: compare 기후 변화 / 생태계 / 지속 가능성 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-VOCAB-NAT-001
미세먼지 / 장마 / 폭염 / 황사 Weather and Environment News	B2 Vocabulary: compare 미세먼지 / 장마 / 폭염 / 황사 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-VOCAB-NAT-001
비 / 눈 / 바람 Talking About the Weather	A2 Vocabulary: compare 비 / 눈 / 바람 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-NAT-001

My Notes

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