



Korean Ladder Study Note

영 / 공 / 백 / 천 / 만

Reading Big Sino Numbers Out Loud

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Numbers & Counting	영 / 공 / 백 / 천 / 만 Reading Big Sino Numbers Out Loud

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILvrljLNe54>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. I can count 하나, 둘, 셋... but the second someone says a phone number fast, I'm completely lost.

That's because those big numbers aren't 하나, 둘, 셋 at all. Phone numbers and prices use a totally different set.

Korean has two number systems. Native Korean for counting things, and Sino-Korean for digits, money, and dates. Today is all Sino-Korean.

Let's build the toolkit. The single digits first. 일, 이, 삼, 사 — one, two, three, four.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 커피 얼마예요? —	How much is this coffee?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	사천오백 원이에요. —	It's 4,500 won.
Hana	카드 돼요? —	Can I pay by card?
Junho	네, 돼요. —	Yes, you can.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
한자어 숫자 hanja-eo sutja	Sino-Korean numbers	Korean has two number systems. Native Korean for counting things, and Sino-Korean for digits, money, and dates. Today is all Sino-Korean.
일 · 이 · 삼 · 사 il · i · sam · sa	1 · 2 · 3 · 4	Let's build the toolkit. The single digits first. 일, 이, 삼, 사 — one, two, three, four.
오 · 육 · 칠 · 팔 · 구 o · yuk · chil · pal · gu	5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9	오, 육, 칠, 팔, 구 — five, six, seven, eight, nine. Say them with me: 오, 육, 칠, 팔, 구.
일 이 삼 사 오 육 칠 팔 구 il i sam sa o yuk chil pal gu	1-9, the whole run	So one through nine is 일, 이, 삼, 사, 오, 육, 칠, 팔, 구. Got it. But what about zero?
영 / 공 yeong / gong	zero — two words	Great question — and zero is special. Korean has two words for it: 영 and 공.
영 yeong	zero (math, temperature, score)	영 is the mathematical zero — temperatures, scores, calculations. 영 도, zero degrees. 이 대 영, two to zero.
공 gong	zero (phone numbers)	But in a phone number, we almost always say 공. 공 sounds clear and round on the phone. 공일공, that's oh-one-oh.
전화번호 → 공 jeonhwa-beonho → gong	In phone numbers, zero = 공	Okay so temperature and scores are 영, but when I read out a phone number, every zero becomes 공?



Grammar / Structure Notes

한자어 숫자

한자어 숫자 — Sino-Korean numbers

Used for phone numbers, prices, dates, addresses

일 · 이 · 삼 · 사

일 · 이 · 삼 · 사 — 1 · 2 · 3 · 4

Let's build the toolkit. The single digits first. 일, 이, 삼, 사 — one, two, three, four.

오 · 육 · 칠 · 팔 · 구

오 · 육 · 칠 · 팔 · 구 — 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9

오, 육, 칠, 팔, 구 — five, six, seven, eight, nine. Say them with me: 오, 육, 칠, 팔, 구.

일 이 삼 사 오 육 칠 팔 구

일 이 삼 사 오 육 칠 팔 구 — 1-9, the whole run

So one through nine is 일, 이, 삼, 사, 오, 육, 칠, 팔, 구. Got it. But what about zero?

영 / 공

영 / 공 — zero — two words

The choice depends on what you're reading

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
삼천오백	samcheon-obaek
사천오백 원	sacheon-obaek won
이만 오천	iman ocheon
공일공	gong-il-gong
공일공 예, 전화는 공	gong-il-gong e, jeonhwa-neun gong
공일공 이삼사오 육칠팔구	gong-il-gong i-sam-sa-o yuk-chil-pal-gu
육칠팔구	yuk-chil-pal-gu

Self-Check

- 1 Say 영 / 공 / 백 / 천 / 만 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
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
가격 / 원 / 할인 / 만 원 Talking About Money and Prices	B2 Vocabulary: compare 가격 / 원 / 할인 / 만 원 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-VOCAB-NUM-001
개 / 명 / 마리 / 잔 / 권 Korean Counters for Everything	B1 Vocabulary: compare 개 / 명 / 마리 / 잔 / 권 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-NUM-001
첫째 / 둘째 / 몇 번째 Korean Ordinal Numbers	A2 Vocabulary: compare 첫째 / 둘째 / 몇 번째 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-NUM-001

My Notes

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