



Korean Ladder Study Note

지금 / 이따가 / 나중에

Saying Now, In a Bit, and Later

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Time & Date	지금 / 이따가 / 나중에 Saying Now, In a Bit, and Later

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJNG5QhjWc4>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. When someone says 'see you later,' I just say 나중에 봐요 for everything.

아, 그 실수 많이 해요. In English, 'later' covers a lot. In Korean, we split it.

오늘은 세 단어만 배워요. 지금, 이따가, 나중에. Today — just three words: now, in a bit, and later.

이 세 개는 시간 관계 단어예요. These mark when something happens — right now, soon today, or later sometime.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	지금 바빠요? —	Are you busy now?
Junho	네, 지금 회의 중이에요. —	Yes, I'm in a meeting now.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그럼 이따가 전화해요. —	Then call me in a little while.
Junho	네. 나중에 밥도 먹어요. —	Okay. Let's eat later too.
Hana	지금 바빠요? —	Are you busy now?
Junho	네, 지금 회의 중이에요. —	Yes, I'm in a meeting now.
Hana	그럼 이따가 전화해요. —	Then call me in a little while.
Junho	네. 나중에 밥도 먹어요. —	Okay. Let's eat later too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
지금 / 이따가 / 나중에 jigeum / ittaga / najunge	now / in a little while / later	이 세 개는 시간 관계 단어예요. These mark when something happens — right now, soon today, or later sometime.
지금 jigeum	now; right now	지금 is right now. 이 순간이에요. In English — this exact moment.
이따가 ittaga	in a little while; later today	이따가는 조금 뒤에예요. 오늘 안에, 곧. In English — in a little while, same day.
나중에 najunge	later; sometime later	나중에는 더 넓어요. 오늘일 수도 있고, 다른 날일 수도 있어요. Later — more open, not pinned to soon.
이따가 ≠ 나중에 ittaga ≠ najunge	soon today vs later sometime	So 이따가 is 'in a bit today,' and 나중에 is the vague 'later' bucket?
지금 바빠요 jigeum bappayo	I'm busy now.	들어 보세요. 지금 바빠요. I'm busy now.
이따가 전화해요 ittaga jeonhwaheoyo	Call me in a little while.	다음 문장이에요. 이따가 전화해요. Call me in a little while.
나중에 봐요 najunge bwayo	See you later.	그리고 이 문장. 나중에 봐요. See you later — timing left open.



Grammar / Structure Notes

지금 / 이따가 / 나중에

지금 / 이따가 / 나중에 — now / in a little while / later

same-day soon vs open later

지금

지금 — now; right now

this moment

이따가

이따가 — in a little while; later today

same day, soon

나중에

나중에 — later; sometime later

open timing

이따가 ≠ 나중에

이따가 ≠ 나중에 — soon today vs later sometime

don't swap them freely

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
지금	jigeum
이따가	ittaga
나중에	najunge
지금, 이따가, 나중에	jigeum · ittaga · najunge

Self-Check

- 1 Say 지금 / 이따가 / 나중에 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
아침 / 점심 / 저녁 / 밤 The Parts of a Korean Day	A1 Vocabulary: compare 아침 / 점심 / 저녁 / 밤 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-TIM-002
오늘 / 내일 / 어제 Talking About Days	A1 Vocabulary: compare 오늘 / 내일 / 어제 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-TIM-001
일월 / 이월 / 삼월 The Twelve Months of the Year	A1 Vocabulary: compare 일월 / 이월 / 삼월 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-TIM-003
몇 시예요 시 / 분 / 반으로 시간 말하기	A2 Vocabulary: compare 몇 시예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-TIM-001

My Notes

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