



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 떡볶이 / 김밥 / 라면

## Inside a Korean 분식 Snack Bar

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Culture Food Culture	떡볶이 / 김밥 / 라면 Inside a Korean 분식 Snack Bar

## Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-FCL-001>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQIWmnVAiF4>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

## Core Idea

Okay, real question — I keep seeing the word 분식 on little orange signs. Is that a brand? A dish?

I assumed it meant 'restaurant.' But every 분식 place has the exact same short menu. What's going on?

좋은 질문이에요. 분식 isn't one food — it's a whole category of cheap, fast snack food. 분(粉) means flour, so 분식 literally is 'flour food.'

In English, think 'snack bar' or 'street-food diner.' Cheap, fast, and comforting. You go for a quick, filling bite — not a fancy dinner.

## Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	떡볶이 얼마예요? —	How much is the tteokbokki?
Junho	삼천 원이에요. —	It's 3,000 won.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	떡볶이 하나 주세요. —	One tteokbokki, please.
Junho	네, 잠시만요. —	Sure, one moment.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
분식 bun-sik	flour-based snack food (a category, not one dish)	좋은 질문이에요. 분식 isn't one food — it's a whole category of cheap, fast snack food. 분(粉) means flour, so 분식 literally is 'flour food.'
분식집 bun-sik-jjip	a snack bar / snack diner	In English, think 'snack bar' or 'street-food diner.' Cheap, fast, and comforting. You go for a quick, filling bite — not a fancy dinner.
떡볶이 tteok-bokk-i	spicy stir-fried rice cakes	Let's meet the big three. First — 떡볶이. Chewy rice cakes in a sweet-spicy red sauce.
김밥 gim-bap	seaweed rice roll	Next — 김밥. Rice and fillings rolled in seaweed. It looks like sushi's cousin, but the rice is seasoned with sesame oil, not vinegar.
라면 ra-myeon	instant ramyeon noodles	And 라면 — instant ramyeon. In a 분식 place it comes bubbling in a little pot, often with an egg cracked on top.
밥 bap	cooked rice; also 'a meal'	맞아요. 밥 is cooked rice — and also 'a meal.' So many food words hide 밥 inside them.
학교 앞 분식집 hak-gyo ap bun-sik-jjip	the snack bar in front of the school	정확해요. Students eat it after school, workers grab it between shifts. It's the food of everyday Korea.
___ 주세요 ___ ju-se-yo	Please give me ___.	그게 다예요. ___ 주세요 — 'please give me ___.' Put the food in the blank. 김밥 주세요, 라면 주세요.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 분식

분식 — flour-based snack food (a category, not one dish)

분 = flour · 식 = food

### 분식집

분식집 — a snack bar / snack diner

집 = house/shop → the place itself

### 떡볶이

떡볶이 — spicy stir-fried rice cakes

the icon of 분식

### 떡볶이

떡 + 볶이 — stir-fried rice cake

떡 means rice cake, and 볶이 comes from 볶다 — 'to stir-fry.' So 떡볶이 is 'stir-fried rice cake.'

### 김밥

김밥 — seaweed rice roll

김 = seaweed · 밥 = rice

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
김밥 하나 주세요.	gim-bap ha-na ju-se-yo
김밥	gim-bap
떡볶이 일 인분 주세요.	tteok-bokk-i il in-bun ju-se-yo
떡볶이	tteok-bokk-i

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 떡볶이 / 김밥 / 라면 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
김치 / 반찬 / 밥 Korean Table Basics	A1 Culture: compare 김치 / 반찬 / 밥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-001</a>
배달 음식 / 치맥 Korea's Delivery and Late-Night Food Culture	B2 Culture: compare 배달 음식 / 치맥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-FCL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-FCL-001</a>
제사 / 차례상 Ancestral Rites and the Ritual Table	C1 Culture: compare 제사 / 차례상 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-FCL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-FCL-001</a>
찌개 / 국물 / Sharing Food and Soup Culture	B1 Culture: compare 찌개 / 국물 / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-CULTURE-FCL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-CULTURE-FCL-001</a>

## My Notes

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