



Korean Ladder Study Note

반찬 리필 / 물은 셀프

한국 식당의 셀프 서비스 규칙

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Culture Food Culture	반찬 리필 / 물은 셀프 한국 식당의 셀프 서비스 규칙

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-FCL-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4lYXsD-jxM>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Real question. In a Korean restaurant, do I wait for someone to pour my water, or do I just... get it myself?

좋은 질문이에요. 많은 한국 식당에서는 물을 직접 가져와요. In English, water is often self-service.

오늘의 문화 키워드는 셀프예요. Self means you handle some small things yourself: water, utensils, and sometimes checkout.

조사 ‘은/는’은 주제를 나타내요. In English, it marks the topic — as for water.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	물은 셀프예요. —	Water is self-service.
Junho	수저도 셀프예요. —	Utensils are also self-service.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	반찬 더 주세요. —	Please give me more side dishes.
Junho	네, 금방 가져다드릴게요. —	Sure, I'll bring them right away.
Hana	벨을 눌러도 돼요? —	Is it okay to press the call button?
Junho	네, 누르시면 돼요. —	Yes, you can press it.
Hana	계산은 어디서 하면 돼요? —	Where should I pay?
Junho	카운터에서 하시면 돼요. —	You can pay at the counter.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
셀프 selpeu	self-service	오늘의 문화 키워드는 셀프예요. Self means you handle some small things yourself: water, utensils, and sometimes checkout.
물은 셀프예요 mureun selpeu-yeyo	Water is self-service.	첫 문장은 이거예요. 물은 셀프예요. It means, water is self-service.
은/는 eun/neun	topic particle	조사 '은/는'은 주제를 나타내요. In English, it marks the topic — as for water.
물은 mureun	한국 식당의 셀프 서비스 규칙	In “물은,” the syllable “물” ends with final 리을, so 은 attaches. 물은 is pronounced 무른.
수저도 셀프예요 sujeodo selpeu-yeyo	Utensils are also self-service.	수저도 셀프인 곳이 많아요. In English, utensils are often self-service too.
수저 sujeo	chopsticks and spoon	수저는 chopsticks and a spoon together. In many places, you pick them up yourself.
반찬 banchan	side dishes	다음으로 반찬이에요. Side dishes often come free, and refills are common.
반찬 더 주세요 banchan deo juseyo	Please give me more side dishes.	반찬을 더 받고 싶을 때 핵심 문장은 이거예요. 반찬 더 주세요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

셀프

셀프 — self-service

In restaurants: water, utensils, and sometimes payment.

물은 셀프예요

물 + 은 + 셀프 + 예요 — Water is self-service.

첫 문장은 이거예요. 물은 셀프예요. It means, water is self-service.

은/는

은/는 — topic particle

Use 은 after a final consonant; 는 after a vowel.

물은 셀프예요

물은 셀프예요 — Water is self-service.

So... 물은 셀프예요 means I'm not rude if I get the water myself.

물은 셀프예요

물은 셀프예요 — Water is self-service.

맞아요. 그리고 대답으로 “물은 셀프예요”라고 들을 수 있어요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
무른	mureun
물은 셀프예요	mureun selpeu-yeyo
반찬 더 주세요	banchan deo juseyo
수저도 셀프예요	sujeodo selpeu-yeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 반찬 리필 / 물은 셀프 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
떡볶이 / 김밥 / 라면 Inside a Korean 분식 Snack Bar	A2 Culture: compare 떡볶이 / 김밥 / 라면 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-FCL-001
복날 / 삼계탕 Why Koreans Eat Hot Soup on the Hottest Days	A2 Culture: compare 복날 / 삼계탕 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-FCL-002
편의점 / 삼각김밥 / 컵라면 Korea's Convenience-Store Food Culture	A2 Culture: compare 편의점 / 삼각김밥 / 컵라면 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-FCL-003
김치 / 반찬 / 밥 Korean Table Basics	A1 Culture: compare 김치 / 반찬 / 밥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-001

My Notes

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