



Korean Ladder Study Note

단오 / 한식

Korea's Quieter Traditional Holidays

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Culture Holidays	단오 / 한식 Korea's Quieter Traditional Holidays

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP0raiomSh0>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, so every learner knows 설날 and 추석 — Lunar New Year and the harvest festival. But my Korean friend mentioned 단오 and 한식, and I just... blinked. What ARE those?

좋은 질문이에요, Alice. 설날과 추석은 큰 명절이에요. 단오와 한식은 더 조용한 명절이에요. In English — the big two everyone celebrates, and two smaller, older ones.

먼저 단어를 알아야 해요 — 음력. 음력 marks the lunar calendar, the old moon calendar. 한국 명절은 보통 음력을 따라요.

자, 첫 번째 명절이에요. 단오. 단오는 음력 5월 5일이에요. In English — Dano falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, so early summer.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	하나 씨, 이번 한식에 뭐 해요? —	Hana, what are you doing this Hansik?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	가족이랑 성묘 가요. 준호 씨는요? —	I'm going grave-visiting with my family. And you?
Junho	저도 성묘 가요. 그리고 단오에는 수리취떡을 먹어요. —	I'm going too. And on Dano I eat surichwi rice cake.
Hana	좋아요. 단오에는 그네도 타요. —	Nice. On Dano I ride the swing too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
명절 myeongjeol	a traditional holiday / festival day	좋은 질문이에요, Alice. 설날과 추석은 큰 명절이에요. 단오와 한식은 더 조용한 명절이에요. In English — the big two everyone celebrates, and two smaller, older ones.
음력 eumnyeok	the lunar calendar (the 'moon' calendar)	먼저 한 단어를 알아야 해요 — 음력. 음력 marks the lunar calendar, the old moon calendar. 한국 명절은 보통 음력을 따라요.
단오 dano	Dano — the fifth day of the fifth lunar month	자, 첫 번째 명절이에요. 단오. 단오는 음력 5월 5일이에요. In English — Dano falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, so early summer.
단오는 여름 명절이에요 dano-neun yeoreum myeongjeori-eyo	Dano is a summer holiday	단오는 여름을 준비하는 날이에요. 날씨가 더워지기 전에 건강을 빌었어요. It's a day to wish for health before the hot season comes.
수리취떡 surichwitteok	green rice cake made with the 수리취 herb	단오에는 특별한 음식이 있어요 — 수리취떡. 수리취라는 풀을 넣은 떡이에요. It's a green rice cake made with a mountain herb called 수리취.
창포물 changpomul	iris-infused water (for washing hair on 단오)	그리고 여자들은 창포물에 머리를 감았어요. 창포는 꽃이에요. People washed their hair in 창포물 — water boiled with iris — for shine and good luck.
그네를 뛰어요 geune-reul ttwieoyo	(someone) rides the swing	재미있는 놀이도 있었어요 — 그네. 여자들은 그네를 뛰고, 남자들은 씨름을 했어요. Women rode the swing, 그네, and men wrestled, 씨름.
한식 hansik	Hansik — the 'cold food' day	맞아요. 아주 잘 정리했어요. Now the second one is very different in mood — 한식.



Grammar / Structure Notes

명절

명절 — a traditional holiday / festival day

설날 · 추석 = big; 단오 · 한식 = quieter

음력

음력 — the lunar calendar (the 'moon' calendar)

옛날 달력 — dates shift each solar year

단오

단오 — Dano — the fifth day of the fifth lunar month

음력 5월 5일 · early-summer festival

단오는 여름 명절이에요

단오 + 는 + 여름 + 명절 + 이에요 — Dano is a summer holiday

단오는 여름을 준비하는 날이에요. 날씨가 더워지기 전에 건강을 빌었어요. It's a day to wish for health before the hot season comes.

수리취떡

수리취떡 — green rice cake made with the 수리취 herb

the signature food of 단오

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
한시근 양념이에요	hansigeun yangnyeogi-eyo
단오에는 그네를 타요	dano-eneun geune-reul tayo
다노에는 그네를 타요	dano-eneun geune-reul tayo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 단오 / 한식 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
빼빼로데이 / 화이트데이 / 밸런타인데이 Korea's Couple and Candy Days	A2 Culture: compare 빼빼로데이 / 화이트데이 / 밸런타인데이 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-HOL-002
생일 / 돌잔치 / 미역국 Korean Birthday Traditions	A2 Culture: compare 생일 / 돌잔치 / 미역국 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-HOL-001
크리스마스 / 송년회 / 연말 분위기 How Korea Wraps Up the Year	A2 Culture: compare 크리스마스 / 송년회 / 연말 분위기 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-HOL-003
새해 복 많이 받으세요 The Korean New Year Greeting Everyone Uses	A1 Culture: compare 새해 복 많이 받으세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-HOL-001

My Notes

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