



Korean Ladder Study Note

-지만

Connecting Two Clauses with 'But' and 'Although'

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Grammar Connectors	-지만 Connecting Two Clauses with 'But' and 'Although'

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztnyy5DrpTs>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my English-speaker problem. I can say 비싸요. And I can say 맛있어요. But how do I make one smooth sentence: it's expensive, but delicious?

좋은 질문이에요. Korean loves connecting thoughts, and today the connector is 지만.

So 지만 is like the little hinge between two opposite ideas.

맞아요. A is true, but B is also true, and B is usually the point you want to land on.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 케이크는 비싸지만 맛있어요. —	This cake is expensive, but delicious.
Junho	맞아요. 커피는 쓰지만 향이 좋아요. —	Right. The coffee is bitter, but the aroma is good.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	가게는 작지만 분위기가 좋아요. —	The shop is small, but the atmosphere is nice.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
A지만 B A-jiman B	A, but B / although A, B	좋은 질문이에요. Korean loves connecting thoughts, and today the connector is 지만.
비싸지만 맛있어요 bissa-jiman masisseoyo	It's expensive, but it's delicious.	For example, 비싸지만 맛있어요 means it is expensive, but it is delicious.
비싸다 → 비싸지만 bissada → bissa-jiman	to be expensive → expensive, but	Let's frame it simply. Take the dictionary form, remove 다, then add 지만.
어렵다 → 어렵지만 eoryeopda → eoryeopjiman	to be difficult → difficult, but	어렵다 becomes 어렵지만. It means difficult, but.
먹다 → 먹지만 meokda → meokjiman	to eat → eat, but	먹다 becomes 먹지만. It means eat, but.
어렵지만 재미있어요 eoryeopjiman jaemiisseoyo	It's difficult, but it's fun.	Here is another natural example. 어렵지만 재미있어요. It is difficult, but fun.
작지만 편해요 jakjiman pyeonhaeyo	It's small, but it's comfortable.	작지만 편해요. It is small, but comfortable.
멀지만 가고 싶어요 meoljiman gago sipeoyo	It's far, but I want to go.	멀지만 가고 싶어요. It is far, but I want to go.



Grammar / Structure Notes

A지만 B

A지만 B — A, but B / although A, B

Attach **지만** to a verb or adjective stem.

비싸지만 맛있어요

비싸 + **지만** + 맛있어요 — It's expensive, but it's delicious.

For example, **비싸지만 맛있어요** means it is expensive, but it is delicious.

A지만 B

A지만 B — A is true, but B is the main point.

The second clause often carries the speaker's final feeling.

비싸다 → 비싸지만

비싸다 → 비싸지만 — to be expensive → expensive, but

Remove **다**, add **지만**.

어렵다 → 어렵지만

어렵다 → 어렵지만 — to be difficult → difficult, but

The stem is **어렵-**, then **지만** is attached.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
비싸지만 맛있어요	bissa-jiman masisseoyo
비싸지만	bissa-jiman
바빴지만	bappatjiman
어렵지만 재미있어요	eoryeopjiman jaemiisseoyo
어렵지만	eoryeopjiman
멀지만 가고 싶어요	meoljiman gago sipeoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say **-지만** 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
-(으)러 vs -(으)려고 Going Somewhere to Do Something	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)러 vs -(으)려고 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-003
-(으)면 Saying 'If' and 'When' in Korean	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)면 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-002
-(으)면서 Doing Two Things at the Same Time	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)면서 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-006
아서 / 어서 Saying 'Because' and 'And Then'	A2 Grammar: compare 아서 / 어서 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CON-001

My Notes

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