



Korean Ladder Study Note

예쁜 / 좋은 / 큰

Making Adjectives Describe Nouns

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Grammar Modifiers & Clauses	예쁜 / 좋은 / 큰 Making Adjectives Describe Nouns

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08lIKDaHhwg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my English-speaker problem. I know 예뻐요 means “it is pretty,” so can I say 예뻐요 꽃 for “a pretty flower”?

좋은 질문이에요. 예뻐요 꽃은 자연스럽지 않아요. In Korean, before a noun, 예뻐요 changes to 예쁜.

예뻐요 is a sentence ending: “is pretty.” 예쁜 is a noun modifier: “pretty” before a noun.

맞아요. 오늘의 핵심은 형용사 어간에 은 또는 니은을 붙여서 명사를 꾸미는 거예요. In English: we turn a Korean adjective into a form that describes a noun.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 근처에 좋은 카페 있어요? —	Is there a good café near here?
Junho	네, 저기 큰 카페가 있어요. —	Yes, there is a big café over there.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	예쁜 꽃도 팔아요? —	Do they also sell pretty flowers?
Junho	네, 작은 꽃다발이 많아요. —	Yes, they have many small bouquets.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
예쁘다 → 예쁜 꽃 yeppeuda → yeppeun kkot	to be pretty → a pretty flower	예뻐요 is a sentence ending: “is pretty.” 예쁜 is a noun modifier: “pretty” before a noun.
예쁜 꽃 yeppeun kkot	a pretty flower	So I should not just put 예뻐요 in front of 꽃. I need 예쁜 꽃.
형용사 어간 + -(으)ㄴ + 명사 hyeongyongsa eogan + -(eu)n + myeongsa	adjective stem + -(으)ㄴ + noun	맞아요. 오늘의 핵심은 형용사 어간에 은 또는 니은을 붙여서 명사를 꾸미는 거예요. In English: we turn a Korean adjective into a form that describes a noun.
예쁘다 / 좋다 / 크다 / 작다 yeppeuda / jota / keuda / jakda	to be pretty / good / big / small	This is the A2 foundation. Later, verb modifiers use different endings, but today we stay with present adjectives like pretty, good, big, small.
좋은 사람 joeun saram	a good person	좋은 사람.
큰 집 keun jip	a big house	큰 집.
작은 가방 jageun gabang	a small bag	작은 가방.
크다 → 큰 집 keuda → keun jip	big → a big house	크다 also has a vowel-type stem in the real form, and it becomes 큰. 크다, 큰 집.



Grammar / Structure Notes

예쁘다 → 예쁜 꽃

예쁘다 → 예쁜 꽃 — to be pretty → a pretty flower

Sentence form and noun-modifying form are different.

예쁜 꽃

예쁜 + 꽃 — a pretty flower

So I should not just put 예뻐요 in front of 꽃. I need 예쁜 꽃.

형용사 어간 + -(으)ㄴ + 명사

형용사 어간 + -(으)ㄴ + 명사 — adjective stem + -(으)ㄴ + noun

Present adjective modifier

예쁘다 / 좋다 / 크다 / 작다

예쁘다 / 좋다 / 크다 / 작다 — to be pretty / good / big / small

Descriptive words that can modify nouns

예쁜 꽃

예쁜 + 꽃 — a pretty flower

먼저 자연스러운 예문을 들어보세요. 예쁜 꽃.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
예쁜 꽃	yeppeun kkot
좋은 사람	joeun saram
큰 집	keun jip
작은 가방	jageun gabang

Self-Check

- 1 Say 예쁜 / 좋은 / 큰 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)ㄴ / 는 / (으)ㄹ 것 같다 Expressing Guesses and Impressions	B2 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄴ / 는 / (으)ㄹ 것 같다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-GRAM-MOD-001
-(으)ㄹ 만큼 / -(으)ㄹ 정도로 Expressing Degree and Extent	C1 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄹ 만큼 / -(으)ㄹ 정도로 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-MOD-002
-던 / -았던 / -었던 Retrospective Modifiers for Past Memory	C1 Grammar: compare -던 / -았던 / -었던 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-GRAM-MOD-001
관형형 Turning Verbs into Modifiers	B1 Grammar: compare 관형형 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-MOD-001

My Notes

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