



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 받침 ㅅ / ㅈ / ㅊ / ㅌ

Why They All Sound Like ㄷ

| Level                      | Topic                    | Focus                                         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| A2 · Elementary<br>TOPIK 2 | Pronunciation<br>Batchim | 받침 ㅅ / ㅈ / ㅊ / ㅌ<br>Why They All Sound Like ㄷ |

## Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-BAT-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

## Core Idea

Okay, real question. I learned the word 옷 — clothes. But when I say it, it comes out like 올. Where did the ㅅ go?

좋은 질문이에요. You didn't say it wrong — that IS how 옷 is pronounced. The ㅅ hasn't disappeared, it just changed clothes.

This is called 받침 중화 — batchim neutralization. At the end of a syllable, several different consonants collapse into one single ㄷ sound.

Here are the guilty ones. At the end of a syllable, ㅅ, ㅆ, ㅈ, ㅊ, ㅌ — and ㅎ — all stop sounding like themselves and become a ㄷ.

## Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean        | Meaning                |
|---------|---------------|------------------------|
| Hana    | 이 꽃 예뻐요.<br>— | This flower is pretty. |



| Speaker | Korean               | Meaning                               |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Junho   | 네, 낮에 사 왔어요.<br>—    | Yes, I bought it in the daytime.      |
| Hana    | 옷도 새 옷이네요.<br>—      | Your clothes are new too.             |
| Junho   | 밭에서 일하고 갈아입었어요.<br>— | I changed after working in the field. |

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word                       | Meaning                        | Example                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 옷<br>ot                    | clothes                        | 좋은 질문이에요. You didn't say it wrong — that IS how 옷 is pronounced. The ㅏ hasn't disappeared, it just changed clothes.                                               |
| 받침 중화<br>batchim junghwa   | final-consonant neutralization | This is called 받침 중화 — batchim neutralization. At the end of a syllable, several different consonants collapse into one single ㄷ sound.                           |
| ㅏ ㅑ ㅓ ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ ㅠ → ㄷ<br>—   | seven endings, one sound       | Here are the guilty ones. At the end of a syllable, ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ — and ㅎ — all stop sounding like themselves and become a ㄷ.                            |
| 멈추는 소리<br>meomchuneun sori | a stopped sound                | The reason is simple: at the end of a syllable your tongue just STOPS the air. It never releases to make the hiss of ㅏ or the buzz of ㅓ. A stopped tongue is a ㄷ. |
| 옷 = 올<br>—                 | spelled ㅏ, spoken ㄷ            | Oh — so it's not that the ㅏ is silent. My mouth just never finishes it.                                                                                           |
| 낮<br>nat                   | daytime → sounds like 날        | Next, 낮 — daytime. That's a ㅓ at the end, but it stops as 날.                                                                                                      |
| 꽃<br>kkot                  | flower → sounds like 곧         | 그리고 꽃 — flower. A ㅓ at the end, but again it stops as 곧.                                                                                                          |
| 밭<br>bat                   | field → sounds like 발          | And 밭 — field. A ㅓ at the end, spoken as 받. Four different letters, one identical sound.                                                                          |



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 옷

옷 — clothes

The final ㅅ is heard as a ㅃ sound.

### 받침 중화

받침 중화 — final-consonant neutralization

Many endings → one shared sound.

ㅅ ㅆ ㅈ ㅊ ㅌ ㅎ → ㄷ

ㅅ ㅆ ㅈ ㅊ ㅌ ㅎ → ㄷ — seven endings, one sound

Only at the END of a syllable (in the 받침).

### 멈추는 소리

멈추는 소리 — a stopped sound

No release = no ㅅ/ㅆ/ㅈ — just ㄷ.

### 옷 = 올

옷 = 올 — spelled ㅅ, spoken ㄷ

Oh — so it's not that the ㅅ is silent. My mouth just never finishes it.

## Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase        | How to practice                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 올 · 날 · 꼴 · 발 | ot · nat · kkot · bat                     |
| 올 = 날 = 꼴 = 발 | Same ending sound, four spellings.        |
| 발             | bat [stop]                                |
| 올             | ot                                        |
| 오시            | os-i                                      |
| 꼬치            | kkoch-i                                   |
| 오시 · 꼬치       | Alone it stops; before a vowel it slides. |
| 바테            | bat → bat-e                               |

## Self-Check

1 Say 받침 ㅅ / ㅆ / ㅈ / ㅊ 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                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 받침 ㄹ<br>Pronouncing the Korean Liquid Final              | A2 Pronunciation: compare 받침 ㄹ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.              | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-BAT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-BAT-001</a> |
| 겹받침 ㄱ / ㅋ / ㆁ / ㄷ<br>Pronouncing Double Final Consonants | B2 Pronunciation: compare 겹받침 ㄱ / ㅋ / ㆁ / ㄷ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-BAT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-BAT-001</a> |
| 받침 ㄴ / ㅇ / ㅁ<br>Mastering the Nasal Final Consonants     | B1 Pronunciation: compare 받침 ㄴ / ㅇ / ㅁ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.      | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-PRON-BAT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-PRON-BAT-001</a> |
| 받침<br>Final Consonants Made Simple                       | A1 Pronunciation: compare 받침 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.                | Open lesson<br><a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-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.