



Korean Ladder Study Note

TOPIK I Vocabulary

Feeling Words and Their Opposites

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Vocabulary & Grammar Vocabulary › Feelings	TOPIK I Vocabulary Feeling Words and Their Opposites

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VG-VOCAB-EMO-801>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqNf8Cca688>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Jiho, English speakers often ask me why Korean has different pairs for happy and sad, or comfortable and anxious.

That is a great question. In Korean, each feeling adjective has a specific partner that examiners love to pair together.

Today we will learn three core opposite pairs of feeling adjectives, plus one key feeling word, or 감정 형용사, and how they work in sentences.

On the exam, if you spot the clue in the first half of a sentence, knowing the exact opposite pair gives you the answer right away.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Sua	지호 씨, 오늘 시험이 끝나서 기분이 어때요? —	Jiho, how do you feel now that today's exam is over?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Jiho	어제는 정말 불안했는데 지금은 마음이 편해요. —	Yesterday I was really anxious, but now my mind is at ease.
Sua	다행이네요. 주말에 같이 재미있는 영화 볼까요? —	That is a relief. Shall we watch a fun movie together this weekend?
Jiho	좋아요. 주말에 집에 혼자 있으면 심심해요. —	Sounds good. If I stay home alone on the weekend, I feel bored.
Sua	지호 씨, 오늘 시험이 끝나서 기분이 어때요? —	Jiho, how do you feel now that today's exam is over?
Jiho	어제는 정말 불안했는데 지금은 마음이 편해요. —	Yesterday I was really anxious, but now my mind is at ease.
Sua	다행이네요. 주말에 같이 재미있는 영화 볼까요? —	That is a relief. Shall we watch a fun movie together this weekend?
Jiho	좋아요. 주말에 집에 혼자 있으면 심심해요. —	Sounds good. If I stay home alone on the weekend, I feel bored.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
감정 형용사 반대말 gamjeong hyeongyongsa bandaemal	Feeling adjective opposites	Today we will learn three core opposite pairs of feeling adjectives, plus one key feeling word, or 감정 형용사, and how they work in sentences.
기쁘다 ↔ 슬프다 gippeuda / seulpeuda	to be glad vs. to be sad	Let us unpack that first pair. 기쁘다 means glad or delighted, and its dictionary opposite is 슬프다, sad.
즐겁다 ↔ 심심하다 jeulgeopda / simsimhada	to be enjoyable vs. to be bored	Next is 즐겁다, which means fun or enjoyable, and its opposite 심심하다, which means bored.
외롭다 → 외로워요 oeropda → oerowoyo	to be lonely → feel lonely	That exact same 비읍 irregular rule happens in another classic feeling word: 외롭다, lonely. In polite speech, it becomes 외로워요.
저는 심심해요 (O) / 영화가 심심해요 (X) jeoneun simsimhaeyo / yeonghwaga simsimhaeyo	I feel bored (O) / The movie is boring (X)	완벽해요. Now let us look at a very common mistake learners make with feeling words.



Grammar / Structure Notes

감정 형용사 반대말

감정 형용사 반대말 — Feeling adjective opposites

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선물을 받아서 정말 기뻐요.

선물을 받아서 정말 기뻐요. — I am really glad because I received a present.

기쁘다 (to be glad, delighted)

슬픈 영화를 봐서 마음이 슬퍼요.

슬픈 영화를 봐서 마음이 슬퍼요. — My heart is sad because I watched a sad movie.

슬프다 (to be sad)

집에서 쉬니까 마음이 편해요.

집에서 쉬니까 마음이 편해요. — My mind feels at ease because I am resting at home.

편하다 (to be comfortable, at ease)

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
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Self-Check

- 1 Say TOPIK I Vocabulary 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)ㄹ 거예요 The Korean Future Tense and Plans	A2 Grammar: compare (으)ㄹ 거예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-TNS-002



Lesson	Why study it next	Link
-(으)ㄹ 수 있어요 / 없어요 Saying What You Can and Can't Do	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄹ 수 있어요 / 없어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-004
-(으)르게요 Promising and Committing to Do Something	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)르게요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-002
-(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

My Notes

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