



Korean Ladder Study Note

놀라다 / 걱정되다 / 신나다

Everyday Feeling Verbs Beyond 좋아요

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Vocabulary Feelings	놀라다 / 걱정되다 / 신나다 Everyday Feeling Verbs Beyond 좋아요

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ltqkYFPqn4>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

My problem is that I keep saying 좋아요 for every feeling. Good, fun, nervous, worried... everything becomes 좋아요.

맞아요. 좋아요 can mean “it’s good” or, in context, “I like it.” But feelings like worried, excited, nervous, and surprised need their own Korean verbs.

오늘의 패턴은 명사에 때문에를 붙이고, 감정 동사를 말하는 거예요. In English, noun plus 때문에 gives the cause: because of the test, because of the trip, because of class.

첫 번째 동사는 놀라다예요. 놀라요 means I’m surprised, or something surprises me in context.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 여행 때문에 신나요. —	I’m excited because of today’s trip.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저는 조금 걱정돼요. 비가 오잖아요. —	I'm a little worried. It's raining, you know.
Hana	그래도 너무 긴장되지는 않아요. —	Still, I'm not too nervous.
Junho	맞아요. 같이 가니까 괜찮아요. —	Right. Since we're going together, it's okay.
Hana	오늘 여행 때문에 신나요. —	I'm excited because of today's trip.
Junho	저는 조금 걱정돼요. 비가 오잖아요. —	I'm a little worried. It's raining, you know.
Hana	그래도 너무 긴장되지는 않아요. —	Still, I'm not too nervous.
Junho	맞아요. 같이 가니까 괜찮아요. —	Right. Since we're going together, it's okay.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
명사 + 때문에 + 감정 동사 myeongsa ttaemune gamjeong dongsa	noun + because of + feeling verb	오늘의 패턴은 명사에 때문에를 붙이고, 감정 동사를 말하는 거예요. In English, noun plus 때문에 gives the cause: because of the test, because of the trip, because of class.
놀라다 → 놀라요 nollada → nollayo	to be surprised → I'm surprised	첫 번째 동사는 놀라다예요. 놀라요 means I'm surprised, or something surprises me in context.
뉴스 때문에 놀라요 nyuseu ttaemune nollayo	I'm surprised because of the news.	예문이에요. 뉴스 때문에 놀라요. In English, I'm surprised because of the news.
놀라요 nollayo	I'm surprised.	So 놀라요 is not just "wow." It's the verb for being surprised.
걱정되다 → 걱정돼요 geokjeongdoeda → geokjeongdwaeyo	to be worried → I'm worried	네. 두 번째는 걱정되다예요. 걱정돼요 means I'm worried, or it worries me.
시험 때문에 걱정돼요 siheom ttaemune geokjeongdwaeyo	I'm worried because of the test.	시험 때문에 걱정돼요. In English, I'm worried because of the test.
신나다 → 신나요 sinnada → sinnayo	to be excited / exciting → I'm excited / it's exciting	세 번째는 신나다예요. 신나요 can mean I'm excited, I'm thrilled, or it's exciting or fun, depending on context.



Word	Meaning	Example
신나요 sinnayo	I'm excited. / It's exciting.	네. 신나요 can mean "I'm excited," "I'm thrilled," or "It's exciting/fun," depending on context. 그냥 좋아요보다 에너지가 있는 표현이에요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

명사 + 때문에 + 감정 동사

명사 + 때문에 + 감정 동사 — noun + because of + feeling verb

시험 때문에 걱정돼요 = I'm worried because of the test

놀라다 → 놀라요

놀라다 → 놀라요 — to be surprised → I'm surprised

Surprise reaction

뉴스 때문에 놀라요

뉴스 + 때문에 + 놀라요 — I'm surprised because of the news.

예문이에요. 뉴스 때문에 놀라요. In English, I'm surprised because of the news.

놀라요

놀라요 — I'm surprised.

So 놀라요 is not just “wow.” It's the verb for being surprised.

걱정되다 → 걱정돼요

걱정되다 → 걱정돼요 — to be worried → I'm worried

Often used when worry arises naturally

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
조금 걱정돼요	jogeu geokjeongdwaeyo / neomu ginjangdoejineun anayo
시험 때문에 걱정돼요	siheom ttaemune geokjeongdwaeyo
걱정돼요	geokjeongdwaeyo
여행 때문에 신나요	yeohaeng ttaemune sinnayo
발표 때문에 긴장돼요	balpyo ttaemune ginjangdwaeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 놀라다 / 걱정되다 / 신나다 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
기분이 좋아요 / 기분 나빠요 / 심심해요 Talking About Your Mood	A2 Vocabulary: compare 기분이 좋아요 / 기분 나빠요 / 심심해요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-EMO-001
배고파요 / 목말라요 / 피곤해요 Everyday Physical Feelings	A1 Vocabulary: compare 배고파요 / 목말라요 / 피곤해요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-EMO-002
속상하다 / 답답하다 / 뿌듯하다 Saying How You Really Feel	B1 Vocabulary: compare 속상하다 / 답답하다 / 뿌듯하다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-VOCAB-EMO-001
억울하다 / 서운하다 / 벅차다 Nuanced Emotional Expression	C1 Vocabulary: compare 억울하다 / 서운하다 / 벅차다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-VOCAB-EMO-001

My Notes

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