



Korean Ladder Study Note

맵다 / 짜다 / 달다 / 시다

Describing How Food Tastes

| Level | Topic | Focus |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2 | Vocabulary Food & Dining | 맵다 / 짜다 / 달다 / 시다 Describing How Food Tastes |

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FOO-001)

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVwkMPRwVqc)

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

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

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Core Idea

Real restaurant problem. The stew is burning my mouth, but all I can say is spicy in English.

I want Korean reactions I can actually use at the table, like it's a little salty or it's not sweet.

좋아요. Today's base word is 맛. 맛 means taste or flavor.

Flavor words are descriptive words. In Korean, they describe how the food is.

Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Hana | 이거 어때요? — | How is this? |
| Junho | 음, 좀 매워요. — | Hmm, it's a little spicy. |
| Hana | 저는 맛있어요. — | I think it's delicious. |



| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Junho | 근데 조금 짜요. — | But it's a bit salty. |

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word | Meaning | Example |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 맛 mat | taste / flavor | 좋아요. Today's base word is 맛. 맛 means taste or flavor. |
| 맛 단어 mat dan-eo | taste words / flavor words | Flavor words are descriptive words. In Korean, they describe how the food is. |
| 맵다 maep-da | to be spicy | First, 맵다 means to be spicy. |
| 매워요 mae-wo-yo | it's spicy | In conversation, 맵다 becomes 매워요. 매워요 means it's spicy. |
| 짜요 jja-yo | it's salty | 짜다 means to be salty. In conversation, say 짜요. |
| 달아요 dal-a-yo | it's sweet | 달다 means to be sweet. In conversation, say 달아요. |
| 셔요 syeo-yo | it's sour | 시다 means to be sour. In conversation, say 셔요. |
| 써요 sseo-yo | it's bitter | Two more are very useful. 쓰다 means bitter, like strong black coffee. |



Grammar / Structure Notes

맛

맛 — taste / flavor

the base word for today's lesson

맛 단어

맛 단어 — taste words / flavor words

words that describe food

맵다

맵다 — to be spicy

dictionary form

매워요

매워 + 요 — it's spicy

In conversation, 맵다 becomes 매워요. 매워요 means it's spicy.

짜요

짜 + 요 — it's salty

짜다 means to be salty. In conversation, say 짜요.

Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase | How to practice |
|--------|------------------|
| 매워요 | mae-wo-yo |
| 너무 매워요 | neo-mu mae-wo-yo |
| 안 달아요 | an dal-a-yo |

Self-Check

- 1 Say 맵다 / 짜다 / 달다 / 시다 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 |
|--|---|--|
| 물 / 커피 / 밥 Essential Food Words | A1 Vocabulary: compare 물 / 커피 / 밥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FOO-001 |
| 비 / 눈 / 바람 Talking About the Weather | A2 Vocabulary: compare 비 / 눈 / 바람 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-NAT-001 |
| 엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 Naming Your Family | A2 Vocabulary: compare 엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FAM-001 |
| Counting in Korean Native vs Sino Numbers | A1 Vocabulary: compare Counting in Korean with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-001 |

My Notes

Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.