



Korean Ladder Study Note

청소 / 빨래 / 설거지

Talking About Household Chores

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Vocabulary Home & Daily Life	청소 / 빨래 / 설거지 Talking About Household Chores

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](#)

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHEVLJ1LPXg>

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<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. In English I 'wash' the dishes AND I 'wash' my clothes — same verb. Is Korean that easy?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, each chore has its own word. And clothes do not use 'wash' the way you expect.

오늘의 핵심. Three chores: 청소, 빨래, 설거지. In English — cleaning, laundry, and dishes.

The easy ones first. 청소 is cleaning, 설거지 is dishes. Both just add 하다 — to do.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	내가 설거지할게. 너는 빨래 좀 돌려 줘. —	I'll do the dishes. Can you run the laundry?
Junho	알았어. 빨래 다 되면 널게. —	Got it. When it's done, I'll hang it.
Hana	고마워. 그럼 나는 청소할게. —	Thanks. Then I'll clean.



Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
청소 · 빨래 · 설거지 cheongso · ppallae · seolgeoji	cleaning · laundry · dishes	오늘의 핵심. Three chores: 청소, 빨래, 설거지. In English — cleaning, laundry, and dishes.
청소하다 / 설거지하다 cheongso-hada / seolgeoji-hada	to clean / to do the dishes	The easy ones first. 청소 is cleaning, 설거지 is dishes. Both just add 하다 — to do.
청소하다 → 청소했어요 cheongso-hada → cheongso-haesseoyo	do → did (past tense of 하다)	Oh — 청소했어요. So 청소하다 turns into 청소했어요 for the past. The 하다 just becomes 했어요.
빨래하다 ppallae-hada	to do laundry (general)	이제 빨래. Laundry is special — it has more than one verb. 빨래하다 is the general one, to do laundry.
빨래를 돌리다 ppallae-reul dollida	to run the laundry (in the machine)	But Koreans often say 빨래를 돌리다. 돌리다 means to spin or to run — you run the washing machine.
빨래를 널다 ppallae-reul neolda	to hang the laundry out to dry	And after the machine stops, you hang it up. 빨래를 널다 — 널다 means to hang out to dry.
돌리다 → 널다 dollida → neolda	run it → hang it	Wait, so laundry is a two-step story? Spin it, then hang it?
청소하다 · 설거지하다 · 빨래하다 —	each chore + its own verb	So I shouldn't grab the dish verb for clothes. Each chore really does pick its own verb.



Grammar / Structure Notes

청소 · 빨래 · 설거지

청소 · 빨래 · 설거지 — cleaning · laundry · dishes

오늘의 핵심. Three chores: 청소, 빨래, 설거지. In English — cleaning, laundry, and dishes.

청소하다 / 설거지하다

청소하다 / 설거지하다 — to clean / to do the dishes

chore + 하다 = do that chore

오늘 집을 청소했어요.

오늘 + 집 + 을 + 청소했어요 + . — I cleaned the house today.

오늘 집을 청소했어요. It means: I cleaned the house today.

청소하다 → 청소했어요

청소하다 → 청소했어요 — do → did (past tense of 하다)

Oh — 청소했어요. So 청소하다 turns into 청소했어요 for the past. The 하다 just becomes 했어요.

제가 설거지할게요.

제가 + 설거지할게요 + . — I'll do the dishes.

맞아요. 제가 설거지할게요 — I'll do the dishes. Same 하다 pattern.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
빨래를 돌려요	ppallae-reul dollyeoyo.
빨래를 돌려요.	Brian's attempt
빨래를 널어요.	ppallae-reul neoreoyo.
빨래를 돌려요 / 널어요	Listen first, then repeat slowly.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 청소 / 빨래 / 설거지 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
집 / 방 / 화장실 Rooms and Everyday Things at Home	A1 Vocabulary: compare 집 / 방 / 화장실 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-HOM-001
맵다 / 짜다 / 달다 / 시다 Describing How Food Tastes	A2 Vocabulary: compare 맵다 / 짜다 / 달다 / 시다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FOO-001
몇 시예요 시 / 분 / 반으로 시간 말하기	A2 Vocabulary: compare 몇 시예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-TIM-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

My Notes

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