



Korean Ladder Study Note

-냐고 / -자고 / -라고

Casual Reported Speech Among Friends

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Colloquial Banmal (Casual)	-냐고 / -자고 / -라고 Casual Reported Speech Among Friends

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfEMY_4v8zA

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my problem. My Korean friend says, 뭐 하냐고 했어, and I hear 뭐 해 plus extra stuff. Is it a question? Is it a quote? What is going on?

좋은 질문이에요. 친구들끼리는 긴 인용 표현을 아주 짧게 줄여서 말해요. In English, they compress reported speech when retelling what someone said.

오늘의 핵심은 문장 종류예요. Statement, question, suggestion, command. Korean changes the ending depending on what kind of sentence you are reporting.

프레임부터 잡을게요. 평서문은 말한 내용, 질문은 물어본 내용, 제안은 같이 하자는 내용, 명령은 하라고 시킨 내용이에요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	민수가 너 지금 어디냐고 했어. —	Minsu asked where you are now.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	그래? 또 뭐라고 했어? —	Really? What else did he say?
Hana	같이 택시 타자고 했고, 빨리 오라고 했어. —	He suggested taking a taxi together and told you to come quickly.
Junho	알겠어. 빨리 갈게. —	Got it. I'll come quickly.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
평서문 · 질문 · 제안 · 명령 pyeongseomun · jilmun · je-an · myeongnyeong	statement · question · suggestion · command	오늘의 핵심은 문장 종류예요. Statement, question, suggestion, command. Korean changes the ending depending on what kind of sentence you are reporting.
말했다 / 물어봤다 / 하자고 했다 / 하라고 했다 malhaetda / mureobwatda / hajago haetda / harago haetda	said / asked / suggested / told someone to do	프레임부터 잡을게요. 평서문은 말한 내용, 질문은 물어본 내용, 제안은 같이 하자는 내용, 명령은 하라고 시킨 내용이에요.
-냐고 -nyago	reported question: asked whether / asked what	질문에는 the particle, 아니고 the ending 냐고를 붙여요. For a reported question, use the ending 냐고.
-자고 -jago	reported suggestion: suggested that we / asked to do together	제안에는 the ending 자고를 붙여요. In English, it often means someone suggested, let's do it together.
-(으)라고 -(eu)rago	reported command or request: told someone to do	명령이나 부탁에는 the ending 라고 or 으라고를 붙여요. It means someone told or asked someone to do something.
친구가 뭐 하냐고 했어 chingu-ga mwo hanyago haesseo	My friend asked what I was doing.	먼저 원어민 예문을 들어 보세요. 친구가 물어요. 너 뭐 해? 나중에 이렇게 전해요. 친구가 뭐 하냐고 했어.
뭐 하냐고 했어 mwo hanyago haesseo	asked what someone was doing	여기서 뭐 하냐고 했어는 direct question이 아니예요. In English, it is reporting a question: asked what I was doing.
같이 가자고 했어 gachi gajago haesseo	They suggested going together.	다음은 제안이에요. 원래 말은 같이 가자. 전할 때는 같이 가자고 했어. In English, said let's go together, or suggested going together.



Grammar / Structure Notes

평서문 · 질문 · 제안 · 명령

평서문 · 질문 · 제안 · 명령 — statement · question · suggestion · command

Reported speech changes by sentence type.

말했다 / 물어봤다 / 하자고 했다 / 하라고 했다

말했다 / 물어봤다 / 하자고 했다 / 하라고 했다 — said / asked / suggested / told someone to do

프레임부터 잡을게요. 평서문은 말한 내용, 질문은 물어본 내용, 제안은 같이 하자는 내용, 명령은 하라고 시킨 내용이에요.

-냐고

-냐고 — reported question: asked whether / asked what

Often used in casual retellings among friends.

-자고

-자고 — reported suggestion: suggested that we / asked to do together

Original casual suggestion often ends in -자.

-(으)라고

-(으)라고 — reported command or request: told someone to do

Use -으라고 after many consonant stems, -라고 after many vowel stems.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
민수가 지금 간다고 했어	Minsu-ga jigeum gandago haesseo
오라고	orago
친구가 뭐 하냐고 했어	chingu-ga mwo hanyago haesseo
뭐 하냐고	chingu-ga mwo hanyago haesseo
친구가 같이 가자고 했어	chingu-ga gachi gajago haesseo
같이 가자고	gachi gajago
민수가 빨리 오라고 했어	Minsu-ga ppalli orago haesseo
빨리 오라고 했어	ppalli orago haesseo

Self-Check

1 Say -냐고 / -자고 / -라고 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
-거든 / -잖아 반말 설명하고 상기시키는 casual 말투	B1 Colloquial: compare -거든 / -잖아 반말 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-002
-어 / -지 / -자 / -래? Casual Sentence Endings Among Friends	B1 Colloquial: compare -어 / -지 / -자 / -래? with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-BAN-001
말 놓을까요 Switching to Casual Banmal with Friends	A2 Colloquial: compare 말 놓을까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-BAN-001
반말 의문·명령 -냐? / -어라 / -지 마	B2 Colloquial: compare 반말 의문·명령 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-BAN-001

My Notes

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