



Korean Ladder Study Note

있잖아 / 그게 / 뭐더라

Buying Time While You Search for a Word

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Colloquial Fillers & Reactions	있잖아 / 그게 / 뭐더라 Buying Time While You Search for a Word

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-FIL-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fQSdncKaGU>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is the problem. I start a Korean sentence, forget one word, and my brain either goes silent or jumps to English.

네, 아주 흔해요. In conversation, silence can sound like you are finished, so the other person may start talking.

English has 'um,' 'you know,' and 'what was it again.' Korean has natural phrases for the same moment.

오늘의 핵심 표현은 네 가지예요. 있잖아, 그게, 뭐더라, 그리고 짧은 그.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	있잖아, 우리 그 카페 또 갈까? —	You know, should we go to that cafe again?
Junho	그게... 이름이 뭐더라? —	That one... what was its name again?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그... 창문 큰 데 있잖아. —	The... place with the big window, you know.
Junho	아, 맞다. 거기 좋지. —	Oh, right. That place is nice.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
있잖아 · 그게 · 뭐더라 · 그 itjana · geuge · mwodeora · geu	you know · that thing · what was it again · the, um	오늘의 핵심 표현은 네 가지예요. 있잖아, 그게, 뭐더라, 그리고 짧은 그.
있잖아 itjana	you know... / listen...	First, 있잖아. It sounds like 'you know' or 'listen.' It often opens a thought before the main message.
있잖아 → 있잖아요 itjana → itjanayo	casual → polite	친구에게는 있잖아. 윗사람이나 덜 친한 사람에게는 있잖아요. Add 요 when you need polite speech.
있잖아, 나 어제 신기한 거 봤어 itjana, na eoje singihan geo bwasseo	You know, I saw something interesting yesterday	들어 보세요. 있잖아, 나 어제 신기한 거 봤어. That means, 'You know, I saw something interesting yesterday.'
있잖아 = 아직 말하는 중 itjana = ajik malhaneun jung	I am still talking	So 있잖아 does not give the missing word. It just tells the listener, 'Wait, I am still talking.'
있잖아, 나 할 말 있어 itjana, na hal mal isseo	You know, I have something to say	맞아요. It gently holds the floor before the real sentence comes.
그것이 그게 geugeosi geuge	그것이 becomes 그게	그게 comes from 그것이. In fast spoken Korean, 그것이 becomes 그게.
그게 이름이 뭐였지 geuge ireumi mwoyeotji	That thing, what was the name again?	A natural line is, 그게 이름이 뭐였지. 'That thing, what was the name again?'



Grammar / Structure Notes

있잖아 · 그게 · 뭐더라 · 그

있잖아 · 그게 · 뭐더라 · 그 — you know · that thing · what was it again · the, um

Four natural ways to buy time.

있잖아

있잖아 — you know... / listen...

Casual; use 있잖아요 in polite speech.

있잖아 → 있잖아요

있잖아 → 있잖아요 — casual → polite

Register matters.

있잖아, 나 어제 신기한 거 봤어

있잖아, + 나 + 어제 + 신기한 + 거 + 봤어 — You know, I saw something interesting yesterday

들어 보세요. 있잖아, 나 어제 신기한 거 봤어. That means, 'You know, I saw something interesting yesterday.'

있잖아 = 아직 말하는 중

있잖아 = 아직 말하는 중 — I am still talking

So 있잖아 does not give the missing word. It just tells the listener, 'Wait, I am still talking.'

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
있잖아, 그게 뭐더라	itjana, geuge mwodeora
있잖아	itjana
있잖아... 그게 뭐더라	itjana... geuge mwodeora
선생님, 있잖아요, 제가 질문이 있는데요	seonsaengnim, itjanayo, jega jilmuri inneundeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 있잖아 / 그게 / 뭐더라 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
음 / 그러니까 / 뭐랄까 Sounding Natural with Korean Fillers	B1 Colloquial: compare 음 / 그러니까 / 뭐랄까 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-FIL-001
글쎄요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 Hedging and Agreeing Naturally	A2 Colloquial: compare 글쎄요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001
네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 Natural Korean Reactions	A1 Colloquial: compare 네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-001
막 / 약간 / 아니 그게 Intensifiers and Hedges in Fast Speech	C1 Colloquial: compare 막 / 약간 / 아니 그게 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-FIL-001

My Notes

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