



Korean Ladder Study Note

그래서 어떻게 됐냐면 / 있지

Fillers That Carry a Story Forward

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Colloquial Fillers & Reactions	그래서 어떻게 됐냐면 / 있지 Fillers That Carry a Story Forward

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAGF0N3GBFg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real problem. When I tell a story in Korean, I hit a gap... and then nothing. Just silence. The other person thinks I'm done.

네, 정말 흔해요. In English you say 'so then,' 'wait though,' or 'you know what happened.' Korean has its own little story engines.

Dead air can sound like the end of your turn. Story fillers keep the microphone in your hand.

오늘의 핵심은 네 가지예요. 그래서, 어떻게 됐냐면, 아 근데, 그리고 있지.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	있지, 어제 카페 갔거든. —	Hey, listen — I went to a cafe yesterday.
Junho	응, 그래서? —	Yeah, and then? (listener prompt, not the storyteller's next-scene 그래서)



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그래서 줄이 엄청 긴 거야. —	So then the line was crazy long.
Hana	어떻게 됐냐면, 내 이름이 두 번 불렸어. —	And what happened is, they called my name twice.
Junho	아 근데, 그 카페 평소에도 붐비지 않아? —	Oh but wait — isn't that cafe usually crowded anyway?

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
그래서 · 어떻게 됐냐면 · 아 근데 · 있지 geuraeseo · eotteoke dwaennyamyeon · a geunde · itji	so then · what happened is... · oh but / wait · hey, listen	오늘의 핵심은 네 가지예요. 그래서, 어떻게 됐냐면, 아 근데, 그리고 있지.
이야기 연결 필러 iyagi yeongyeol pilleo	fillers that connect a story	이것들은 문법 퀴즈가 아니예요. In English, they're timing tools — next scene, drumroll, side glance, knock on the door.
그래서 geuraeseo	so then / next scene / as a result	먼저 그래서. 이야기 안에서 '다음 장면'으로 넘어갈 때 써요. In English, speaker 그래서 means 'so then / next beat.'
어떻게 됐냐면 eotteoke dwaennyamyeon	and what happened is... / here's the twist...	다음, 어떻게 됐냐면. 이걸 드럼롤이예요. In English, it builds suspense — like 'and what happened is...'
어떻게 됐냐면 → 어떻게 됐냐면요 eotteoke dwaennyamyeon → eotteoke dwaennyamyeonyo	casual → polite-casual (add 요)	반말로는 '어떻게 됐냐면', 해요체로는 '어떻게 됐냐면요'라고 해요.
어떻게 됐냐면요 eotteoke dwaennyamyeonyo	polite-casual storytelling drumroll	나 형태는 원래 캐주얼한 스토리텔링이예요. Add 요 and it becomes soft 해요체 with friends or friendly coworkers — not heavy formal Korean.
아 근데 a geunde	oh but / wait, though / one quick side note	다음, 아 근데. 같은 이야기 안에서 잠깐 옆으로 쉼 때 써요. In English, a soft 'oh but' or 'wait, though.'
있지 itji	hey, listen / so, get this	마지막, 있지. 문 두드리는 소리예요. In English, 'hey, listen' or 'so, get this' before the story starts.



Grammar / Structure Notes

그래서 · 어떻게 됐냐면 · 아 근데 · 있지

그래서 · 어떻게 됐냐면 · 아 근데 · 있지 — so then · what happened is... · oh but / wait · hey, listen

Four narrative fillers that carry a story.

이야기 연결 필러

이야기 연결 필러 — fillers that connect a story

Use them while narrating, not to translate word-for-word.

그래서 · 어떻게 됐냐면 · 아 근데 · 있지

그래서 · 어떻게 됐냐면 · 아 근데 · 있지 — four tools for keeping an anecdote alive

Learn the job of each one.

그래서

그래서 — so then / next scene / as a result

Storyteller moves the plot forward.

버스가 늦었어요. 그래서 뛰어갔어요.

버스 + 가 + 늦었어요 + . + 그래서 + 뛰어갔어요 + . — The bus was late. So then I ran.

들어 보세요. 버스가 늦었어요. 그래서 뛰어갔어요. That means, 'The bus was late. So then I ran.'

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
있지, 나 어제	itji, na eoje...
있지, 나 어제 웃긴 일 있었어	itji, na eoje utgin il isseosseo.
있지, 그래서, 어떻게 됐냐면	itji ... geuraeseo ... eotteoke dwaennyameon
어떻게 됐냐면요	eotteoke dwaennyameonyo
어떻게 됐냐면요, 예약이 사라졌어요	eotteoke dwaennyameonyo, yeyagi sarajyeosseoyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 그래서 어떻게 됐냐면 / 있지 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
있잖아 / 그제 / 뭐더라 Buying Time While You Search for a Word	B1 Colloquial: compare 있잖아 / 그제 / 뭐더라 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-FIL-002
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

My Notes

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