



Korean Ladder Study Note

ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ

Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Colloquial Texting	ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001>

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

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. My Korean friend texted me just 'ㅇㅋ ㄱㄱ' — no vowels, no words. I thought my keyboard was broken.

Same. I open KakaoTalk and it's just walls of ㅋㅋㅋㅋ. What am I missing?

여기 핵심이 있어요. 한글 한 글자는 항상 첫 자음으로 시작해요. 그 첫 자음을 '초성'이라고 해요. In English, the very first consonant of a syllable is called the 초성 — the initial.

그래서 한국 사람들은 빨리 칠 때 각 글자의 첫 자음만 적어요. We keep only the first consonant of each syllable — we drop the vowels and the final 받침.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	오늘 시험 끝났어요. —	My test is finally over today.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	추카. 고생했어요. —	Congrats. You worked hard.
Junho	그럼 저녁 먹으러 갈까요? —	Then shall we go grab dinner?
Hana	오케이, 가요. —	Okay, let's go.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
초성 choseong	the initial consonant of a syllable	여기 핵심이 있어요. 한글 한 글자는 항상 첫 자음으로 시작해요. 그 첫 자음을 '초성'이라고 해요. In English, the very first consonant of a syllable is called the 초성 — the initial.
첫 자음만 적어요 cheot jaeum-man jeogeoyo	we write only the first (initial) consonant of each syllable	그래서 한국 사람들은 빨리 칠 때 각 글자의 첫 자음만 적어요. We keep only the first consonant of each syllable — we drop the vowels and the final 받침.
초성 = 줄임말 —	initials = abbreviation	Ohh. So it's like a consonant skeleton. You type the bones and your brain fills in the rest.
ㅋㅋ keuk-keuk	Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations	첫 번째 단어. ㅋㅋ. 이건 웃음이에요. ㅋ의 이름은 키웁이고, 'ㅋㅋ'는 키키 / 크크처럼 들려요 — like English 'haha.'
ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ —	the more, the funnier	더 웃기면 ㅋ을 더 붙여요. ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ. The more ㅋ you add, the funnier it is. It's the Korean LOL.
ㅇㅋ o-kei	okay	다음. ㅇㅋ. 이건 영어 'okay'예요. 오케이 → 오, 케이 → 첫 자음 ㅇ하고 ㅋ. So ㅇㅋ is 오케이 — okay.
ㅇㅋ = 오케이 —	okay	ㅇ의 이름은 이응, ㅋ은 키웁. 오케이의 첫 소리만 남겼어요.
ㄱㄱ go-go	let's go / go ahead	그리고 ㄱㄱ. 이건 영어 'go go'예요. 고고 — 'let's go, start.' 친구가 ㄱㄱ 하면 '시작하자'예요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

초성

초성 — the initial consonant of a syllable

every Hangeul block starts with one

첫 자음만 적어요

첫 자음만 적어요 — we write only the first (initial) consonant of each syllable

vowels and the final 받침 are dropped

초성 = 줄임말

초성 = 줄임말 — initials = abbreviation

the consonant skeleton

ㅇㅋ

ㅇ + ㅋ — okay

다음. ㅇㅋ. 이걸 영어 'okay'예요. 오케이 → 오, 케이 → 첫 자음 ㅇ하고 ㅋ. So ㅇㅋ is 오케이 — okay.

ㅇㅋ = 오케이

ㅇㅋ = 오케이 — okay

이응 + 키읏

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
키키 / 크크	keuk-keuk
ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ	Korean 'LOL'
추카	chuk-ha → chu-ka
응응 / 노노	Listen first, then repeat slowly.
하이	ha-i
감사	gam-sa
ㄱㅅ = 감사	기역 + 시읏

Self-Check

- 1 Say ㅇㅋ / ㄱㅅ / ㅋㅋ 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
ㅍㅍ / Korean Emoticons and Tone in Text	B2 Colloquial: compare ㅍㅍ / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-001
그럼 / 근데 / 그치 Spoken Shortcuts for 그러면 · 그런데 · 그렇지	B1 Colloquial: compare 그럼 / 근데 / 그치 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-CTR-001
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
-ㄹ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것	B2 Colloquial: compare -ㄹ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001

My Notes

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