



Korean Ladder Study Note

ㄹㅇ / ㅇㄱㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋㅋ

Texting 'For Real' in Korean Chat

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Colloquial Texting	ㄹㅇ / ㅇㄱㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋㅋ Texting 'For Real' in Korean Chat

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqdYT3eV7s0>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

My Korean friend texted me just ㄹㅇ, and I stared at it like, is that a word or a typo?

It is a real chat expression. 초성체 means consonant-only shorthand. In English, Koreans keep just the first consonant sounds.

Think of English shortcuts like omg or lol. ㄹㅇ is fast, casual, and mostly for close relationships.

Today's family means 진짜, or really. ㄹㅇ comes from 레알, a playful Korean spelling of real.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	야, 그 집 떡볶이 진짜 맛있더라 —	Hey, that place's tteokbokki was really good
Junho	ㅇㄱㄹㅇ 나 어제도 갔어 —	So true. I went yesterday too



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	ㄹㅇㅋㅋ 우리 또 갈 듯 —	For real haha, we will probably go again
Junho	ㄹㅇ 내일 가자 —	For real, let's go tomorrow

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㄹㅇ = 레알 / 진짜 rieul-ieung = re-al / jinjja	for real / really	Today's family means 진짜, or really. ㄹㅇ comes from 레알, a playful Korean spelling of real.
레알 → ㄹㅇ re-al → rieul-ieung	real → for real	레알 starts with 리을 and 이응. So in chat, people keep the visible consonants: ㄹㅇ.
ㄹㅇ rieul-ieung	for real / totally	You can use ㄹㅇ alone to agree. It feels like, for real, totally, honestly yes.
그 영화 진짜 재밌어 geu yeonghwa jinjja jaemisseo	That movie is really fun	Here is the full feeling behind it: 그 영화 진짜 재밌어, that movie is really fun.
ㄹㅇ = 진짜 그렇지 rieul-ieung = jinjja geureochi	for real / that's so true	If your friend says that, you can answer ㄹㅇ. In English, for real, I agree.
ㅇㄱㄹㅇ = 이거레알 ieung-giyeok-rieul-ieung = igeo-re-al	this is for real / so true	Now add 이거, meaning this. 이거 레알 means, this is real, or this is so true.
이거레알 igeo-re-al	this is for real	이거 starts with 이응 and 기억. 레알 starts with 리을 and 이응. Together, ㅇㄱㄹㅇ.
ㄹㅇ → ㅇㄱㄹㅇ rieul-ieung → ieung-giyeok-rieul-ieung	true → this is so true	Use ㅇㄱㄹㅇ when you strongly agree with the previous message. It is stronger than plain ㄹㅇ.



Grammar / Structure Notes

ㄹㅇ = 레알 / 진짜

ㄹㅇ = 레알 / 진짜 — for real / really

ㄹㅇ comes from 레알, a playful spelling of real

레알 → ㄹㅇ

레알 → ㄹㅇ — real → for real

ㄹ is 리을, ㅇ is 이응

ㄹㅇ

ㄹㅇ — for real / totally

often used alone as agreement

그 영화 진짜 재밌어

그 영화 + 진짜 + 재밌어 — That movie is really fun

Here is the full feeling behind it: 그 영화 진짜 재밌어, that movie is really fun.

ㄹㅇ = 진짜 그렇지

ㄹㅇ = 진짜 그렇지 — for real / that's so true

a short reply can carry a full agreement

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
ㅋㅋ	kieuk-kieuk
이거 레알 맛있어	igeo re-al masisseo
맛있어	masisseo

Self-Check

- 1 Say ㄹㅇ / ㅇㄱㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋㅋ 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
ㅇㅇ / ㅋㅋ / ㅂㅂ / ㅇㅈ More Korean Chat Shorthand	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅇ / ㅋㅋ / ㅂㅂ / ㅇㅈ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-002
ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001
ㅎㅇ / ㅎㅎ / ㄱㅈ Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations	A2 Colloquial: compare ㅎㅇ / ㅎㅎ / ㄱㅈ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-TXT-001
ㅠㅠ / Korean Emoticons and Tone in Text	B2 Colloquial: compare ㅠㅠ / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-001

My Notes

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