



Korean Ladder Study Note

찌개 / 국물 /

Sharing Food and Soup Culture

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Culture Food Culture	찌개 / 국물 / Sharing Food and Soup Culture

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUOZ0wYwPeg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real story. First time I ate in Korea, one bubbling pot of stew came out for the whole table. I asked for my own bowl... and everybody laughed.

Ha — I did the exact same thing. I kept looking for the 'my portion' bowl that never came.

오늘의 핵심은 아주 간단해요. 찌개는 같이, 국은 따로. In English — stew is shared, soup is your own.

찌개 is thick and rich, and it stays in the middle — everyone dips a spoon in. 국 is lighter, and it comes in your own bowl. 같은 국물, 다른 그릇.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	여기 김치찌개 이인분 주세요. —	Two servings of kimchi stew here, please.
Junho	네, 반찬은 셀프예요. —	Sure — side dishes are self-serve.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	국물 더 주실 수 있어요? —	Could I get more broth?
Junho	그럼요, 리필 돼요. —	Of course, refills are fine.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
찌개는 같이, 국은 따로 jjigae-neun gachi, guk-eun ttaro	Stew together, soup apart	오늘의 핵심은 아주 간단해요. 찌개는 같이, 국은 따로. In English — stew is shared, soup is your own.
국물이 진하고 반찬이 많아요 gungmuri jinhago banchani manayo	The broth is rich and there are many side dishes.	먼저 진짜 문장 하나 볼게요. 국물이 진하고 반찬이 많아요 — the broth is rich, and there are lots of side dishes.
국물 / 진하다 gungmul / jinhada	broth / to be rich (thick in flavor)	여기서 국물 — that's the broth, the liquid itself. And 진하다 means rich or strong. 진하고 is just 진하다 connected with 그리고 — 'is rich AND...'
이 찌개는 같이 먹어요 i jjigae-neun gachi meogeoyo	We eat this stew together.	이제 나눠 먹는 문장이예요. 이 찌개는 같이 먹어요 — this stew, we eat it together.
-인분 -inbun	portion / serving (counter for people)	같이 means 'together.' 이게 찌개 문화의 핵심이예요. Now — how do you actually ORDER for a group? You count by 인분, portions.
삼겹살 2인분 주세요 samgyeopsal i-inbun juseyo	Two servings of pork belly, please.	예를 들면 — 삼겹살 이인분 주세요. Two servings of pork belly, please. 숫자 다음에 인분을 붙여요.
국은 각자 그릇에 guk-eun gakja geureuse	Soup comes in each person's own bowl	국은 달라요. 국은 각자 그릇에 나와요 — soup comes out in each person's own bowl. So you don't order '국 이인분' the same way.
찌개 = 가운데 / 국 = 내 그릇 jjigae = gaunde / guk = nae geureut	stew = middle, shared / soup = my own bowl	Okay let me get this straight — 찌개 is the bubbling one in the middle we all dip into, and 국 shows up in my own bowl?



Grammar / Structure Notes

찌개는 같이, 국은 따로

찌개는 같이, 국은 따로 — Stew together, soup apart

The one rule that fixes 90% of the confusion.

찌개 vs. 국

찌개 vs. 국 — thick shared stew vs. light individual soup

Both are soupy — the difference is HOW it's served.

국물이 진하고 반찬이 많아요

국물 + 이 + 진하고 + 반찬 + 이 + 많아요 — The broth is rich and there are many side dishes.

먼저 진짜 문장 하나 볼게요. 국물이 진하고 반찬이 많아요 — the broth is rich, and there are lots of side dishes.

국물 / 진하다

국물 / 진하다 — broth / to be rich (thick in flavor)

국물 = the liquid; you'll hear it about both 국 and 찌개.

이 찌개는 같이 먹어요

이 + 찌개 + 는 + 같이 + 먹어요 — We eat this stew together.

이제 나눠 먹는 문장이예요. 이 찌개는 같이 먹어요 — this stew, we eat it together.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
김치찌개	gimchi-jjigae
김치찌개 이인분 주세요	gimchi-jjigae i-inbun juseyo
좋아요	joayo
국물이 진해요	gungmuri jinhaeyo
진해요 / 진하고	jinhaeyo / jinhago

Self-Check

- 1 Say 찌개 / 국물 / 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
김치 / 반찬 / 밥 Korean Table Basics	A1 Culture: compare 김치 / 반찬 / 밥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-FCL-001
배달 음식 / 치맥 Korea's Delivery and Late-Night Food Culture	B2 Culture: compare 배달 음식 / 치맥 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-FCL-001
제사 / 차례상 Ancestral Rites and the Ritual Table	C1 Culture: compare 제사 / 차례상 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-FCL-001
설날 / 추석 Korea's Two Biggest Holidays	B1 Culture: compare 설날 / 추석 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-CULTURE-HOL-001

My Notes

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