



Korean Ladder Study Note

설날 / 추석

Korea's Two Biggest Holidays

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Culture Holidays	설날 / 추석 Korea's Two Biggest Holidays

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMhn4bQOr1Y)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMhn4bQOr1Y>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real talk — Korea has two giant holidays and I always mix them up. Which one is actually the New Year?

좋은 질문이에요. 설날은 음력 새해예요 — the lunar New Year. 추석은 가을 추수 명절이에요 — the autumn harvest festival.

둘 다 음력으로 지내요. In English, both follow the lunar calendar, so the dates move every year.

두 명절 모두 가족이 모여요. In English, on both holidays the whole family gathers — so trains and highways are completely packed.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	새해 복 많이 받으세요. —	Happy New Year (receive lots of luck).



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 새해 복 많이 받으세요. 떡국 드셨어요? —	Yes, Happy New Year. Have you had tteokguk?
Hana	네, 한 그릇 먹었어요. —	Yes, I had a bowl.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
설날 · 추석 seollal · chuseok	Lunar New Year · Harvest Festival	둘 다 음력으로 지내요. In English, both follow the lunar calendar, so the dates move every year.
가족이 모여요 gajogi moyeoyo	The family gathers	두 명절 모두 가족이 모여요. In English, on both holidays the whole family gathers — so trains and highways are completely packed.
한 살 더 먹어요 han sal deo meogeoyo	You become one year older	떡국을 먹으면 한 살 더 먹어요. In English, eating tteokguk means you turn one year older — that's the tradition.
떡국 tteokguk	rice-cake soup (Seollal food)	Wait, so the soup literally ages you a year? I love that.
세뱃돈 sebaetdon	New Year money (given after the bow)	세배를 하면 어른들이 세뱃돈을 줘요. In English, after the bow the elders give the kids 세뱃돈 — New Year money.
송편 songpyeon	half-moon rice cakes (Chuseok food)	송편은 반달 모양 떡이에요. In English, songpyeon are half-moon rice cakes, and the family shapes them together while the harvest moon rises.
설날 = 떡국 · 추석 = 송편 —	Seollal → tteokguk · Chuseok → songpyeon	So Seollal soup, Chuseok rice cakes. Two holidays, two foods — that I can remember.
차례 charye	ancestral memorial rite	한 가지 더 중요한 게 있어요 — 차례. 차례는 조상님께 드리는 제사예요, a memorial rite for the ancestors.



Grammar / Structure Notes

설날 · 추석

설날 · 추석 — Lunar New Year · Harvest Festival

Both are lunar-calendar holidays — dates shift each year.

가족이 모여요

가족이 모여요 — The family gathers

Both holidays = a big family homecoming.

설날에 떡국을 먹어요.

설날 + 에 + 떡국 + 을 + 먹어요 + . — On Seollal, we eat tteokguk (rice-cake soup).

설날 음식부터 볼게요. 설날에 떡국을 먹어요.

한 살 더 먹어요

한 살 더 먹어요 — You become one year older

Eat tteokguk → +1 year, the Seollal way.

떡국

떡국 — rice-cake soup (Seollal food)

Wait, so the soup literally ages you a year? I love that.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
새해 복 많이 받으세요	saehae bok mani badeuseyo
추석 잘 보내세요	chuseok jal bonaeseyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 설날 / 추석 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
새해 복 많이 받으세요 The Korean New Year Greeting Everyone Uses	A1 Culture: compare 새해 복 많이 받으세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-HOL-001
생일 / 돌잔치 / 미역국 Korean Birthday Traditions	A2 Culture: compare 생일 / 돌잔치 / 미역국 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-HOL-001
최애 / 덕질 / 입덕 K-Pop Fandom Vocabulary	B1 Culture: compare 최애 / 덕질 / 입덕 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-CULTURE-MED-001
K-드라마 단골 대사 Phrases You Always Hear in K-Dramas	A2 Culture: compare K-드라마 단골 대사 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-MED-001

My Notes

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