



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 최애 / 덕질 / 입덕

## K-Pop Fandom Vocabulary

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Culture K-Drama & K-Pop	최애 / 덕질 / 입덕 K-Pop Fandom Vocabulary

### Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](#)

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](#)

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

[Visit Korean Ladder for all free lessons](#)

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

### Core Idea

Okay, real talk — I follow a Korean fan account and every other word is 최애, 덕질, 입덕... and I have NO idea what they mean.

Same. I tried typing one into a dictionary and got nothing useful. These feel like words real fans just... know.

그래서 오늘 배워요. Today we learn the three words that unlock K-pop fan culture. Let's start with your absolute favorite.

첫 번째 단어는 최애예요. 최애 comes from 최고로 사랑하는 — the one you love the most. In English, it's your bias, your number-one.

### Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 최애가 누구예요? —	Junho, who's your bias?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저는 작년에 입덕했어요. 요즘 매일 덕질해요. —	I got into the fandom last year. These days I stan every day.
Hana	완전 덕후네요. —	You're a total hardcore fan.
Junho	맞아요. 행복한 덕후예요. —	True — a happy fan.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
최애 choe-ae	your #1 favorite (bias)	첫 번째 단어는 최애예요. 최애 comes from 최고로 애정하는 — the one you love the most. In English, it's your bias, your number-one.
제 최애는 ___이예요 je choe-ae-neun ___ i-e-yo	My bias is ____.	Oh, so 최애 is just the person — and I plug their name in after 는. My 최애 is... everyone, honestly.
덕질 deok-jil	fan activities; stanning	두 번째는 덕질이에요. 덕질 is everything you DO as a fan — streaming, collecting, going to concerts. In English, we'd say stanning.
덕질하다 deok-jil-ha-da	to do fan activities	So 덕질 is the verb-noun for the whole hobby. Streaming at 2 a.m. counts as 덕질, right?
입덕 ip-tteok	getting into a fandom; falling for a group	세 번째, 가장 중요한 단어. 입덕이에요. 입(入) means to enter, so 입덕 is the moment you FALL into a fandom and become a fan.
입덕하다 ↔ 탈덕하다 ip-tteo-ka-da ↔ tal-deo-ka-da	to enter a fandom ↔ to leave a fandom	동사는 입덕하다예요. 그리고 떠날 때는 탈덕하다. 입덕 is falling in, 탈덕 is leaving the fandom. 탈(脫) means to escape.
덕후 deo-ku	a hardcore / devoted fan	팬을 부르는 말도 있어요. 덕후예요. 덕후 is a hardcore, devoted fan. 발음은 [더쿠]예요 — the ㄱ and ㅎ blend into a ㅋ sound.
덕후 → [더쿠] deo-ku	fan (devotee)	Wait — so the spelling is 덕후 but it sounds like 더쿠? That's exactly the kind of thing the dictionary never tells me.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 최애

최애 — your #1 favorite (bias)

From 최고(最高) + 애정(愛情) — the one you adore most.

### 제 최애는 정국이에요.

제 + 최애 + 는 + 정국 + 이에요 — My bias is Jungkook.

이렇게 말해요. 제 최애는 정국이에요. As for me, my bias is Jungkook. 최애 is the noun, and 는 marks it as the topic.

### 제 최애는 \_\_\_ 이에요

제 최애는 \_\_\_ 이에요 — My bias is \_\_\_.

Drop any name into the blank.

### 덕질

덕질 — fan activities; stanning

덕(from 덕후) + 질 (an activity suffix).

### 주말마다 덕질해요.

주말마다 + 덕질 + 해요 — Every weekend I do my fan activities.

동사로는 덕질하다예요. 주말마다 덕질해요 — every weekend I do my fan stuff. 하다 turns the noun into a verb.

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
ip-tteo-kae-sseo-yo (입떠캐썬)	ip-tteo-kae-sseo-yo

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 최애 / 덕질 / 입덕 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
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 <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-MED-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-MED-001</a>
사극 말투 하옵니다 / 마마 / 통촉하여 주시옵소서	C1 Culture: compare 사극 말투 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-MED-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-MED-001</a>
설날 / 추석 Korea's Two Biggest Holidays	B1 Culture: compare 설날 / 추석 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-CULTURE-HOLID-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-CULTURE-HOLID-001</a>
경조사 예절 결혼식·장례식 봉투와 조의금	B2 Culture: compare 경조사 예절 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-ETQ-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-ETQ-001</a>

## My Notes

---



---



---

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