



Korean Ladder Study Note

르 불규칙 / ㅂ 불규칙

Korea's Most Common Irregular Verbs

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Grammar Verb Conjugation	르 불규칙 / ㅂ 불규칙 Korea's Most Common Irregular Verbs

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uqHoNKDmMs>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real confession. I learned 빠르다 means 'to be fast.' So why does my textbook suddenly say 빨라요? Where did that ㅍ come from?

Same thing bites me with 춥다, 'to be cold.' I said 춥어요 and my friend just laughed. Apparently it's 추워요?

That laugh is where every learner starts. These aren't random — they're two tidy families of change. Let me name them.

첫 번째는 르 불규칙. When a stem ends in 르 and a vowel ending follows, the 르 doubles the ㄹ. In English — the 르 splits and adds an ㄹ.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	오늘 날씨 어때요? —	How's the weather today?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	너무 추워요. 그리고 바람도 많이 불어요. —	It's really cold. And the wind is blowing a lot too.
Junho	맞아요. 그런데 준호 씨는 말이 너무 빨라요. —	True. But you, Junho, talk way too fast.
Hana	하하, 죄송해요. 천천히 말할게요. —	Haha, sorry. I'll speak slowly.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
르 불규칙 reu bulgyuchik	the 르 irregular	첫 번째는 르 불규칙. When a stem ends in 르 and a vowel ending follows, the 르 doubles the ㄹ. In English — the 르 splits and adds an ㄹ.
ㅂ 불규칙 bieup bulgyuchik	the ㅂ irregular	두 번째는 ㅂ 불규칙. When a stem ends in ㅂ and a vowel ending follows, the ㅂ turns into 우. In English — the ㅂ becomes a 우 sound.
빨라요 ppallayo	(it) is fast	Let's watch 르 first. 빠르다, to be fast, becomes 빨라요. See how the 르 collapses and an ㄹ jumps back onto the syllable before it.
불러요 bulleoyo	(someone) calls / sings	또 하나. 부르다, to call or to sing, becomes 불러요. Same move — the 르 doubles, and the ㄹ lands on 불.
빠르다 → 빨라요 ppareuda → ppallayo	bright vowel ㅏ/ㅑ → 라	One choice remains — is it 라 or 러? That's just vowel harmony. The syllable before 르 decides it. 빠 has ㅏ, a bright vowel, so 빨라요.
부르다 → 불러요 bureuda → bulleoyo	dark vowel ㅓ/others → 러	그리고 부 has ㅓ, a dark vowel, so 불러요 with 러. In English — dark vowels take 러, bright vowels take 라.
르 → ㄹ + 라/러 reu → ll + la/leo	one move, two vowel choices	Oh! So the 르 always doubles the same way — I just pick 라 or 러 by the vowel before it. That's actually one rule, not a hundred.
모르다 → 몰라요 moreuda → mollayo	Korea's Most Common Irregular Verbs	Let me try the logic out loud. 모르다, to not know... the 모 has ㅏ, bright, so it becomes... 몰라요?



Grammar / Structure Notes

르 불규칙

르 불규칙 — the 르 irregular

르 + vowel ending → 르르

ㅂ 불규칙

ㅂ 불규칙 — the ㅂ irregular

ㅂ + vowel ending → 우

빨라요

빨 + 라 + 요 — (it) is fast

Let's watch 르 first. 빠르다, to be fast, becomes 빨라요. See how the 르 collapses and an ㅓ jumps back onto the syllable before it.

불러요

불 + 러 + 요 — (someone) calls / sings

또 하나. 부르다, to call or to sing, becomes 불러요. Same move — the 르 doubles, and the ㅓ lands on 불.

빠르다 → 빨라요

빠르다 → 빨라요 — bright vowel ㅏ/ㅑ → 라

ㅏ, ㅑ before 르 → 라

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
몰라요	moreuda → mollayo
달라요	dareuda → dallayo
이거는 달라요	dallayo
가까워요	gakkapda → gakkawoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 르 불규칙 / ㅂ 불규칙 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
아요 / 어요 The Polite Present Tense	A1 Grammar: compare 아요 / 어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-CNJ-001
으 탈락 / ㄹ 탈락 바빠요 · 살아요 · 만들어요	A2 Grammar: compare 으 탈락 / ㄹ 탈락 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-CNJ-001
-네요 / -군요 / -잖아요 Reacting, Realizing, and Reminding	B1 Grammar: compare -네요 / -군요 / -잖아요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-END-001
관형형 Turning Verbs into Modifiers	B1 Grammar: compare 관형형 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-MOD-001

My Notes

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