



Korean Ladder Study Note

-(으)ㄹ까 봐 / -(으)ㄹ 텐데

Expressing Worry and Expectation

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Grammar Sentence Endings	-(으)ㄹ까 봐 / -(으)ㄹ 텐데 Expressing Worry and Expectation

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4vJoGHlRdw>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I want to say, “I’m worried I’ll be late,” but I also hear things like 바쁠 텐데 괜찮아요? Are these both just “might”?

좋은 질문이에요. 둘 다 아직 일어나지 않은 일을 떠올리지만, 감정의 방향이 달라요. In English, one is fear of a possible problem, and the other is expectation, concern, or regret.

오늘 배울 두 표현은 '-(으)ㄹ까 봐'와 '-(으)ㄹ 텐데'예요. They both anticipate or imagine a situation, but -(으)ㄹ 텐데 can also express regret about an unreal past result.

예를 들어, 늦을까 봐는 “I’m afraid I might be late.” 늦을 텐데는 “I expect I’ll be late,” or “I would probably be late,” depending on context.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	비가 올까 봐 우산을 챙겼어요. —	I packed an umbrella because I was afraid it might rain.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	잘하셨습니다. 퇴근할 때 비가 많이 올 텐데 우산 꼭 쓰세요. —	Good call. It will probably rain a lot when you get off work, so make sure to use the umbrella.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-(으)ㄴ까 봐 / -(으)ㄴ 텐데 -(eu)lkka bwa / -(eu)l tende	afraid that might happen / expect or imagine that	오늘 배울 두 표현은 '-(으)ㄴ까 봐'와 '-(으)ㄴ 텐데'예요. They both anticipate or imagine a situation, but -(으)ㄴ 텐데 can also express regret about an unreal past result.
늦을까 봐 / 늦을 텐데 neujeulkka bwa / neujeul tende	afraid I might be late / I expect I will be late	예를 들어, 늦을까 봐는 “I’m afraid I might be late.” 늦을 텐데는 “I expect I’ll be late,” or “I would probably be late,” depending on context.
걱정 → -(으)ㄴ까 봐 geokjeong → -(eu)lkka bwa	worry → afraid it might happen	So 늦을까 봐 has the anxious feeling built in. 늦을 텐데 is more like I’m imagining the situation and reacting to it.
걱정/준비: -(으)ㄴ까 봐 예상/배려/아쉬움: -(으)ㄴ 텐데 geokjeong/junbi: -(eu)lkka bwa / yesan g/baeryeo/aswium: -(eu)l tende	worry/preparation: -(으)ㄴ까 봐 · expectation/care/regret: -(으)ㄴ 텐데	맞아요. 간단히 말하면, 걱정이나 대비에는 '-(으)ㄴ까 봐'. 예상, 배려, 아쉬움에는 '-(으)ㄴ 텐데'를 많이 써요. In English: worry or preparation versus expectation, care, or regret.
비가 올까 봐 우산을 챙겼어요 biga olkka bwa usaneul chaenggyeosseoyo	I took an umbrella because I was afraid it might rain.	먼저 자연스러운 예문을 들어 볼게요. 비가 올까 봐 우산을 챙겼어요. I took an umbrella because I was worried it might rain.
회의에 늦을까 봐 걱정돼요 hoeui-e neujeulkka bwa geokjeongdwaeyo	I’m worried I might be late to the meeting.	회의에 늦을까 봐 걱정돼요. I’m worried I might be late to the meeting. 여기서는 늦는 상황을 두려워하고 있어요.
V/A + -(으)ㄴ까 봐 + 걱정돼요 / 챙겼어요 / 확인했어요 -(eu)lkka bwa + geokjeongdwaeyo / chaenggyeosseoyo / hwaginhaesseoyo	I’m worried that... / I prepared because... / I checked because...	패턴으로 보면 이렇게예요. 동사나 형용사에 '-(으)ㄴ까 봐'를 붙이고, 뒤에는 걱정돼요, 챙겼어요, 확인했어요 같은 말이 자주 와요.



Word	Meaning	Example
먹다 → 먹을까 봐 오다 → 올까 봐 살다 → 살까 봐 meokda → meogeulkka bwa / oda → olkka bwa / salda → salkka bwa	to eat → afraid might eat / to come → afraid might come / to live → afraid might live	형태도 중요해요. 받침이 있으면 '-을까 봐'를 붙여요. 받침이 없으면 '-ㄹ까 봐'를 붙이고, 리을 받침이면 리을은 그대로 두고 '-까 봐'를 붙여요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-(으)까 봐 / -(으)ㄴ 텐데

-(으)까 봐 / -(으)ㄴ 텐데 — afraid that might happen / expect or imagine that

Both look toward an imagined situation, but the feeling is different.

늦을까 봐 / 늦을 텐데

늦을까 봐 / 늦을 텐데 — afraid I might be late / I expect I will be late

까 봐 = worry. 텐데 = expectation plus a connected feeling.

걱정 → -(으)까 봐

걱정 → -(으)까 봐 — worry → afraid it might happen

So 늦을까 봐 has the anxious feeling built in. 늦을 텐데 is more like I'm imagining the situation and reacting to it.

걱정/준비: -(으)까 봐 예상/배려/아쉬움: -(으)ㄴ 텐데

걱정/준비: -(으)까 봐

예상/배려/아쉬움: -(으)ㄴ 텐데 — worry/preparation: -(으)까 봐 · expectation/care/regret: -(으)ㄴ 텐데

맞아요. 간단히 말하면, 걱정이나 대비에는 '-(으)까 봐'. 예상, 배려, 아쉬움에는 '-(으)ㄴ 텐데'를 많이 써요. In English: worry or preparation versus expectation, care, or regret.

비가 올까 봐 우산을 챙겼어요

비 + 가 + 올까 봐 + 우산 + 을 + 챙겼어요 — I took an umbrella because I was afraid it might rain.

먼저 자연스러운 예문을 들어 볼게요. 비가 올까 봐 우산을 챙겼어요. I took an umbrella because I was worried it might rain.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
먹을까 봐 · 올까 봐 · 살까 봐	meogeulkka bwa · olkka bwa · salkka bwa
늦을까 봐 걱정돼요	neujeulkka bwa geokjeongdwaeyo
바쁠 텐데 괜찮아요?	bappeul tende gwaenchanayo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say -(으)까 봐 / -(으)ㄴ 텐데 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
-거든요 Explaining a Reason the Listener Didn't Know	B1 Grammar: compare -거든요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-END-002
-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
-(으)ㄴ 수 있어요 / 없어요 Saying What You Can and Can't Do	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄴ 수 있어요 / 없어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-004
-(으)ㄴ게요 Promising and Committing to Do Something	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)ㄴ게요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-002

My Notes

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