



Korean Ladder Study Note

-나 보다 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다

눈앞의 근거로 추측하기

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Grammar Sentence Endings	-나 보다 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다 눈앞의 근거로 추측하기

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-END-006>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOS13uEv1oA>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I step outside. The rain has stopped, but the pavement is wet. I didn't see it rain. How do I say, 'It looks like it rained'?

비가 왔나 봐요. It looks like it rained. The wet pavement is your clue.

So I'm not claiming I witnessed the rain. I'm explaining what the evidence suggests.

오늘의 표현은 나 보다와 은가 보다는요. These patterns often mean 'apparently' or 'it looks like,' when something you notice leads you to a conclusion.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	민수 씨가 전화를 안 받네요. —	Minsu isn't answering the phone.
Junho	지금 바쁜가 봐요. —	It looks like he's busy right now.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	회의 중인가 봐요. —	It looks like he's in a meeting.
Junho	그럼 나중에 다시 전화해요. —	Then let's call again later.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-나 보다 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다 —	Apparently; it looks like	오늘의 표현은 나 보다는 은가 보다는요. These patterns often mean 'apparently' or 'it looks like,' when something you notice leads you to a conclusion.
-나 봐요 / -(으)ㄴ가 봐요 —	A clue-based inference	것 같아요와 뜻이 겹칠 때도 있어요. The meanings can overlap. But this pattern especially brings out the idea that a clue led you to your guess.
오다 → 오나 봐요 —	It looks like someone or something is coming.	동사는 어간에 나 봐요를 붙여요. For a present-tense action verb, add 나 봐요 to the stem. 오다 becomes 오나 봐요.
오다 → 왔다 → 왔나 봐요 —	It looks like someone or something came.	과거를 추측하면 왔나 봐요나 었나 봐요를 써요. For a past event, keep the past tense before the inference ending. 왔어요 becomes 왔나 봐요.
왔나 봐요 —	Apparently came	The past tense tells us when the event happened. The ending tells us I'm inferring it.
바쁘다 → 바쁜가 봐요 —	It looks like someone is busy.	형용사는 은가 봐요 형태를 배워 볼게요. 바쁘다 becomes 바쁜가 봐요. The stem ends in a vowel, so we use the shorter adjective form.
작다 → 작은가 봐요 —	It looks like it's small.	받침이 있으면 은가 봐요를 붙여요. 작다 becomes 작은가 봐요. A consonant-ending adjective stem takes 은가 봐요.
있나 봐요 / 없나 봐요 / 재미있나 봐요 —	Apparently there is / apparently there isn't / apparently it's fun	있다와 없다는 나 봐요를 써요. For 있다 and 없다, use 나 봐요. For example, 재미있나 봐요 means 'It seems to be fun.'



Grammar / Structure Notes

비가 왔나 봐요.

비가 왔나 봐요. — It looks like it rained.

Observed clue → inference about the past

-나 보다 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다

-나 보다 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다 — Apparently; it looks like

Today's polite forms: -나 봐요 / -(으)ㄴ가 봐요

-나 봐요 / -(으)ㄴ가 봐요

-나 봐요 / -(으)ㄴ가 봐요 — A clue-based inference

-(으)ㄴ/는 것 같아요 has a broader range of uses.

비가 오나 봐요.

비 + 가 + 오 + 나 봐요. — It looks like it's raining.

창밖에 우산이 많이 보여요. 비가 오나 봐요. I see lots of umbrellas outside. It looks like it's raining.

비가 왔나 봐요.

비 + 가 + 왔 + 나 봐요. — It looks like it rained.

지금은 비가 안 오지만 길이 젖어 있어요. 비가 왔나 봐요. It isn't raining now, but the street is wet. It looks like it rained.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
비가 왔나 봐요.	Listen, pause, and repeat the whole sentence.
바쁘냐 봐요.	Repeat the complete polite form.

Self-Check

- 1 Say -나 보다 / -(으)ㄴ가 보다 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
-(으)르까 봐 / -(으)르 텐데 Expressing Worry and Expectation	B1 Grammar: compare -(으)르까 봐 / -(으)르 텐데 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-END-003
-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)르 수 있어요 / 없어요 Saying What You Can and Can't Do	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)르 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

My Notes

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