



Korean Ladder Study Note

관형형

Turning Verbs into Modifiers

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Grammar Modifiers & Clauses	관형형 Turning Verbs into Modifiers

Study Links

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, here's my problem. I can say 책 — book. I can say 읽었어요 — I read it. But how do I glue them into one thing: 'the book I read'?

Right — in English we just shove the clause in front: 'the food I'm eating,' 'the food I'll eat.' Korean has to do something different, doesn't it?

네. 한국어는 동사를 명사 앞에 두고 끝을 바꿔요. We put the verb in front of the noun and change its ending. 이걸 관형형이라고 해요 — the modifier form.

행동을 나타내는 동사는 시간에 따라 끝이 세 가지예요. For action verbs, the ending changes with time — present, past, and future.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어제 산 우산 어디 있어요? —	Where's the umbrella you bought yesterday?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	지금 쓰는 우산이요? 현관에 있어요. —	The umbrella I'm using now? It's at the door.
Hana	아니요, 내일 쓸 우산이요. —	No, the umbrella I'll use tomorrow.
Junho	아, 그건 아직 안 샀어요. —	Ah, I haven't bought that one yet.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
동사 + 관형형 + 명사 dongsa + gwanhyeonghyeong + myeongsa	verb → modifier ending → noun	네. 한국어는 동사를 명사 앞에 두고 끝을 바꿔요. We put the verb in front of the noun and change its ending. 이걸 관형형이라고 해요 — the modifier form.
-는 / -은 / -을 -neun / -eun / -eul	present · past · future modifier endings	행동을 나타내는 동사는 시간에 따라 끝이 세 가지예요. For action verbs, the ending changes with time — present, past, and future.
읽는 책 ingneun chaek	the book (someone) is reading	지금 하는 일은 -는. 읽는 책 — the book I'm reading right now. 끝에 -는만 붙이면 돼요.
읽은 책 ilgeun chaek	the book (someone) read (past)	이미 끝난 일은 -은. 읽은 책 — the book I read, already finished. 받침이 있으면 -은이에요.
끝이 시간을 정해요 kkeuchi siganeul jeonghaeyo	The ending decides the time.	아직 안 한 일은 -을. 읽을 책 — the book I'll read. 보세요, 끝이 시간을 정해요 — the ending decides the time.
읽는 · 읽은 · 읽을 ingneun · ilgeun · ilgeul	reading · read · will read	그래서 같은 동사가 세 얼굴이에요 — 읽는, 읽은, 읽을. Same verb, three faces.
먹다 → 먹은 (O) / 먹었은 (X) meokda → meogeun	'the food I ate' = 먹은, never 먹었은	맞아요. 관형형 과거에는 -었-을 안 써요. 과거는 그냥 -은 하나면 돼요. The ending itself carries the past.
간 사람 · 가는 사람 · 갈 사람 gan saram · ganeun saram · gal saram	the person who went · is going · will go	받침이 없으면 줄어듭니다. 가다 → 간 사람 (past), 갈 사람 (future). After a vowel it shrinks to -ㄴ and -ㄹ.



Grammar / Structure Notes

동사 + 관형형 + 명사

동사 + 관형형 + 명사 — verb → modifier ending → noun

The verb describes the noun, like a relative clause.

-는 / -은 / -을

-는 / -은 / -을 — present · past · future modifier endings

행동을 나타내는 동사는 시간에 따라 끝이 세 가지예요. For action verbs, the ending changes with time — present, past, and future.

읽는 책

읽 + 는 + 책 — the book (someone) is reading

지금 하는 일은 -는. 읽는 책 — the book I'm reading right now. 끝에 -는만 붙이면 돼요.

읽은 책

읽 + 은 + 책 — the book (someone) read (past)

이미 끝난 일은 -은. 읽은 책 — the book I read, already finished. 받침이 있으면 -은이에요.

끝이 시간을 정해요

끝이 시간을 정해요 — The ending decides the time.

읽는 (now) · 읽은 (already) · 읽을 (later)

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
일근 책	ilgeun chaek
읽은 책 → [일근 책]	ilgeun chaek
머글 음식	meogeul eumsik

Self-Check

- 1 Say 관형형 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
는데 / Setting Up Background and Soft Contrast	B1 Grammar: compare 는데 / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-CON-001
(으)ㄹ 거예요 The Korean Future Tense and Plans	A2 Grammar: compare (으)ㄹ 거예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-TNS-002
고 싶어요 Saying What You Want to Do	A2 Grammar: compare 고 싶어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-001
도 Saying 'Also', 'Too', and 'Even' in Korean	A1 Grammar: compare 도 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-PRT-006

My Notes

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