



Korean Ladder Study Note

받침 ㄴ / ㅇ / ㅁ

Mastering the Nasal Final Consonants

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Pronunciation Batchim	받침 ㄴ / ㅇ / ㅁ Mastering the Nasal Final Consonants

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d93Jieur81U)

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real confession to start. Last week I tried to say I was tired and going to my room — 방 — but my Korean friend heard 밤, like 'night,' and got so confused.

Same thing happens to me with 산 and 삼. I want to say 'mountain,' and it comes out sounding like the number three. To my English ears they feel almost identical.

That is the perfect place to start. 산, 삼, 방, 밤 — these aren't typos. The only thing that changed is the final consonant, the 받침. In English we get lazy with word endings, but in Korean the ending carries the meaning.

So here is today's frame. There are three nasal 받침: ㄴ, ㅇ, and ㅁ. 'Nasal' just means the air comes out through your nose. They sound similar, but each one is made in a different place in your mouth.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	오늘 밤은 정말 조용하네요. —	Tonight is really quiet.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	네, 이 방에서 보는 산이 예뻐요. —	Yes, the mountain from this room is pretty.
Junho	산 위에 달이 떴어요. —	The moon has risen over the mountain.
Hana	밤에 보는 방 풍경이 최고예요. —	The room's view at night is the best.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㄴ · ㅇ · ㅁ n · ng · m	the three nasal final consonants	So here is today's frame. There are three nasal 받침: ㄴ, ㅇ, and ㅁ. 'Nasal' just means the air comes out through your nose. They sound similar, but each one is made in a different place in your mouth.
위치 wichi	position — where the sound is made	여기서 핵심은 위치예요. The key is location — where in your mouth the sound is made. Let's go one by one, front of the mouth to the back.
산 san	Mastering the Nasal Final Consonants	First, ㄴ — we call this letter 니을. For ㄴ, the tip of your tongue presses the ridge right behind your upper front teeth. Try 산 — 'mountain.' 산.
밤 bam	Mastering the Nasal Final Consonants	다음은 ㅁ. This letter is named 미을. For ㅁ, you simply close your lips, like the end of English 'mom.' Try 밤 — 'night.' 밤. Feel your lips come together at the end.
방 bang	Mastering the Nasal Final Consonants	Last, ㅇ — as a 받침 it sounds like 'ng,' and its letter name is 이을. The back of your tongue rises to the soft part at the back of the roof of your mouth. Try 방 — 'room.' 방. Like the end of English 'song.'
산 · 밤 · 방 san · bam · bang	mountain · night · room	이제 비교해 볼게요. Let's hear them side by side with real words. 산 — mountain. 밤 — night. 방 — room. Same start, three different endings, three different meanings.
손 · 솜 · 송 son · som · song	hand · cotton · (a name sound)	Here's another set that learners love to mix up. 손 — hand, ending in ㄴ. 솜 — cotton, ending in ㅁ. 송 — like the sound in a last name, ending in ㅇ. Listen: 손, 솜, 송.



Word	Meaning	Example
밤에 방에서 산을 봐요 bame bangeseo saneul bwayo	At night, I see the mountain from my room	그리고 문장 안에서도 똑같아요. It works the same inside a sentence. Watch this one: 밤에 방에서 산을 봐요 — 'At night, I see the mountain from my room.' All three nasal endings, one breath.

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Grammar / Structure Notes

ㄴ · ㅇ · ㅁ

ㄴ · ㅇ · ㅁ — the three nasal final consonants

Same family, three different mouth positions

위치

위치 — position — where the sound is made

Front → back of the mouth

산 · 밤 · 방

산 · 밤 · 방 — mountain · night · room

ㄴ tongue · ㅁ lips · ㅇ back of tongue

손 · 솜 · 송

손 · 솜 · 송 — hand · cotton · (a name sound)

ㄴ · ㅁ · ㅇ — only the ending changes

밤에 방에서 산을 봐요

밤 + 에 + 방 + 에서 + 산 + 을 + 봐요 — At night, I see the mountain from my room

그리고 문장 안에서도 똑같아요. It works the same inside a sentence. Watch this one: 밤에 방에서 산을 봐요 — 'At night, I see the mountain from my room.' All three nasal endings, one breath.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
산	san
밤	bam
방	bang
밤 / 방	bam ↔ bang
손 / 솜 / 송	son · som · song

Self-Check

- 1 Say 받침 ㄴ / ㅇ / ㅁ 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
받침 ㄹ Pronouncing the Korean Liquid Final	A2 Pronunciation: compare 받침 ㄹ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-BAT-001
받침 Final Consonants Made Simple	A1 Pronunciation: compare 받침 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-BAT-001
ㅅ Plain and Tense Sibilants	A2 Pronunciation: compare ㅅ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-CNS-001
ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ Aspirated and Tense Consonants	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-001

My Notes

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