



Korean Ladder Study Note

관형형

Why 갈 수 있어 Sounds Like 갈쑤이써

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Pronunciation Linking Sounds	관형형 Why 갈 수 있어 Sounds Like 갈쑤이써

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Jnyp2wkMLg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

So here's my confession. I learned how to say 'I can go' from a textbook, and I said it exactly the way it's spelled. My Korean friend understood me, but she smiled a little. Why?

아, 그 미소 알아요. 글자로는 '갈 수 있어'지만, 한국 사람은 '갈쑤이써'라고 해요. In writing it's a soft 시읏, but we say a strong, tight double sound.

Wait, so the S turns into a double S? Nobody ever told me that.

Most textbooks only show the spelling. But your ear will hear it tight. 오늘은 그 소리를 정리해 볼게요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	이번 주말에 뭐 할 거예요? —	What are you going to do this weekend?
Hana	아직 몰라요. 갈 데가 너무 많아서요. —	Not sure yet. There are too many places to go.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	그럼 제가 갈 곳 하나 추천할게요. —	Then I'll recommend a place to go.
Hana	좋아요. 같이 갈 사람도 있어요? —	Sounds good. Is there anyone to go with?
Junho	네, 민수도 올 수 있대요. —	Yes, Minsu says he can come too.
Hana	그럼 맛있는 거 많이 먹을 수 있겠네요. —	Then we'll get to eat lots of good food.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
된소리되기 doen-sori-doegi	tensing: a plain sound becomes a tense (double) sound	이 현상을 된소리되기라고 해요. In English, think of it as tensing. A plain consonant becomes a tense, double consonant.
동사 + -(으)ㄹ + 명사 verb + -(eu)l + noun	a verb with the future -(으)ㄹ ending describing a noun: 'to do', 'that will'	언제 일어나냐면, 관형형 '을' 뒤에요. That's the 리을 ending that turns a verb into 'to do' or 'that will', like 갈, 할, 볼, 먹을.
-(으)ㄹ + ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㅅ ㅈ → ㄱ ㅌ ㅃ ㅆ ㅉ —	After the -(으)ㄹ ending, the next plain consonant goes tense.	그 뒤에 오는 기억, 디근, 비읍, 시웃, 지웃이 된소리로 바뀌어요. Five plain sounds, five tense partners.
할 수 있어요 hal-ssu i-sseo-yo	I can do it. [할쑤이쑤요]	예문 들어 볼게요. 할 수 있어요. 할쑤이쑤요. Listen to that strong 쌍시웃 sound. 'I can do it.'
갈 데가 없어요 gal-tte-ga eop-sseo-yo	There's nowhere to go. [갈떼가 업쑤요]	갈 데가 없어요. 갈떼가 업쑤요. Here, 디근 becomes 쌍디근. 'There's nowhere to go.'
볼 거야 bol-kkeo-ya	I'm going to watch (it). [볼꺼야]	볼 거야. 볼꺼야. 기억 becomes 쌍기억. 'I'm going to watch it.'
만날 사람이 있어요 man-nal-ssa-ra-mi i-sseo-yo	I have someone to meet. [만날싸라미 이쑤요]	만날 사람이 있어요. 만날싸라미 이쑤요. 'I have someone to meet.'
할 줄 알아요 hal-jju-ra-ra-yo	I know how to do it. [할쑤라라요]	하나 더. 할 줄 알아요. 할쑤라라요. 지웃 becomes 쌍지웃. 'I know how to do it.'



Grammar / Structure Notes

된소리되기

된소리되기 — tensing: a plain sound becomes a tense (double) sound

ㄱ→ㄲ, ㄷ→ㄸ, ㅂ→ㅃ, ㄴ→ㄴㄹ, ㅈ→ㅉ

동사 + -(으)ㄹ + 명사

동사 + -(으)ㄹ + 명사 — a verb with the future -(으)ㄹ ending describing a noun: 'to do', 'that will'

갈 곳, 할 일, 볼 영화, 먹을 거

-(으)ㄹ + ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㄴ ㅈ → ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㄴㄹ ㅉ

-(으)ㄹ + ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㄴ ㅈ → ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㄴㄹ ㅉ — After the -(으)ㄹ ending, the next plain consonant goes tense.

할 수 [할쑤] · 갈 데 [갈떼] · 볼 거 [볼꺼]

-(으)ㄹ + ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㄴ ㅈ → ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㄴㄹ ㅉ

-(으)ㄹ + ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㄴ ㅈ → ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㄴㄹ ㅉ — After the -(으)ㄹ ending, the next plain consonant goes tense.

Natives do this automatically, every time.

할 수 있어요

할 + 수 + 있 + 어요 — I can do it. [할쑤이써요]

예문 들어 볼게요. 할 수 있어요. 할쑤이써요. Listen to that strong 쌍시옷 sound. 'I can do it.'

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
할쑤	su → ssu
할쑤이써요	hal-ssu i-sseo-yo
볼꺼야	bol-kkeo-ya
갈떼가업써요	gal-tte-ga eop-sseo-yo
할쑤이써요 (natural, tense)	hal-ssu i-sseo-yo

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
ㅎ 약화·탈락 좋아요 → 조아요	B1 Pronunciation: compare ㅎ 약화·탈락 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-PRON-LNK-001
ㄴ 첨가 Why 한여름 Sounds Like 한녀름	B2 Pronunciation: compare ㄴ 첨가 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-LNK-002
격음화 When ㅎ Turns ㄱ/ㄷ/ㅂ into ㅋ/ㅌ/ㅍ	B2 Pronunciation: compare 격음화 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-LNK-001
받침이 넘어가요 음악이 → 으마기, Basic Linking for Beginners	A2 Pronunciation: compare 받침이 넘어가요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-LNK-001

My Notes

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