



Korean Ladder Study Note

-ㄹ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸

Spoken Contractions of 것

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Colloquial Contractions	-ㄹ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc3G87lVaJI)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc3G87lVaJI>

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

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Core Idea

In dramas, I keep hearing 거야, 거지, and 걸. They are tiny, but they seem to carry the whole feeling of the sentence.

My textbook says 것 means thing. But when someone says 갈 거야, they are not talking about a thing.

좋은 질문이에요. 것 starts as a noun meaning thing, but in everyday speech it often becomes 거 and turns into grammar.

오늘의 핵심은 세 가지예요. 거야 predicts, 거지는 explains with shared understanding, and 걸 shows realization or mild surprise.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 비 올 거야? —	Is it going to rain today?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	응, 곧 올 거야. 하늘이 너무 어두워. —	Yes, it will rain soon. The sky is so dark.
Hana	그래서 다들 우산 챙기는 거지. —	That's why everyone is taking umbrellas, you know.
Junho	그러네. 벌써 바람도 차가운걸. —	Right. Oh, even the wind is already cold.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
것 → 거 geot → geo	thing → spoken grammar chunk	좋은 질문이에요. 것 starts as a noun meaning thing, but in everyday speech it often becomes 거 and turns into grammar.
거야 · 거지 · 걸 geoya · geoji · geol	predict · explain · realize	오늘의 핵심은 세 가지예요. 거야 predicts, 거지 explains with shared understanding, and 걸 shows realization or mild surprise.
-르 거야 -l geoya	will, gonna, probably will	먼저 거야 예요. In casual speech, verb plus 리을 거야 points forward: a plan, guess, or prediction.
비가 올 거야 biga ol geoya	It's going to rain.	예를 들어요. 비가 올 거야 . It is going to rain. This is a prediction about what will happen.
오늘 밤에 공부할 거야 oneul bame gongbuhal geoya	I'm going to study tonight.	또 하나. 오늘 밤에 공부할 거야 . I am going to study tonight. Plan, not literal thing.
할 거야 = gonna do hal geoya	future plan / prediction	So 할 거야 feels like gonna do it. I should hear 거야 as part of the ending, not as the noun thing.
-는 거지 -neun geoji	that's why, you know, right	두 번째는 거지 예요. It explains a situation and lightly asks the listener to share the logic: you know, right.
지금 자는 거지 jigeum janeun geoji	That's because she's sleeping now, you know.	지금 자는 거야 means the thing is, someone is sleeping now. If I say 지금 자는 거지 , I am adding that shared yes, that explains it tone.



Grammar / Structure Notes

것 → 거

것 → 거 — thing → spoken grammar chunk

거 is the casual spoken form you hear everywhere

거야 · 거지 · 겠

거야 · 거지 · 겠 — predict · explain · realize

Three common spoken reductions in the 것 family

-ㄴ 거야

-ㄴ 거야 — will, gonna, probably will

verb stem + ㄴ/을 거야

비가 올 거야

비가 + 올 + 거야 — It's going to rain.

예를 들어요. 비가 올 거야. It is going to rain. This is a prediction about what will happen.

비가 올 거야

비가 올 거야 — It'll rain, not 'the thing of rain'

거야 carries prediction here

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
오늘 밤에 공부할 거야	oneul bame gongbuhal geoya
공부할 거야	gongbuhal geoya
그래서 피곤한 거지	geuraeseo pigonhan geoji

Self-Check

- 1 Say -ㄴ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 겠 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
그럼 / 근데 / 그치 Spoken Shortcuts for 그러면 · 그런데 · 그렇지	B1 Colloquial: compare 그럼 / 근데 / 그치 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-CTR-001
뭐예요 / 거예요 Everyday Korean Contractions	A2 Colloquial: compare 뭐예요 / 거예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-CTR-001
ㅍㅍ / Korean Emoticons and Tone in Text	B2 Colloquial: compare ㅍㅍ / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-001
인싸 / 아싸 / 갑분싸 / 꿀잼 Trendy Korean Internet Slang	B2 Colloquial: compare 인싸 / 아싸 / 갑분싸 / 꿀잼 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-002

My Notes

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