



Korean Ladder Study Note

하긴 / 어쩐지 / 그러게

Agreeing and 'No Wonder' Reactions

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Colloquial Fillers & Reactions	하긴 / 어쩐지 / 그러게 Agreeing and 'No Wonder' Reactions

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-FIL-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHZplfTuk_E

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my problem. Korean friends say 하긴, 어쩐지, and 그러게, and I know the dictionary meanings, but I still do not know when to say which one.

That is the right question. These are not just meanings. They show what your mind is doing in that moment.

하긴 gives in. 어쩐지 realizes the reason. 그러게 agrees softly. Three different reactions, three different feelings.

First, 하긴. Use it when you were not fully agreeing, but then you admit the other person has a point.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	요즘 너 좀 피곤해 보여. —	You look kind of tired lately.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	하긴, 프로젝트 때문에 잠을 못 잤어. —	Well, true, I could not sleep because of the project.
Hana	어쩐지 요새 연락이 없더라. —	No wonder you have been out of touch lately.
Junho	그러게, 시간이 너무 빨리 가. —	Yeah, right, time goes by so fast.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
하긴 · 어쩐지 · 그러게 hagin · eojeonji · geureoge	concede · realize why · agree softly	하긴 gives in. 어쩐지 realizes the reason. 그러게 agrees softly. Three different reactions, three different feelings.
하긴 hagin	well, true / fair enough	First, 하긴. Use it when you were not fully agreeing, but then you admit the other person has a point.
하긴, 요즘 너무 바빠진 했어 hagin, yojeum neomu bappeugin haeseo	Well, true, I have been really busy lately.	Listen. 하긴, 요즘 너무 바빠진 했어. In English, well, true, I have been really busy lately.
망설임 → 하긴 mangseorim → hagin	hesitation first, then concession	정확해요. You had a small doubt, and now you let it go. That is the feeling of 하긴.
어쩐지 eojeonji	no wonder / that's why	Second, 어쩐지. This is the no wonder moment. Something felt strange, and then the reason appears.
어쩐지 오늘 길이 막히더라 eojeonji oneul giri makhideora	No wonder the roads were jammed today.	For example. 어쩐지 오늘 길이 막히더라. No wonder the roads were jammed today.
어쩐지 ... -더라 eojeonji ... -deora	no wonder ... I had noticed	맞아요. It often sounds natural with endings like -더라, because you are talking about something you noticed before.
그러게 geureoge	yeah, right / I know, right	Third, 그러게. This is soft agreement. It can feel like, yeah, right, or I know, with a shared feeling.



Grammar / Structure Notes

하긴 · 어쩐지 · 그러게

하긴 · 어쩐지 · 그러게 — concede · realize why · agree softly

reactive fillers that answer what someone just said

하긴

하긴 — well, true / fair enough

a small concession after doubt or hesitation

하긴, 요즘 너무 바쁘긴 했어

하긴, + 요즘 + 너무 + 바쁘긴 + 했어 — Well, true, I have been really busy lately.

Listen. 하긴, 요즘 너무 바쁘긴 했어. In English, well, true, I have been really busy lately.

망설임 → 하긴

망설임 → 하긴 — hesitation first, then concession

no hesitation, no 하긴

어쩐지

어쩐지 — no wonder / that's why

a reason explains what you noticed earlier

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
하긴, 네 말이 맞아	hagin, ne mari maja
어쩐지 그러더라	eojeonji geureodeora
그러게, 진짜 빠르다	geureoge, jinjjja ppareuda

Self-Check

- 1 Say 하긴 / 어쩐지 / 그러게 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
아 진짜 / 어째라고 / 됐어 Reactive Fillers and Mild Pushback	B2 Colloquial: compare 아 진짜 / 어째라고 / 됐어 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-FIL-001
글쎄요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 Hedging and Agreeing Naturally	A2 Colloquial: compare 글쎄요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001
네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 Natural Korean Reactions	A1 Colloquial: compare 네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-001
막 / 약간 / 아니 그제 Intensifiers and Hedges in Fast Speech	C1 Colloquial: compare 막 / 약간 / 아니 그제 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-FIL-001

My Notes

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