



Korean Ladder Study Note

헐 / 대박 / 진짜

Everyday Korean Slang Reactions

| Level | Topic | Focus |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4 | Colloquial Slang | 헐 / 대박 / 진짜 Everyday Korean Slang Reactions |

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eq0QvI9JgY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eq0QvI9JgY>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real talk — I watch K-dramas and people are constantly yelling '헐!' and '대박!'. What do those even mean?

Same. I tried saying '진짜?' to my Korean coworker and I had no idea if I sounded friendly or weird.

좋은 질문이에요. These are reaction words — 리액션. Koreans use them to show feeling fast, before a full sentence.

오늘 우리는 다섯 개를 배워요. Today we learn five: 헐, 대박, 진짜?, 완전, and 짱. One feeling each.

Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Hana | 이 케이크 먹어 봤어요? — | Have you tried this cake? |



| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Junho | 네, 완전 맛있어요. — | Yes, it's super delicious. |
| Hana | 진짜요? 대박. — | Really? Awesome. |
| Junho | 헐, 벌써 다 팔렸대요. — | Whoa, they say it's already sold out. |
| Junho | 완전 맛있어요. — | super delicious |
| Hana | 진짜요? 대박. — | Really? Awesome. |
| Junho | 헐, 벌써 다 팔렸대요. — | Whoa, already sold out. |

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word | Meaning | Example |
|---|--|--|
| 리액션 표현 ri-aek-syeon pyo-hyeon | reaction expressions | 좋은 질문이에요. These are reaction words — 리액션. Koreans use them to show feeling fast, before a full sentence. |
| 헐 heol | whoa / no way (shocked, often negative) | 먼저 '헐'. 헐 means 'whoa' or 'no way' — shock, often a little negative or stunned. In English, it marks surprise, like 'ugh' or 'wait, what.' |
| 대박 dae-bak | awesome / jackpot / huge | 다음은 '대박'. 대박 means 'awesome' or 'jackpot' — big, amazing, wow. It started as 'a huge hit' and now it's pure excitement. |
| 이거 완전 대박이다 i-geo wan-jeon dae-bak-i-da | This is totally amazing. | 대박 can also describe a thing. '이거 완전 대박이다' — 'This is totally amazing.' Let's break it down. |
| 완전 wan-jeon | totally / super (intensifier) | 여기서 '완전' 나왔어요. 완전 literally means 'completely,' but in slang it means 'totally / super.' It boosts the next word. |
| 완전 맛있어 wan-jeon ma-si-sseo | super delicious | 예를 들어, '완전 맛있어' — 'super delicious.' 완전 makes 맛있어 stronger. |
| 짱 (얼짱 · 몸짱) jjang (eol-jjang · mom-jjang) | the best (얼짱 best face, 몸짱 great body) | 마지막은 '짱'. 짱 means 'the best.' It attaches to fixed words: 얼짱 = best-looking face, 몸짱 = great body. |
| 노래 잘해 / 노래 짱이야 no-rae jal-hae / no-rae jjang-i-ya | (you) sing well / (your) singing is the best | 짱 can also stand alone as 'awesome.' For singing skill, say 노래 잘해 or 노래 짱이야 — two separate words, not one. |



Grammar / Structure Notes

리액션 표현

리액션 표현 — reaction expressions

Short words that carry a big emotion.

헐 · 대박 · 진짜? · 완전 · 짱

헐 · 대박 · 진짜? · 완전 · 짱 — the five reactions we'll master

From shock to praise.

헐

헐 — whoa / no way (shocked, often negative)

Mouth-open shock.

헐, 또 늦었어?

헐 + , + 또 + 늦었어 + ? — Whoa, late again?

예를 들어, 친구가 늦었어요. 그러면 '헐, 또 늦었어?' For example — 'Whoa, you're late again?'

대박

대박 — awesome / jackpot / huge

Big, positive amazement.

Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase | How to practice |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 진짜? | jin-jja? |
| 진짜요? 대박. | jin-jja-yo? dae-bak. |
| 대박 | dae-bak |
| 헐, 또 늦었어? | heol, tto neu-jeo-sseo? |
| 헐 | heol |

Self-Check

- 1 Say 헐 / 대박 / 진짜 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 |
|--|---|--|
| 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 |
| 위라벨 / 금수저 / 갓생 Slang About Life and Society | C1 Colloquial: compare 위라벨 / 금수저 / 갓생 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-001 |
| 점메추 / 별다줄 / 알잘딱 Korean Abbreviation Slang | C1 Colloquial: compare 점메추 / 별다줄 / 알잘딱 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-002 |
| -르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것 | B2 Colloquial: compare -르 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001 |

My Notes

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