



Korean Ladder Study Note

존맛탱 /

Korean Food and Foodie Slang

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Colloquial Slang	존맛탱 / Korean Food and Foodie Slang

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-007>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--f7NO6o8B8>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Real question. If I love a restaurant, can I tell my Korean manager, 사장님, 여기 존맛탱이에요? Or is that... dangerous?

좋은 질문이에요. 존맛탱은 아주 캐주얼해요. In English, it means something like “insanely delicious,” but it is not polite business Korean.

오늘의 핵심은 네 가지예요. 존맛탱, JMT, 맛잘알, 그리고 음식 식감 표현인 겉바속촉과 단짠이에요.

So today is not just vocabulary. It's also, please don't accidentally sound rude while praising dinner.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 치킨 뭐야? 겉바속촉 제대로다. —	What is this chicken? It's seriously crispy outside and juicy inside.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	소스도 단짠이라 계속 먹게 돼. —	The sauce is sweet-salty too, so I keep eating it.
Hana	여기 완전 JMT네. —	This place is totally JMT.
Junho	역시 너 맛잘알이다. —	As expected, you really know good food.
Hana	이 치킨 뭐야? 겔바속촉 제대로다. —	What is this chicken? It's seriously crispy outside and juicy inside.
Junho	소스도 단짠이라 계속 먹게 돼. —	The sauce is sweet-salty too, so I keep eating it.
Hana	여기 완전 JMT네. —	This place is totally JMT.
Junho	역시 너 맛잘알이다. —	As expected, you really know good food.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
존맛탱 · JMT · 맛잘알 · 겔바속촉 · 단짠 jonmattaeng · jei-em-ti · matjaral · geotbasokchok · danjjan	foodie slang and casual taste expressions	오늘의 핵심은 네 가지예요. 존맛탱, JMT, 맛잘알, 그리고 음식 식감 표현인 겔바속촉과 단짠이에요.
맛있어요 → 진짜 맛있어요 → 존맛탱 masisseoyo → jinjja masisseoyo → jonmattaeng	delicious → really delicious → super casual slang delicious	So today is not just vocabulary. It's also, please don't accidentally sound rude while praising dinner.
진짜 맛있어요 jinjja masisseoyo	It's really delicious.	맞아요. First, the safe base is 맛있어요, "it's delicious." Then 진짜 맛있어요, "it's really delicious." Slang is extra color.
이거 존맛탱이야 igeo jonmattaeng-iya	This is insanely good. Very casual.	존맛탱은 친구들 사이에서 "this is unbelievably good" 느낌이에요. But because it comes from a rough intensifier, keep it casual.
JMT = 존맛탱 jei-em-ti = jonmattaeng	internet-style abbreviation for "super delicious"	좋아요. 그리고 온라인에서는 JMT도 많이 봐요. Korean speakers usually read it as 제이엠티. It has the same meaning as 존맛탱.
여기 JMT yeogi jei-em-ti	This place is super good. Casual caption style.	So if I write, 여기 JMT, that's like a quick food post, not a presentation slide.



Word	Meaning	Example
정말 맛있어요 / 음식이 훌륭해요 jeongmal masisseoyo / eumsik-i hullyunghaeyo	It's really delicious / The food is excellent	맞아요. But in a review you want to sound mature, say 정말 맛있어요, 아주 맛있어요, or 음식이 훌륭해요.
맛잘알 matjaral	someone who knows what tastes good; a real foodie	다음은 맛잘알이에요. 맛을 잘 아는 사람, a person who knows good taste, a foodie with good judgment.



Grammar / Structure Notes

존맛탱 · JMT · 맛잘알 · 겔바속촉 · 단짠

존맛탱 · JMT · 맛잘알 · 겔바속촉 · 단짠 — foodie slang and casual taste expressions

Use mainly online or with close friends.

맛있어요 → 진짜 맛있어요 → 존맛탱

맛있어요 → 진짜 맛있어요 → 존맛탱 — delicious → really delicious → super casual slang delicious

The farther right, the more casual.

진짜 맛있어요

진짜 + 맛있 + 어요 — It's really delicious.

맛아요. First, the safe base is 맛있어요, "it's delicious." Then 진짜 맛있어요, "it's really delicious." Slang is extra color.

이거 존맛탱이야

이거 + 존맛탱 + 이야 — This is insanely good. Very casual.

존맛탱은 친구들 사이에서 "this is unbelievably good" 느낌이에요. But because it comes from a rough intensifier, keep it casual.

JMT = 존맛탱

JMT = 존맛탱 — internet-style abbreviation for "super delicious"

Often seen in comments, captions, and casual chats.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
이거 존맛탱이야	igeo jonmattaeng-iya
제이엠티	jei-em-ti
맛잘알	matjaral
이거 존맛탱이에요	igeo jonmattaeng-ieyo
너 진짜 맛잘알이다	neo jinjja matjaral-ida
맛있는 곳을 잘 아시네요	masinneun gos-eul jal asineyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 존맛탱 / 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
가성비 / 가심비 / 플렉스 / 득템 소비 세대의 신조어	B2 Colloquial: compare 가성비 / 가심비 / 플렉스 / 득템 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-003
국룰 / 인정 / 반박불가 Slang for Consensus and 'Can't Argue'	B2 Colloquial: compare 국룰 / 인정 / 반박불가 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-005
손절 / 사바사 / Slang About Relationships and Oversharing	B2 Colloquial: compare 손절 / 사바사 / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-004
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

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