



Korean Ladder Study Note

카톡 답장 / 읽씹 / 안읽씹

Texting Culture and Read Receipts

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Colloquial Texting	카톡 답장 / 읽씹 / 안읽씹 Texting Culture and Read Receipts

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThOpLb1Qhol>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. I texted my Korean friend, she clearly read it... and then, nothing. For two whole days. Is there a word for that?

있어요. 우리는 그걸 '읽씹'이라고 해요. In English, it means 'read it, then ignored it' — read-and-chewed.

먼저 '카톡'을 알아야 해요. 카톡 is short for 카카오톡 — KakaoTalk, the messaging app almost everyone in Korea uses. So all of this lives on 카톡.

이건 문법이 아니라 문화예요. It's not grammar — it's culture. Reply timing in Korea says a lot about how close you are.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	야, 왜 어제 읽씹했어? —	Hey, why'd you read and ignore me yesterday?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아, 미안. 봤는데 답장하는 걸 깜빡했어. —	Ah, sorry. I saw it but forgot to reply.
Hana	차라리 안읽씹이 나아. 읽고 씹으면 서운하잖아. —	I'd honestly rather you left it unread. Reading and ignoring hurts.
Junho	알았어. 이제 바로 답장할게. —	Got it. I'll reply right away from now on.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
읽씹 ik-ssip	read it, then ignored it	있어요. 우리는 그걸 '읽씹'이라고 해요. In English, it means 'read it, then ignored it' — read-and-chewed.
카톡 ka-tok	KakaoTalk (the messaging app)	먼저 '카톡'을 알아야 해요. 카톡 is short for 카카오톡 — KakaoTalk, the messaging app almost everyone in Korea uses. So all of this lives on 카톡.
답장 문화 dap-jang mun-hwa	reply culture	이건 문법이 아니라 문화예요. It's not grammar — it's culture. Reply timing in Korea says a lot about how close you are.
숫자 1 sut-ja il	the '1' beside an unread message	핵심은 숫자 1이에요. 메시지를 보내면 옆에 숫자 1이 떠요. The key is the number 1: when you send a message, a little 1 sits next to it.
1이 사라지면 = 읽음 il-i sa-ra-ji-myeon = il-geum	1 gone = it's been read	상대방이 읽으면 숫자 1이 사라져요. When the other person reads it, the 1 disappears. So the 1 is your read receipt.
씹다 ssip-da	(slang) to ignore / (literal) to chew	여기 핵심 단어는 '씹다'예요. 원래 뜻은 to chew. 슬랭으로는 '무시하다', to ignore. So 읽씹 = read, then 'chewed you up' — ignored.
잠수 타다 jam-su ta-da	to ghost / go silent (lit. 'ride a submarine')	관련 슬랭 하나 더요 — '잠수 타다'. 잠수함처럼 사라지는 거예요. It means to vanish like a submarine — to go totally silent, to ghost someone.
답장 / 답장하다 dap-jang / dap-jang-ha-da	a reply / to reply	이제 반대말도요 — '답장'. 답장 is the reply itself, and 답장하다 is to reply. This is the polite, everyday word.



Grammar / Structure Notes

읽씹

읽씹 — read it, then ignored it

읽다 (read) + 씹다 (chew → ignore)

카톡

카톡 — KakaoTalk (the messaging app)

카카오톡 → 카톡

답장 문화

답장 문화 — reply culture

how and when you reply carries meaning

숫자 1

숫자 1 — the '1' beside an unread message

카톡 marks unread messages with 1

1이 사라지면 = 읽음

1이 사라지면 = 읽음 — 1 gone = it's been read

상대방이 읽으면 숫자 1이 사라져요. When the other person reads it, the 1 disappears. So the 1 is your read receipt.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
익씹하지 마	ik-ssip-ha-ji ma.
익씹	ik-ssip
아니씹	an-ik-ssip
익씹 · 아니씹	ik-ssip / an-ik-ssip
잘했어요.	jal-haess-eo-yo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 카톡 답장 / 읽씹 / 안읽씹 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
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
ㄹㅇ / ㅇㄱㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋㅋ Texting 'For Real' in Korean Chat	B1 Colloquial: compare ㄹㅇ / ㅇㄱㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋㅋ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-003
ㅇㅇ / ㄴㄴ / ㅈㅈ / ㅇㅈ More Korean Chat Shorthand	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅇ / ㄴㄴ / ㅈㅈ / ㅇㅈ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-002
ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅋ / ㄱㄱ / ㅋㅋ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001

My Notes

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