



Korean Ladder Study Note

ㄷㄷ / ㄹㅇㅋ / ㄴㅇ

Reaction Consonants in Fast Chat

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Colloquial Texting	ㄷㄷ / ㄹㅇㅋ / ㄴㅇ Reaction Consonants in Fast Chat

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8c2nrEZdJs>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's the problem. My Korean friend sends only two consonants, and I can't tell if they mean scared, amazed, laughing, or agreeing.

맞아요. 한국어 채팅에서는 완전한 문장 대신 자음만 보내서 반응할 때가 많아요. In English, it can work like a fast "omg," "for real," or "whoa."

오늘 핵심은 읽는 법보다 쓰는 상황입니다. These are casual chat reactions, mostly with friends or online communities, not formal writing.

패턴 이름은 채팅 자음 반응이에요. On the card, you see 디근 디근, 리을 이응, 리을 이응 키웁, 히읇 디근 디근, and 오 우.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	나 오늘 발표 첫 순서야. —	I'm the first presenter today.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	ㄷㄷ 긴장되겠다. —	Whoa, you must be nervous.
Hana	어제 세 시간밖에 못 잤어. —	I only slept three hours yesterday.
Junho	ㅎㄷㄷ 커피부터 마셔. —	Yikes. Drink coffee first.
Junho	여기 냉면 진짜 맛있다. —	The naengmyeon here is really good.
Hana	ㄹㅇ. 국물이 최고야. —	For real. The broth is the best.
Junho	근데 양이 너무 많아. —	But the portion is too big.
Hana	ㄹㅇㅋ 배 터지겠다. —	For real, haha. I'm going to burst.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㄷㄷ / ㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋ / ㅎㄷㄷ / ㅏㅓ d-d / rieul-ieung / rieul-ieung-kieuk / h-d-d / o-u	Reaction consonants and vowels in fast chat	패턴 이름은 채팅 자음 반응이에요. On the card, you see 디글 디글, 리을 이응, 리을 이응 키웁, 히웅 디글 디글, and 오 우.
내일 면접이야 ㄷㄷ naeil myeonjeob-iya d-d	My interview is tomorrow. I'm nervous / whoa.	디글 디글 comes from 덜덜, the shaking sound. It can mean "I'm scared," "I'm nervous," "that is intense," or just "whoa."
ㄷㄷ = 덜덜 d-d = deol-deol	shaking; scary, intense, nervous, wow	맞아요. 디글 디글은 진짜 무서울 때도 쓰고, 부담되거나 대단해서 놀랄 때도 써요. It is shock with a little tension.
벌써 마감됐대 ㅎㄷㄷ beolsseo magam-dwaetdae h-d-d	They say it already closed. Yikes / seriously scary.	히웅 디글 디글 is stronger. It often feels like 헉 plus 덜덜, so the reaction becomes seriously scary, intense, or overwhelming.
이 집 떡볶이 진짜 맛있다 ㄹㅇ i jip tteokbokki jinjja masitda rieul-ieung	This place's tteokbokki is really good. For real.	리을 이응 is from 리얼, meaning "real." In chat, it can mean "for real," "seriously," or "I agree."
ㄹㅇ rieul-ieung	for real; seriously; agreed	So 리을 이응 is not just "real" as an adjective. It can be a whole reaction: for real, exactly, same.



Word	Meaning	Example
월요일 너무 빨리 와 르오크 woryoil neomu ppalli wa rieul-ieung-kieuk	Monday comes too fast. For real, haha.	Exactly. 리을 이응 키읓 is 리을 이응 plus 키읓, the laugh consonant. It feels like “for real, haha,” or casual agreement with a small laugh.
새 재킷 샀어 ㅏㅏ sae jaekit sasseo o-u	I bought a new jacket. Whoa / ooh.	오 우 is different because it uses vowel shapes. It represents 오우, like “whoa,” “ooh,” or an impressed reaction. Depending on context, it can be playful or a little spicy.



Grammar / Structure Notes

ㄷㄷ / ㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋ / ㅎㄷㄷ / ㅏㅓ

ㄷㄷ / ㄹㅇ / ㄹㅇㅋ / ㅎㄷㄷ / ㅏㅓ — Reaction consonants and vowels in fast chat

Read the feeling, not a full sentence.

내일 면접이야 ㄷㄷ

내일 + 면접이야 + ㄷㄷ — My interview is tomorrow. I'm nervous / whoa.

디근 디근 comes from 덜덜, the shaking sound. It can mean "I'm scared," "I'm nervous," "that is intense," or just "whoa."

내일 면접이야 ㄷㄷ

내일 + 면접이야 + ㄷㄷ — My interview is tomorrow. I'm nervous / whoa.

So if I text, 내일 면접이야, then 디근 디근, I'm not literally writing 덜덜. I'm sending the shaky feeling.

ㄷㄷ = 덜덜

ㄷㄷ = 덜덜 — shaking; scary, intense, nervous, wow

Tone depends on the message before it.

벌써 마감됐대 ㅎㄷㄷ

벌써 + 마감됐대 + ㅎㄷㄷ — They say it already closed. Yikes / seriously scary.

히웅 디근 디근 is stronger. It often feels like 헉 plus 덜덜, so the reaction becomes seriously scary, intense, or overwhelming.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
ㄷㄷ	d-d
덜덜	d-d
ㄹㅇ	rieul-ieung
ㅏㅓ	o-u

Self-Check

- 1 Say ㄷㄷ / ㄹㅇㅋ / ㅏㅓ 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
단톡방 / 프사 / 도배 Group-Chat and Messenger Slang	B2 Colloquial: compare 단톡방 / 프사 / 도배 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-003
카톡 답장 / 읽씹 / 안읽씹 Texting Culture and Read Receipts	B2 Colloquial: compare 카톡 답장 / 읽씹 / 안읽씹 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-002
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

My Notes

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