



Korean Ladder Study Note

-더라고요 / -던데요

Reporting What You Saw Yourself

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Grammar Sentence Endings	-더라고요 / -던데요 Reporting What You Saw Yourself

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXyosRqix6o>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

So here's my problem. I came back from a cafe and wanted to say, the coffee was good, and I noticed it myself. But I only know 맛있었어요. Is that wrong?

좋은 질문이에요. 맛있었어요 is not wrong. But it just states a past fact. Today we add the feeling of, from what I saw.

핵심은 이거예요. 오늘 배우는 어미는 내가 직접 봤어요, 느꼈어요를 담아요. In English, I personally noticed this.

-더라고요는 과거의 직접 경험을 회상해서 전달해요. It is a retrospective ending. You recall something you witnessed and tell me now.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 주말에 부산 갔다면서요? —	Junho, I heard you went to Busan this weekend.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 바다가 진짜 예쁘더라고요. —	Yes, the sea was really pretty, from what I saw.
Hana	우와, 사람은 많았어요? —	Wow, were there a lot of people?
Junho	생각보다 사람이 많던데요. 다음엔 아침에 가야겠어요. —	It was more crowded than I expected, so next time I should go in the morning.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-더라고요 -deoragoyo	I noticed / I saw that... (firsthand)	핵심은 이거예요. 오늘 배우는 어미는 내가 직접 봤어요, 느꼈어요를 담아요. In English, I personally noticed this.
동사/형용사 + -더라고요 verb/adjective + -deoragoyo	reporting a firsthand past impression	-더라고요는 과거의 직접 경험을 회상해서 전달해요. It is a retrospective ending. You recall something you witnessed and tell me now.
커피가 맛있더라고요 keopiga masitdeoragoyo	The coffee was good, from what I experienced.	예문 하나 볼게요. 어제 그 카페에 갔는데, 커피가 정말 맛있더라고요.
맛있더라고요 masitdeoragoyo	was good + I noticed it myself	여기서 맛있 is the stem, and더라고요 carries I experienced it and I am reporting it. 사실과 내 경험이 같이 있어요.
주어 = 남 또는 내 느낌 jueo = nam ttoneun nae neukkim	subject: someone else, or my own feeling	맞아요. 그리고 규칙 하나. -더라고요는 보통 다른 사람이 주어요요, 아니면 내 감정이예요. With plain action verbs, the subject is usually someone else, not plain I did it.
-던데요 -deondeyo	I saw that... (and it sets up a reaction)	이제 짝궁 어미예요. -던데요. It also reports what you saw, but it leaves a little so what do you think hanging in the air.
사람이 많던데요 sarami mantdeondeyo	There were a lot of people, from what I saw, so...	예를 들어, 아까 지하철역에 사람이 많던데요. I saw the station was crowded, so maybe we should leave early.
-던데요 = 관찰 + 반응 유도 -deondeyo = observation + inviting a response	I saw X... so?	-던데요는 뒤에 어떻게 할까요 같은 반응을 부드럽게 초대해요. It hangs open, inviting the other person to react.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-더라고요

-더라고요 — I noticed / I saw that... (firsthand)

You experienced it yourself, then report it later.

동사/형용사 + -더라고요

동사/형용사 + -더라고요 — reporting a firsthand past impression

Attach to the plain stem: 맛있다 → 맛있더라고요.

커피가 맛있더라고요

커피 + 가 + 맛있 + 더라고요 — The coffee was good, from what I experienced.

예문 하나 볼게요. 어제 그 카페에 갔는데, 커피가 정말 맛있더라고요.

맛있더라고요

맛있 + 더라고요 — was good + I noticed it myself

여기서 맛있 is the stem, and 더라고요 carries I experienced it and I am reporting it. 사실과 내 경험이 같이 있어요.

주어 = 남 또는 내 느낌

주어 = 남 또는 내 느낌 — subject: someone else, or my own feeling

말하더라고요 = they were talking / 좋더라고요 = I found it nice

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
마신타라고요	masitdeoragoyo
맛있더라고요	masitdeoragoyo
사لامي 만던데요	sarami mantdeondeyo
사람이 많던데요	sarami mantdeondeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say -더라고요 / -던데요 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
-(으)르게요 Promising and Committing to Do Something	A2 Grammar: compare -(으)르게요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-GRAM-END-002
-(으)르까요? / -(으)버시다 Suggesting and Proposing Together	A1 Grammar: compare -(으)르까요? / -(으)버시다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-003
-(으)세요 Making Polite Requests and Gentle Commands	A1 Grammar: compare -(으)세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-004
-네요 / -군요 / -잖아요 Reacting, Realizing, and Reminding	B1 Grammar: compare -네요 / -군요 / -잖아요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-END-001

My Notes

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