



Korean Ladder Study Note

워라밸 / 금수저 / 갓생

Slang About Life and Society

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Colloquial Slang	워라밸 / 금수저 / 갓생 Slang About Life and Society

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JY29yPcvba0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JY29yPcvba0>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real talk. I saw the word 워라밸 in a Korean news headline and I had no idea what it meant.

Same. And then somebody called a coworker a 금수저, and everyone laughed, and I just nodded along pretending I got the joke.

그 마음 알아요. 이 단어들은 교과서엔 없어요. But every Korean adult uses them.

오늘은 세 단어예요. These three are loaded — they carry feelings about work, class, and self-improvement.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨는 워라밸 잘 지켜요? —	Junho, do you keep a good work-life balance?
Junho	요즘은 갓생 살아서 좀 바빠요. —	Lately I'm living the 'god life,' so I'm a bit busy.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	와, 부지런해요. 저는 워라벨이 먼저예요. —	Wow, so diligent. For me, balance comes first.
Junho	그것도 갓생이에요. 자기한테 맞으면 돼요. —	That's a 'god life' too. Whatever fits you.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
워라벨 · 금수저 · 갓생 —	work-life balance · born rich · a disciplined 'god' life	오늘은 세 단어예요. These three are loaded — they carry feelings about work, class, and self-improvement.
워라벨 wo-ra-bael	work-life balance	먼저 워라벨. 영어 'work-life balance'를 줄인 말이에요. 워크, 라이프, 밸런스 — 워라벨.
줄임말 jul-im-mal	an abbreviation / clipped word	한국 사람들은 줄임말을 정말 좋아해요. We love clipping long words down to their first syllables.
저는 워라벨이 중요해요 jeo-neun wo-ra-bael-i jung-yo-hae-yo	For me, work-life balance is important.	예문을 들어 볼게요. 저는 워라벨이 중요해요.
금수저 geum-su-jeo	'gold spoon' — born into a rich family	이번엔 금수저. 금은 gold, 수저는 spoon and chopsticks — the set you eat with.
흙수저 heuk-su-jeo	'dirt spoon' — born poor, no family advantage	맞아요. 흙수저예요. 흙은 dirt. So 흙수저 means born with nothing — a 'dirt spoon.'
수저계급론 su-jeo-gye-geup-ron	'spoon class theory'	이걸 통틀어 수저계급론이라고 해요. The whole 'spoon class theory' — how much your family hands you.
부러움 + 가시 —	envy with a small thorn	좋은 질문이에요. 보통 부러움 + 약간의 가시예요. It's envy with a little edge — context decides how sharp.



Grammar / Structure Notes

워라벨 · 금수저 · 갓생

워라벨 · 금수저 · 갓생 — work-life balance · born rich · a disciplined 'god' life

Social slang — short, sharp, full of attitude.

워라벨

워라벨 — work-life balance

From 워(크)·라(이프)·벨(런스) — a clipped loanword.

줄임말

줄임말 — an abbreviation / clipped word

워라벨 is the model case.

저는 워라벨이 중요해요

저 + 는 + 워라벨 + 이 + 중요해요 — For me, work-life balance is important.

예문을 들어 볼게요. 저는 워라벨이 중요해요.

저는 워라벨이 중요해요

저는 + 워라벨이 + 중요해요 — For me, work-life balance is important.

Oh, so it's literally 'as for me, work-life balance is important.' That's so usable.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
워라벨	wo-ra-bael
갓생	gat-saeng

Self-Check

- 1 Say 워라벨 / 금수저 / 갓생 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
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
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
헐 / 대박 / 진짜 Everyday Korean Slang Reactions	B2 Colloquial: compare 헐 / 대박 / 진짜 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-001
-ㄹ 거야 / -는 거지 / -ㄴ 걸 Spoken Contractions of 것	B2 Colloquial: compare -ㄹ 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.