



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 점메추 / 별다줄 / 알잘딱

## Korean Abbreviation Slang

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Colloquial Slang	점메추 / 별다줄 / 알잘딱 Korean Abbreviation Slang

### Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-002)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-002>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqiKuNZLO5c)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqiKuNZLO5c>

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

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### Core Idea

Okay, real talk. My Korean friend texted me just '점메추?' — three syllables, a question mark, and I had zero idea what to do.

Same thing happened to me. I honestly thought it was a typo and almost replied 'huh?'

그건 오타가 아니에요. 점메추 means 점심 메뉴 추천 — 'recommend a lunch menu.' Korea loves shrinking long phrases into one tiny word.

There's even a slang word for the habit itself: 별다줄. It means 별걸 다 줄인다 — 'they abbreviate literally everything.'

### Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	야, 오늘 점메추 좀. —	Hey, recommend me a lunch today.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	음... 김치찌개 어때? —	Hmm... how about kimchi stew?
Junho	오, 좋아. 역시 알잘딱이네. —	Oh, nice. You really just get it.
Hana	내가 좀 별다줄 장인이잖아. —	Well, I'm kind of a master of slang.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
점메추 jeom-me-chu	= 점심 메뉴 추천 — 'recommend a lunch menu'	그건 오타가 아니에요. 점메추 means 점심 메뉴 추천 — 'recommend a lunch menu.' Korea loves shrinking long phrases into one tiny word.
별다줄 byeol-da-jul	= 별걸 다 줄인다 — 'they shorten absolutely everything'	There's even a slang word for the habit itself: 별다줄. It means 별걸 다 줄인다 — 'they abbreviate literally everything.'
첫 글자만 모으기 cheot geul-ja-man mo-eu-gi	Collect just the first syllable of each word	규칙은 간단해요. The rule is simple — take the first syllable of each word, line them up, and that's your new word.
점심 메뉴 추천 jeom-sim me-nyu chu-cheon	lunch menu recommendation → 점메추	이렇게 만들어져요. Watch how 점심 메뉴 추천 collapses into 점메추.
오늘 점메추 좀 해 줘 o-neul jeom-me-chu jom hae jwo	Give me a lunch recommendation today	써 볼게요. 오늘 점메추 좀 해 줘 — 'recommend me something for lunch today.'
요즘 애들은 별다줄이 너무 심해 yo-jeum ae-deu-reun byeol-da-jul-i neo-mu sim-hae	Young people abbreviate way too much these days	그리고 별다줄도요. 요즘 애들은 별다줄이 너무 심해 — 'kids these days abbreviate way too much.'
asap → 점메추 —	English: first letters. Korean: first syllables.	Oh — so it's basically like English 'asap' or 'tbh,' but built from the first syllable instead of the first letter.
글자 vs 음절 geul-ja vs eum-jeol	letters vs syllables — that's the whole difference	정확해요. English grabs first letters; Korean grabs first syllables. 같은 아이디어예요 — same idea, just bigger pieces.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 점메추

점메추 — = 점심 메뉴 추천 — 'recommend a lunch menu'

First syllable of each word, glued together.

### 별다줄

별다줄 — = 별걸 다 줄인다 — 'they shorten absolutely everything'

Even the word for over-abbreviating is abbreviated.

### 첫 글자만 모으기

첫 글자만 모으기 — Collect just the first syllable of each word

Korean takes whole syllables, not just letters.

### 점심 메뉴 추천

점 + 심 + 메 + 뉴 + 추 + 천 — lunch menu recommendation → 점메추

이렇게 만들어져요. Watch how 점심 메뉴 추천 collapses into 점메추.

### 오늘 점메추 좀 해 줘

오늘 점메추 좀 해 줘 — Give me a lunch recommendation today

Super common in friend group chats.

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
점메추	jeom-me-chu
알잘딱	al-jal-ttak

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 점메추 / 별다줄 / 알잘딱 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
워라밸 / 금수저 / 갓생 Slang About Life and Society	C1 Colloquial: compare 워라밸 / 금수저 / 갓생 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-COLLOQ-SLG-001</a>
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 <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-002</a>
헐 / 대박 / 진짜 Everyday Korean Slang Reactions	B2 Colloquial: compare 헐 / 대박 / 진짜 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-SLG-001</a>
-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 <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-CTR-001</a>

## My Notes

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Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.