



Korean Ladder Study Note

야민정음

댕댕이 / 머장 / 비빔면 글자 놀이 읽기

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Colloquial Texting	야민정음 댕댕이 / 머장 / 비빔면 글자 놀이 읽기

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCtP6B9I5YA>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. My Korean friend texted me 땡댕이. I typed it into a dictionary — nothing. Did she misspell 멍멍이?

아, 오타 아니에요. 걱정 마세요. It isn't a typo — it's a game with the letters.

이건 야민정음이에요. In English, think 'letter play' — you swap Hangul that just LOOK alike.

핵심은 소리가 아니라 모양이에요. 눈으로 읽는 글자예요. The shapes matter, not the sounds.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	이 땡곡 들어 봤어요? —	Have you heard this banger?
Hana	그럼요, 완전 명곡이에요. —	Of course — it's a total masterpiece.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	그 땡땡이 영상도 귀엽다. —	That doggo video is so cute, too.
Hana	진짜 귀엽다. —	Really adorable.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
야민정음 ya-min-jeong-eum	internet letter play by resemblance	이건 야민정음이에요. In English, think 'letter play' — you swap Hangul that just LOOK alike.
눈으로 읽는 글자 nun-euro ingneun geulja	letters you read with your eyes	핵심은 소리가 아니라 모양이에요. 눈으로 읽는 글자예요. The shapes matter, not the sounds.
멍멍이 → 땡땡이 meongmeong-i → daengdaeng-i	doggy (woof-woof) → cutesy 'doggo'	첫 번째 예예요. 멍멍이가 온라인에서 땡땡이가 돼요. 'Doggy' becomes 땡땡이.
멍 → 땡 —	멍 looks like 땡 at a glance	글자 하나만 봐요. 멍이 땡처럼 보여요.
모양이 닮았어요 —	the shapes resemble each other	손글씨로 쓰면 멍이 땡이랑 비슷해요. Written quickly, 멍 and 땡 blur together — so the internet just runs with it.
소리는 달라요 —	the sound is different — and that's fine	So the sound totally changes — 멍멍 to 땡땡 — but nobody minds, because 땡땡이 just feels cuter.
명곡 → 땡곡 myeong-gok → tting-gok	masterpiece song → 'banger'	두 번째. 명곡은 great song. 온라인에서는 땡곡이에요.
멍 → 땡 —	멍 looks like 땡	멍에 획을 조금 더하면 땡처럼 보여요. Add a little stroke to 멍 and it reads as 땡.



Grammar / Structure Notes

야민정음

야민정음 — internet letter play by resemblance

swap letters that look similar, not sound similar

눈으로 읽는 글자

눈으로 읽는 글자 — letters you read with your eyes

resemblance, not pronunciation

멍멍이 → 땡땡이

멍멍이 → 땡땡이 — doggy (woof-woof) → cutesy 'doggo'

첫 번째 예예요. 멍멍이가 온라인에서 땡땡이가 돼요. 'Doggy' becomes 땡땡이.

멍 → 땡

멍 → 땡 — 멍 looks like 땡 at a glance

same rounded shape, different letter

모양이 닮았어요

모양이 닮았어요 — the shapes resemble each other

손글씨로 쓰면 멍이 땡이랑 비슷해요. Written quickly, 멍 and 땡 blur together — so the internet just runs with it.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
귀엽다	keo-yeopda
눈으로는 놀이	read the original sound aloud; the swap is just for the eyes
땡땡이	daengdaeng-i
띵곡	tting-gok
이 강아지 귀엽다	i daengdaeng-i keoyeopda
이 땡땡이 귀엽다	i daengdaeng-i keoyeopda

Self-Check

- 1 Say 야민정음 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
ㅇㅇ / ㅋㅋ / ㅂㅂ / ㅇㅈ More Korean Chat Shorthand	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅇ / ㅋㅋ / ㅂㅂ / 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
ㅎㅇ / ㅁㅁ / ㄱㅅ Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations	A2 Colloquial: compare ㅎㅇ / ㅁㅁ / ㄱㅅ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-TXT-001
ㅠㅠ / Korean Emoticons and Tone in Text	B2 Colloquial: compare ㅠㅠ / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-001

My Notes

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