



Korean Ladder Study Note

광복절 / 개천절 / 한글날

Korea's Modern National Holidays

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Culture Holidays	광복절 / 개천절 / 한글날 Korea's Modern National Holidays

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

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

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my honest confusion: are 광복절 and 한글날 basically like 추석, just Korean holidays with different dates?

좋은 질문이에요. 광복절 and 한글날 are not lunar family holidays like 추석. They are civic national holidays connected to history, identity, and the state.

오늘의 큰 틀은 이것입니다. 국경일 means a national celebration day designated by law. 명절 means a traditional holiday, often tied to the lunar calendar and family customs.

국경일은 국가적으로 경축하는 날이에요. In English, think "a national day of celebration," often marked with ceremonies and the 태극기.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이번 주 금요일이 광복절이죠? —	This Friday is Liberation Day, right?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네. 일제강점기에서 해방된 것을 기념하는 날이에요. —	Yes. It commemorates liberation from Japanese colonial rule.
Hana	그래서 태극기를 게양하는 집도 많겠네요. —	So many homes will probably display the Taegeukgi.
Junho	맞아요. 국경일이니까 의미를 알고 기념하는 게 중요해요. —	Right. Since it's a national day, it's important to know the meaning and commemorate it.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
국경일 gukgyeongil	national celebration day designated by the state	오늘의 큰 틀은 이것입니다. 국경일 means a national celebration day designated by law. 명절 means a traditional holiday, often tied to the lunar calendar and family customs.
명절 myeongjeol	traditional holiday	명절은 설날, 추석처럼 전통과 가족 중심의 날이에요. In English, “traditional holiday,” often with food, travel, ancestors, and family gatherings.
삼일절 Samiljeol	March First Independence Movement Day	삼일절 is not just “March first.” It refers to the nationwide independence movement against Japanese colonial rule in 1919. 기리다 means “to honor” or “commemorate.”
광복 gwangbok	liberation; restoration of national light	광복 literally means “the restoration of light.” In cultural context, it means liberation from Japanese colonial rule, and also the restoration of national sovereignty.
개천절 Gaecheonjeol	National Foundation Day	개천절 is often translated as National Foundation Day, but the nuance is mythic and symbolic. It is tied to 단군 and the founding story of 고조선, not a modern constitutional date.
한글날 Hangeullal	Hangeul Day	한글날 is about the writing system itself: its creation, its accessibility, and its cultural value. It is not simply “Korean Language Day.”
국경일 ≠ 공휴일 gukgyeongil is not the same as gonghyuil	national day is not automatically a day off	맞아요. 국경일은 의미의 분류예요. 공휴일은 쉬는지의 분류예요. In English: one is about meaning, the other is about whether institutions close.



Word	Meaning	Example
공휴일 gonghyuil	public holiday; official day off	Public offices, many schools, and banks usually close on public holidays like 광복절 and 한글날. But private businesses can vary, especially shops and restaurants.



Grammar / Structure Notes

국경일

국경일 — national celebration day designated by the state

국가적으로 경축하는 날

국경일

국경일 — national celebration day

경축하다 = to celebrate formally

명절

명절 — traditional holiday

설날과 추석은 대표적인 명절

삼일절은 독립운동을 기리는 날이에요.

삼일절 + 은 + 독립운동 + 을 + 기리는 + 날 + 이에요. — March First Independence Movement Day honors the independence movement.

첫 번째는 삼일절이에요. 삼일절은 1919년 3월 1일의 독립운동을 기리는 날이에요.

삼일절

삼일절 — March First Independence Movement Day

1919년 3월 1일 독립운동을 기념

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
광복절은 일제강점기에서 해방된 것을 기념하는 날이에요.	Gwangbokjeol-eun Ilje Gangjeomgi-eseo haebangdoen geoseul ginyeomhaneun narieyo.
광복절 / 한글날	Gwangbokjeol · Hangeullal
국경일	gukgyeongil
국경일 · 광복절 · 개천절 · 한글날	gukgyeongil · Gwangbokjeol · Gaecheonjeol · Hangeullal

Self-Check

- 1 Say 광복절 / 개천절 / 한글날 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
정월대보름 / 동지 Korea's Lunar Seasonal Customs	C1 Culture: compare 정월대보름 / 동지 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-HOL-001
단오 / 한식 Korea's Quieter Traditional Holidays	A2 Culture: compare 단오 / 한식 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-HOL-004
빼빼로데이 / 화이트데이 / 밸런타인데이 Korea's Couple and Candy Days	A2 Culture: compare 빼빼로데이 / 화이트데이 / 밸런타인데이 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-HOL-002
새해 복 많이 받으세요 The Korean New Year Greeting Everyone Uses	A1 Culture: compare 새해 복 많이 받으세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-HOL-001

My Notes

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