



Korean Ladder Study Note

외래어 발음

Why 커피 Isn't 'Coffee' and 파일 Isn't 'File'

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Pronunciation Consonants	외래어 발음 Why 커피 Isn't 'Coffee' and 파일 Isn't 'File'

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11NPdyg9ypg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

So here's my confession. I ordered coffee in Seoul, said it the English way with a nice F sound, and the barista just blinked. Then she said it back, and it sounded like a different word.

그럴 수 있어요. 커피. Listen. 커피. Korean has no F sound, so the F becomes a 피읚 sound, like a strong, breathy P.

Wait, so Korean doesn't have F at all? What about V, like in the word video?

맞아요. 이게 오늘의 주제, 외래어 발음이에요. In English, loanword pronunciation. It's how Korean rebuilds foreign words with its own sounds.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 요즘 스트레스 많아요? —	Junho, a lot of stress lately?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 회사에서 파일이 다 없어졌어요. —	Yes, all my files disappeared at work.
Hana	어머, 인터넷이 문제였어요? —	Oh no, was it the internet?
Junho	아니요, 컴퓨터가 고장 났어요. 그래서 커피 마시러 가요. —	No, my computer broke. So I'm going for coffee.
Hana	저도 같이 가요. 케이크도 하나 사요. —	I'll come too. Let's get a cake as well.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
외래어 발음 oe-rae-eo bareum	loanword pronunciation	맞아요. 이게 오늘의 주제, 외래어 발음이에요. In English, loanword pronunciation. It's how Korean rebuilds foreign words with its own sounds.
F·V 바꾸기 / 모음 넣기 / 받침 정리 —	Replace f and v · Add vowels · Fix final sounds	외래어는 한국어 소리로 다시 만들어져요. Three big changes today. First, F and V get replaced. Second, consonant clusters get extra vowels. Third, final consonants get adjusted.
외래어 = 숨은 영어 —	loanwords = hidden English	Why does it matter? 한국 사람들은 외래어를 정말 많이 써요. Koreans use loanwords constantly. If your ear expects English, you'll miss them in the middle of a Korean sentence.
파일 pa-il	file	Let's hear some. 파일. 파일. That's 'file.' The F becomes 피읺, and the final L becomes 리읺.
비디오 bi-di-o	video	비디오. 비디오. That's 'video.' V has no Korean partner, so it becomes 비읺, a plain B.
스트레스 seu-teu-re-seu	stress	스트레스. 스트레스. That's 'stress.' One syllable in English, but four syllables in Korean.
크리스마스 keu-ri-seu-ma-seu	Christmas	크리스마스. 크리스마스. That's 'Christmas.' Two syllables in English, five in Korean.
인터넷 in-teo-net	internet	인터넷. 인터넷. That's 'internet.' Listen to the end. It's written with 시읺, but it stops short, like a quick, closed T.



Grammar / Structure Notes

외래어 발음

외래어 발음 — loanword pronunciation

Foreign words are rebuilt with Korean sounds.

F·V 바꾸기 / 모음 넣기 / 받침 정리

F·V 바꾸기 / 모음 넣기 / 받침 정리 — Replace f and v · Add vowels · Fix final sounds

Three ways Korean reshapes loanwords

외래어 = 숨은 영어

외래어 = 숨은 영어 — loanwords = hidden English

Your ear must expect Korean sounds.

파일

파일 — file

f → 피

비디오

비디오 — video

v → 비

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
스트레스	seu-teu-re-seu
파일	pa-il
크리스마스	keu-ri-seu-ma-seu
로봇이에요	ro-bo-si-e-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 외래어 발음 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
ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅍ The Three Korean D/T Sounds	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅍ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-006
ㄹ 발음 The Korean R/L Sound at the Start and Middle of Words	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄹ 발음 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-002
ㄴ / ㄷ / ㅎ The Soft Korean Consonants Beginners Overlook	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄴ / ㄷ / ㅎ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-008
ㅁ · ㄴ · ㅇ 콧소리 자리 Feeling Where Korean Nasals Are Made	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅁ · ㄴ · ㅇ 콧소리 자리 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-019

My Notes

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