



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 화용적 억양

## Sarcasm, Doubt, and Emphasis in Tone

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Pronunciation Intonation	화용적 억양 Sarcasm, Doubt, and Emphasis in Tone

### Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPQIXOTJ3vU)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPQIXOTJ3vU>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

### Core Idea

Okay, real talk. I told my Korean friend 잘했어요 — 'well done' — and she burst out laughing. Same words I learned in class!

Wait — 잘했어요 means 'good job,' right? How does that turn into a joke?

단어는 맞았어요. 억양이 달랐어요. The words were right — the intonation was not. 같은 말도 억양에 따라 뜻이 달라져요.

오늘의 핵심은 두 가지예요 — 소리의 높낮이, pitch, 그리고 힘, stress. 단어는 그대로 두고 이 두 가지만 바꿔요.

### Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	나 복권 당첨됐어. —	I won the lottery.
Hana	진짜? —	Really?! (short, high rise — genuine surprise)



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	진짜...? —	Really...? (low, dragged — doubt)

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
같은 말, 다른 억양 gateun mal, dareun eogyang	Same words, different intonation	단어는 맞았어요. 억양이 달랐어요. The words were right — the intonation was not. 같은 말도 억양에 따라 뜻이 달라져요.
높낮이 + 힘 nopnaji + him	Pitch + stress	오늘의 핵심은 두 가지예요 — 소리의 높낮이, pitch, 그리고 힘, stress. 단어는 그대로 두고 이 두 가지만 바꿔요.
이 둘이 함께 감정을 담아요 i duri hamkke gamjeongeul dama-yo	These two together hold the feeling	높낮이와 힘, 이 둘이 함께 감정을 담아요. Pitch and stress together hold the feeling.
잘했어요 jal-haesseo-yo	Well done. (sincere — gentle rise)	들어 보세요. 진심일 때는 끝이 따뜻하게 살짝 올라가요 — 잘했어요?
자~알 했어요 ja~al haesseo-yo	'Great job' (sarcastic — flat, dragged, falling)	이번엔 비꼬는 느낌이에요. 톤이 평평하고, 끝을 길게 끌면서 내려가요 — 자~알 했어요.
글자는 같고, 마음만 달라요 geuljaneun gatgo, maeumman dalla-yo	Same letters, only the heart differs	같은 글자예요. 마음만 달라요. The letters are identical — only the melody changed.
비꼬기 = 톤 bikkogi = ton	Sarcasm lives in the tone	Oh! So the sarcasm isn't a different word — it's the same word said cold and slow.
진심 = 따뜻한 상승 jinsim = ttatteutan sangseung	Sincerity = a warm rise	맞아요. 진심은 보통 끝을 살짝 올리고 따뜻하게 말해요. Sincerity usually ends with a small, warm rise.



# Grammar / Structure Notes

## 같은 말, 다른 억양

같은 말, 다른 억양 — Same words, different intonation

억양 = pitch + stress, the 'melody' of a sentence

## 높낮이 + 힘

높낮이 + 힘 — Pitch + stress

Change these, not the words

## 이 둘이 함께 감정을 담아요

이 둘이 함께 감정을 담아요 — These two together hold the feeling

감정을 담다 = to carry/hold emotion

## 잘했어요

잘 + 했 + 어요 — Well done. (sincere — gentle rise)

들어 보세요. 진심일 때는 끝이 따뜻하게 살짝 올라가요 — 잘했어요?

## 자~알 했어요

자~알 했어요 — 'Great job' (sarcastic — flat, dragged, falling)

Stretching + flat/falling pitch = irony

# Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
자~알 했어요 (drag, fall)	jal-haesseo-yo
진짜...? (down, doubtful)	jinjja?
잘했어요 ↑	jal-haesseo-yo
잘했어요	jal-haesseo-yo
저는 갈게요	jeo-neun galge-yo

# Self-Check

- 1 Say 화용적 억양 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
억양 Question vs Statement Intonation	B2 Pronunciation: compare 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-INT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-INT-001</a>
면접 자기소개 Introducing Yourself in a Job Interview	B2 Conversation: compare 면접 자기소개 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CONV-INT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CONV-INT-001</a>
연음 법칙 How Korean Words Blur Together	C1 Pronunciation: compare 연음 법칙 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-PRON-LNK-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-PRON-LNK-001</a>
제 이름은 / 만나서 반갑습니다 Introducing Yourself in Korean	A1 Conversation: compare 제 이름은 / 만나서 반갑습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-INT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-INT-001</a>

## My Notes

---



---



---

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