



Korean Ladder Study Note

연음 법칙

How Korean Words Blur Together

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Pronunciation Linking Sounds	연음 법칙 How Korean Words Blur Together

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Abolah1Upk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Abolah1Upk>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real confession. I always say 한국어 like 'han-gook-uh,' one block at a time. But Koreans never sound like that.

Same. I read every 받침 as its own piece, and then a native speaker says it twice as fast and it all melts together.

이게 바로 오늘의 핵심이에요. The rule is called 연음 법칙 — liaison, or linking. In English, a final consonant slides onto the next syllable.

받침이 다음 글자로 넘어가요. When a syllable ends in a consonant and the next syllable starts with ㅇ — the silent placeholder — that consonant jumps over and fills the ㅇ.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	이 음악 좋아요? —	Do you like this music?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	네, 한국어 노래예요. —	Yes, it's a Korean song.
Junho	가사를 책에서 봤어요. —	I saw the lyrics in a book.
Hana	옷에도 그 글자가 있어요. —	That text is on the clothes too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
연음 법칙 yeoneum beopchik	the linking / liaison rule	이게 바로 오늘의 핵심이에요. The rule is called 연음 법칙 — liaison, or linking. In English, a final consonant slides onto the next syllable.
받침 + 이/은/을... batchim + i/eun/eul	ending consonant + a vowel-initial syllable	받침이 다음 글자로 넘어가요. When a syllable ends in a consonant and the next syllable starts with ㅇ — the silent placeholder — that consonant jumps over and fills the ㅇ.
한국어 han-gu-geo	the Korean language	예를 들어 한국어. 한 + 국 + 어. The ㄱ in 국 has nothing to do, so it hops onto 어 and we say 한구거.
음악 eu-mak	music	또 다른 예, 음악. 음 + 악. The ㅁ slides over and it becomes 으막, not 음-악.
옷이 o-si	the clothes (subject)	받침 ㅅ도 똑같아요. 옷이 — 옷 has a ㅅ 받침, and 이 starts with empty ㅇ. So it links to 오시.
받침 → 다음 ㅇ 자리 batchim → next ㅇ seat	the consonant changes seats, it isn't dropped	Wait — so the 받침 isn't deleted, it just changes addresses. It moves into the next syllable's empty seat.
ㅇ ieung (silent at the start)	empty placeholder — invites the consonant in	And that only happens because ㅇ at the START of a syllable is silent — it's just a placeholder waiting to be filled.
책이 chae-gi	the book (subject)	맞아요. 그래서 책이 becomes 채기, and 집에 becomes 지베. The 받침 always reaches for that open ㅇ.



Grammar / Structure Notes

연음 법칙

연음 법칙 — the linking / liaison rule

A 받침 moves onto the next empty ◯

받침 + 이/은/을...

받침 + 이/은/을... — ending consonant + a vowel-initial syllable

◯ is empty, so the 받침 fills it

한국어

한 + 국 + 어 — the Korean language

예를 들어 한국어. 한 + 국 + 어. The ㄱ in 국 has nothing to do, so it hops onto 어 and we say 한구거.

음악

음 + 악 — music

또 다른 예, 음악. 음 + 악. The ㅁ slides over and it becomes 으막, not 음-악.

옷이

옷 + 이 — the clothes (subject)

받침 ㅅ도 똑같아요. 옷이 — 옷 has a ㅅ 받침, and 이 starts with empty ◯. So it links to 오시.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
한구거	han-gu-geo
꼬치	kko-chi

Self-Check

- 1 Say 연음 법칙 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
격음화 When ㅎ Turns ㄱ/ㄷ/ㅂ into ㅋ/ㅌ/ㅍ	B2 Pronunciation: compare 격음화 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-PRON-LNK-001
화용적 억양 Sarcasm, Doubt, and Emphasis in Tone	C1 Pronunciation: compare 화용적 억양 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-PRON-INT-001
ㅅ Plain and Tense Sibilants	A2 Pronunciation: compare ㅅ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-PRON-CNS-001
ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ Aspirated and Tense Consonants	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-001

My Notes

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