



Korean Ladder Study Note

사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가

Extended Family and In-Law Terms

| Level | Topic | Focus |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5 | Vocabulary Family & People | 사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 Extended Family and In-Law Terms |

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l0-LGYKtcE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l0-LGYKtcE>

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

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Core Idea

Okay, real story. I told my friend, 'I'm meeting my uncle this weekend.' He just looked at me and asked, 'Which uncle?' And I had no idea what to say.

Same with me and 'aunt.' Mom's side, dad's side, married in by marriage — how many words can there possibly be?

많아요. 그런데 무서워하지 마세요. 규칙이 있어요. Korean picks the word from two clues: which SIDE the relative is on, and whether they joined the family by marriage.

첫 번째 단서, 쪽이에요. 아버지 쪽은 친가, 어머니 쪽은 외가예요. In English: father's side is 친가, mother's side is 외가.

Conversation Snapshot

| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|---------------------|---|
| Junho | 이번 주말에 처가에 가요. — | This weekend I'm going to my wife's family's place. |



| Speaker | Korean | Meaning |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Hana | 아, 장인어른 만나요? — | Oh, are you meeting your father-in-law? |
| Junho | 네, 장모님도 뵈고요. — | Yes, and seeing my mother-in-law too. |
| Hana | 며느리 사랑은 시아버지라는데, 사위 사랑은 장모죠. — | They say fathers-in-law dote on daughters-in-law — and mothers-in-law on sons-in-law. |

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

| Word | Meaning | Example |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 어느 쪽 + 결혼 여부 eoneu jjok + gyeolhon yeobu | which side + married-in or not | 많아요. 그런데 무서워하지 마세요. 규칙이 있어요. Korean picks the word from two clues: which SIDE the relative is on, and whether they joined the family by marriage. |
| 친가 / 외가 chinga / oega | father's side / mother's side | 첫 번째 단서, 쪽이에요. 아버지 쪽은 친가, 어머니 쪽은 외가예요. In English: father's side is 친가, mother's side is 외가. |
| 외삼촌 oesamchon | mother's brother (maternal uncle) | 그래서 어머니 쪽 단어에는 자주 '외'가 붙어요. The 외 prefix is your flag for the mother's side — like 외삼촌, mom's brother. |
| 이모 / 고모 imo / gomo | mother's sister / father's sister | 이제 이모와 고모를 보세요. 이모는 어머니의 여자 형제, 고모는 아버지의 여자 형제예요. |
| 이모부 imobu | husband of mother's sister | 그 두 분이 결혼하면, 남편에게 '부'를 붙여요. 이모부, 고모부. The '부' on the end means 'the husband of' that aunt. |
| 고모부 gomobu | husband of father's sister | 그래서 고모의 남편은 고모부예요. 같은 규칙이에요. |
| 사촌 sachon | cousin (any side, any gender) | 사촌은 조금 쉬워요. 모든 사촌 형제는 다 '사촌'이에요. 'Cousin' on any side is 사촌 — one word, no gender, no side. |
| 외 = 어머니 쪽 신호 oe = eomeoni jjok sinho | 외 signals the mother's side | 좋은 질문이에요. 이모와 고모는 그냥 통째로 외주세요. The flag for mother's side is the 외 prefix — like 외삼촌, 외할머니. 이모 and 고모 you just learn as whole words. |



Grammar / Structure Notes

어느 쪽 + 결혼 여부

어느 쪽 + 결혼 여부 — which side + married-in or not

Two clues decide the word.

친가 / 외가

친가 / 외가 — father's side / mother's side

외 (oe) = 'outer' → the mother's side.

외삼촌

외 + 삼촌 — mother's brother (maternal uncle)

그래서 어머니 쪽 단어에는 자주 '외'가 붙어요. The 외 prefix is your flag for the mother's side — like 외삼촌, mom's brother.

이모 / 고모

이모 / 고모 — mother's sister / father's sister

이모 = maternal aunt · 고모 = paternal aunt

이모부

이모 + 부 — husband of mother's sister

그 두 분이 결혼하면, 남편에게 '부'를 붙여요. 이모부, 고모부. The '부' on the end means 'the husband of' that aunt.

Pronunciation Loop

| Phrase | How to practice |
|--------|-----------------|
| 이모부 | imobu |
| 며느리 | myeoneuri |

Self-Check

- 1 Say 사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 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 |
|---|---|--|
| 엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 Naming Your Family | A2 Vocabulary: compare 엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FAM-001 |
| 억울하다 / 서운하다 / 벅차다 Nuanced Emotional Expression | C1 Vocabulary: compare 억울하다 / 서운하다 / 벅차다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-VOCAB-EMO-001 |
| 업무 / 보고서 / 협업 Advanced Workplace Vocabulary | C1 Vocabulary: compare 업무 / 보고서 / 협업 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-VOCAB-WRK-001 |
| Counting in Korean Native vs Sino Numbers | A1 Vocabulary: compare Counting in Korean with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer. | Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-001 |

My Notes

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