



Korean Ladder Study Note

기후 변화 / 생태계 / 지속 가능성

Talking About the Environment

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Vocabulary Nature & Weather	기후 변화 / 생태계 / 지속 가능성 Talking About the Environment

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TWZSDNSHGI

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk — in a TOPIK essay I want to write about climate change, but I only know 날씨, weather. That feels way too small.

좋은 질문이에요. 날씨 is today's weather. 기후 is the long-term pattern — climate. In English they blur together, but Korean keeps them apart.

그래서 오늘의 핵심 단어는 기후 변화예요. In English, climate change. 변화 means change, transformation.

지구 온난화 is global warming. 일으키다 means to cause, to trigger. 온난화가 변화를 일으켜요 — warming causes change.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	요즘 환경 문제 중에 뭐가 제일 심각해요? —	Among today's environmental problems, which is most serious?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저는 기후 변화가 가장 심각하다고 생각해요. —	I think climate change is the most serious.
Hana	왜 그렇게 생각하세요? —	Why do you think so?
Junho	생태계가 빠르게 파괴되고 있으니까요. —	Because the ecosystem is being destroyed rapidly.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
날씨 vs 기후 nalssi vs gihu	weather (today) vs climate (long-term)	좋은 질문이에요. 날씨 is today's weather. 기후 is the long-term pattern — climate. In English they blur together, but Korean keeps them apart.
기후 변화 gihu byeonhwa	climate change	그래서 오늘의 핵심 단어는 기후 변화예요. In English, climate change. 변화 means change, transformation.
지구 온난화가 기후 변화를 일으켜요 jigu onnanhwaga gihu byeonhwareul irikyeoyo	Global warming causes climate change.	Let's break a full sentence. 지구 온난화가 기후 변화를 일으켜요.
일으키다 ireukida	to cause / to trigger	지구 온난화 is global warming. 일으키다 means to cause, to trigger. 온난화가 변화를 일으켜요 — warming causes change.
일으키다 > 만들다 ireukida > mandeulda	cause > make	So 일으키다 is my go-to verb for cause. That's already better than saying 만들다, make.
생태계 saengtaegye	ecosystem	이제 생태계예요. In English, ecosystem — the whole living system, plants, animals, and their home together.
생태계가 파괴되고 있어요 saengtaegyega pagoedoego isseoyo	The ecosystem is being destroyed.	생태계가 파괴되고 있어요. 파괴되다 means to be destroyed. This passive form is very common in environmental writing.
파괴하다 → 파괴되다 pagoehada → pagoedoeda	destroy → be destroyed	파괴하다 is to destroy; 파괴되다 is to be destroyed. In essays, the passive 파괴되다 sounds more objective, more formal.



Grammar / Structure Notes

날씨 vs 기후

날씨 vs 기후 — weather (today) vs climate (long-term)

TOPIK essays want 기후, not 날씨

기후 변화

기후 변화 — climate change

기후 (climate) + 변화 (change)

지구 온난화가 기후 변화를 일으켜요

지구 온난화 + 가 + 기후 변화 + 를 + 일으켜요 — Global warming causes climate change.

Let's break a full sentence. 지구 온난화가 기후 변화를 일으켜요.

일으키다

일으키다 — to cause / to trigger

온실가스가 온난화를 일으켜요 — greenhouse gases cause warming

일으키다 > 만들다

일으키다 > 만들다 — cause > make

For problems, 일으키다 sounds academic

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
저는 기후 변화가 가장 심각하다고 생각해요	jeoneun gihu byeonhwaga gajang simgakadago saenggakaeyo
심각하다고	simgakadago
좋아요	joayo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 기후 변화 / 생태계 / 지속 가능성 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
미세먼지 / 장마 / 폭염 / 황사 Weather and Environment News	B2 Vocabulary: compare 미세먼지 / 장마 / 폭염 / 황사 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-VOCAB-NAT-001
비 / 눈 / 바람 Talking About the Weather	A2 Vocabulary: compare 비 / 눈 / 바람 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-NAT-001
산 / 바다 / 하늘 / 나무 Your First Korean Nature Words	A1 Vocabulary: compare 산 / 바다 / 하늘 / 나무 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NAT-001
사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 Extended Family and In-Law Terms	C1 Vocabulary: compare 사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-VOCAB-FAM-001

My Notes

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