

written by TalkToMeInKorean

KOREAN SLANG EXPRESSIONS



*Earn street cred in Korea
by using the expressions inside this book!*



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INTRODUCTION

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KOREAN SLANG EXPRESSIONS

Have you ever heard a couple of people talking to each other in Korean and you can kind of understand what they are saying, but there are some things you just don't get? Ever listened to a Korean drama dialogue only to become frustrated when you can't find a certain term or phrase in your dictionary?

More than likely, the words you were trying to find were slang expressions, and, unfortunately, no dictionary can help you understand them. However, the staff and teachers of TTMIK have come to your rescue with this book by combining two volumes of their popular e-book series "Slang Expressions in Korean" into one beautiful book.

Learn 60 slang expressions, the meanings, various forms of conjugation, common usages, and much more with “Korean Slang Expressions”!

Some expressions in this book have been in use for more than a couple of decades, while other expressions are quite new. Regardless of how long each expression has been in use, all of them are incredibly relevant today; especially among young people and those who are familiar with the lingo used on the Internet. Just make sure you are friendly enough with the person to whom you use these expressions, because the majority of the examples and sample sentences in this book are given in 반말 (ban-mal), or informal language, and can only be used with close friends.

If you would like to listen to the sample sentences and dialogues, please visit <http://www.talktomeinkorean.com/audio>

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간지나다



간지 is originally a Japanese word (Kanji/感じ) that means “feeling”, “style”, or “atmosphere”. In Korean, however, it is used as an expression for a “cool style” or to describe someone’s “attractive look”. When you see someone who is very fashionably dressed or has a very cool hair style, you can use the expression 간지나다.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

간지나다

Adjective Form

간지나는 + Noun

Adverb Form

간지나게 + Verb

More Examples

1. 간지난다!
You look really cool!
2. 간지나는데?
That looks so cool!
3. 간지나는 옷
Cool fashion/Cool clothes

Sample Dialogue

- A: 오늘 어디가? 멋진데!
Are you going somewhere today?
You're looking cool!
- B: 어때? 간지나지?
How do I look? Do I look stylish?
- A: 어, 좀 간지나는데? 어디서 샀어?
Yeah. Very cool. Where did you buy those clothes?
- B: 몰라, 우리 형 옷이야.
I don't know. They are my brother's.

갑질

When two parties sign a contract, one is usually the client, and the other is the contractor. In Korean, these two parties are expressed through the names 갑 (head, leader) and 을 (subordinate). Even outside of contractual contexts, the words 갑 and 을 are often used to describe an unequal relationship.

There is no universal rule as to who becomes 갑 or 을 in a relationship, but it is usually clear who is 갑 or 을 in the given situation. The person or organization that has the final say and can “fire” the other party is usually considered to be 갑.

갑질 refers to any characteristic behavior that 갑 displays by overusing and abusing power or authority. If an employer demands too much from an employee and makes the employee apologize for things he/she isn't

responsible for, that can be considered 갑질. If a big corporation forces small stores to buy only their products, that is 갑질. In retail, if a snobbish department store customer makes an employee kneel down and apologize for small mistakes, that's also considered 갑질.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

갑질

Noun + Verb

갑질(을) 하다

More Examples

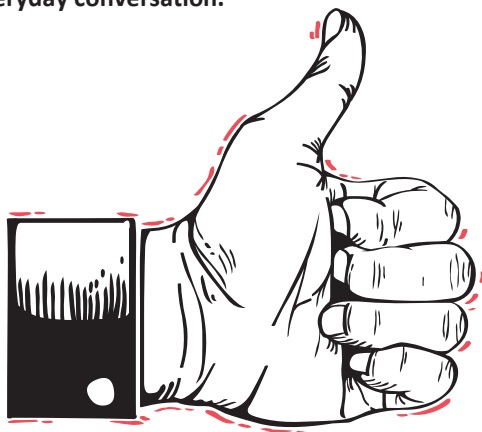
1. 이런 갑질을 왜 가만히 보고만 있어요?
Why do you just sit back and watch this injustice?
2. 갑질 하는 회사랑은 일 안 해요.
I don't work with companies that act like an arrogant bully.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 나 오늘 회사 그만뒀어. I quit my job today.
- B: 뭐라고? 정말? 왜? What? Really? Why?
- A: 직속 상사가 너무 갑질을 해서. My direct boss was bullying me and being too bossy.

강추

강추 is a combination of 강 from 강력 meaning “strong” and 추 from 추천 meaning “recommendation”. Thus, 강추 means “to strongly recommend” or a “strong recommendation”. It is mostly used on the Internet, but it is also used at times in everyday conversation.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

강추

Noun + "To be"

강추예요

Adverb Form

강추하는
강추인

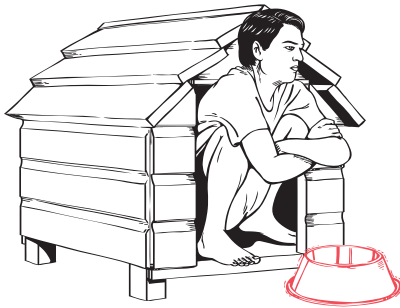
More Examples

1. 강추예요.
I highly recommend it.
2. 제가 강추하는 책이에요.
It's a book that I highly recommend.
3. 제가 강추하는 곳이에요.
It's a place that I highly recommend.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 이 책 읽어 봤어? 완전 강추야!!! Have you read this book before?
I highly recommend it!
- B: 진짜? 너 책도 읽어? Really? You read books, too?
- A: 아니... 친구한테 들었어. No... I heard from a friend.

개고생



개고생 is the combination of the words **개** (dog) and **고생** (hardship), but it has no relation to the word “dog”. In instances of Korean slang words such as “**개지랄**” and “**개새끼**”, the word **개** intensifies the meaning of the entire word. Therefore, **개고생** is used to describe a situation where one goes through very tough physical or mental hardship.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

개고생

Noun + "to be"

개고생이다

Noun + Verb

개고생(을) 하다

More Examples

1. 집 나가면 개고생이야.
When you leave your home, many hardships are waiting for you.
2. 그때는 컴퓨터가 없어서 개고생을 했지.
Back then, there were no computers, so we had a hard time doing it.
3. 핸드폰을 잃어버려서 개고생 했어.
I lost my cellphone, so I had a really hard time.

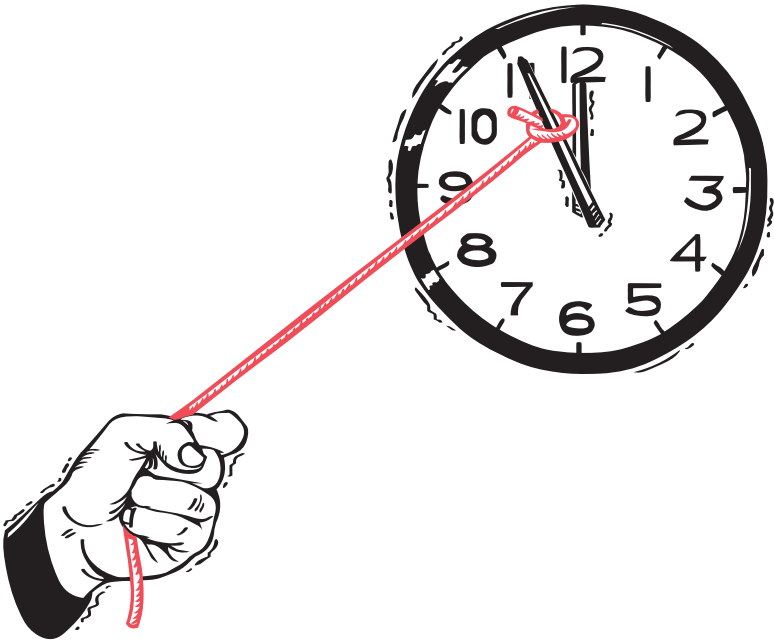
Sample Dialogue

- A: 배낭여행 재밌었어? Was your backpack trip fun?
- B: 중간에 가방을 잃어버려서 개고생 했어. I lost my bag during my trip, so I had a tough time.
- A: 그래서 가방은 찾았어? So, have you found your bag?
- B: 아니, 못 찾았지. No, of course not.

개기다

개기다 is usually used when a younger person defies an elder or someone of a higher rank in social status. 개기다 can be used in a variety of contexts, from younger siblings acting and speaking impolitely to older siblings, to lower-ranking employees or military subordinates talking back impolitely to bosses or superiors. The negative imperative sentence “개기지 마” is close to the English phrases “don’t get smart with me”, “know your place”, or “who do you think you are to talk to me like that?”. It is used either when the younger/ lower-ranking person is behaving rudely, or when the older/higher-ranking person just wants to flex his/her position, rank, or authority on the younger one.

Another, but less common, usage of 개기다 is when you procrastinate and delay doing something until the very last minute, and you end up doing it reluctantly. In this case, you can say “(안) + verb stem + -(으)려고 개기다가 + (결국에는) + another verb”.



개기다 was only considered to be a slang expression until 2014 when 국립국어원 (The National Institute of The Korean Language) officially recognized 개기다 as a 표준어 (standard Korean) word. With the first meaning introduced previously (defying or talking back to older people), a more standard expression used is 대들다; however, with the second meaning (procrastinating), you cannot use 대들다.

More Examples

1. 너 지금 나한테 개기는 거야?
Are you defying me right now?/Are you getting smart with me right now?
2. 너 자꾸 개기면 혼난다.
If you keep acting rudely like that to me, you will get into big trouble.
3. 숙제 안 하려고 개기다가 결국은 밤 샀어.
I kept putting off doing my homework, so I ended up pulling an all-nighter (staying up all night).

Sample Dialogue

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| A: 청소 이따가 하면 안 돼요? | Can't I clean later? |
| B: 개기지 말고 빨리 해. | Don't get smart with me, and do it right now! |
| A: 네... | Okay... |

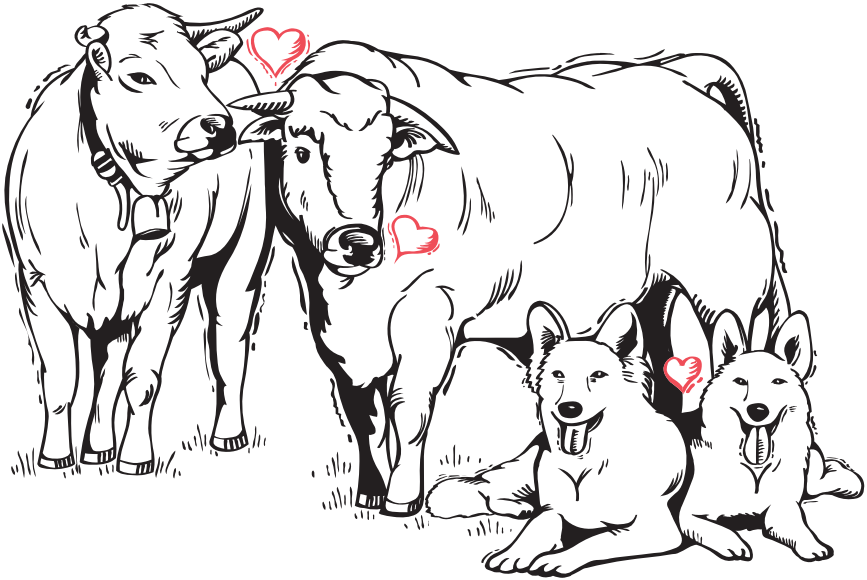
개나소나

Literally translated, 개나소나 (or 개나 소나) means “even dogs or cows”, but it is used to mean “anyone” in a very negative or condescending tone.

개나소나 is used in a way to talk about how something is expected to be more “precious” or “uncommon”, but in reality, that something is not at all that uncommon or precious.

One strong theory about how the expression 개나소나 came about is related to the Korean traditional game 윷놀이. In 윷놀이, there are four sticks (known as 윷), a game board/mat, and eight playing tokens (four for each team). To move your tokens, you must toss the four sticks, each of which has a round side and a flat side, onto a mat. The number of sticks that land flat side up will determine how many spaces you can move your token on the game map. Each combination of flat and round sides up has a name: if you get one flat

side up, it is 도; two flat sides up, 개; three flat sides up is known as 걸; four flat sides up is 윗; and no flat sides up is 모. Based on the names of these combinations, the original expression was 도나 개나, but it changed to 도나 캐나 for ease of pronunciation. Since the second part of the expression, 개나, can also sound like 개(dog)나, people started saying 개나소나, meaning “even dogs or cows”.



This is a very strong expression which can sound very rude. By using this phrase, you are basically comparing other people to common animals and implying that he/she/they are not any different.

More Examples

1. 요즘에는 개나소나 자기가 음악가래.

These days, everyone says that he/she is a musician (and I think they are not worthy of the title, and it is ridiculous).

2. 개나소나 다 연애하는데 왜 나는 여자 친구가 없을까?

Everyone (even the least attractive) is dating, but why do I not have a girlfriend?

Sample Dialogue

A: 나가수 될 거야!

I'm going to be a singer!

B: 요즘에는 개나소나 가수 된대.

These days, so many untalented people say they will become singers.

A: 방금 뭐라고 했어?

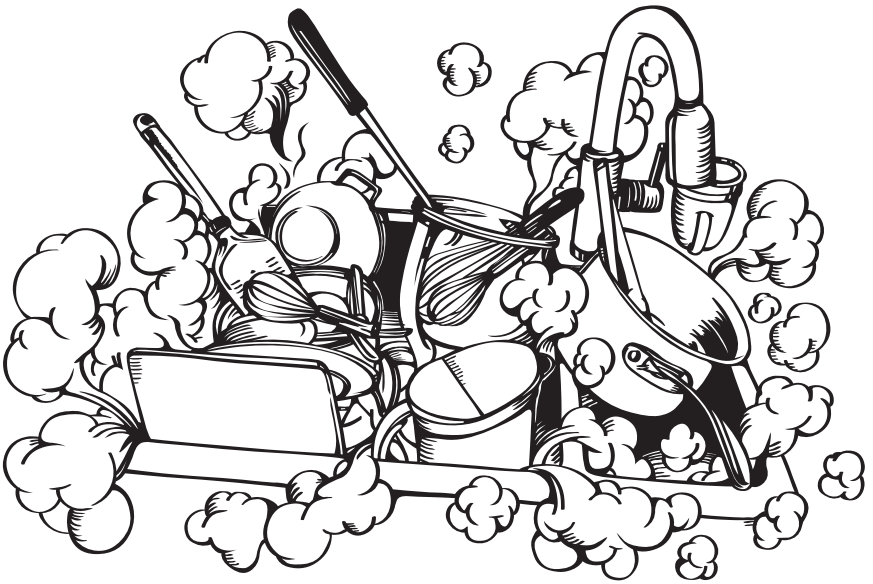
What did you just say?

개판 오분전

If you ask any native Korean speaker what **개판 오분전** means, most of them will tell you that **개판** means “a place full of dogs” (which is, consequently, very messy), and **오분전** means “5 minutes before”. While the explanation for **오분전** is correct, **개판** technically does not mean “a place full of dogs that’s a big mess”.

There are two main theories about how **개판 오분전** came to mean “mess” or “chaos”. According to one popular theory, **개판** (改板) refers to “resetting the stage” in a Korean traditional wrestling match (씨름): when two people fall to the ground at the same time and are arguing about who won. Another popular theory is that **개판** (開板) refers to free food distribution during the Korean War when refugees would flock together in large numbers to receive food. In both theories, **개판 오분전** (five minutes before **개판**) refers to the moment where the situation is the most chaotic.

In recent times, however, since most people are used to the meaning of “개 (dog) + 판 (stage, plate)”, just the word 개판 has come to mean “mess” or “chaos”.



More Examples

1. 이거 누가 만들었어? 완전 개판 오분전이네.

Who made this? It's a total mess.

2. 콘서트 중에 정전이 돼서 완전 개판이 됐어요.

During the concert, the power went out, so it became complete mayhem.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 어제 축구 경기 어땠어?

How was the soccer match yesterday?

- B: 개판이었어. 우리 팀 애들이 연습을 별로 안 했어.

It was a mess. My team members hadn't practiced much.

- A: 아쉽네.

That's too bad.

고고싱

고고싱 or 고고씽 means “Let’s go!” or “Let’s do it!” The word “고” comes from the English word “go” (and it is repeated in this phrase), while “씽” comes from the Korean expression “씽씽” which describes the way an object or a person moves at a fast speed. If someone suggests doing something and you want to express your agreement, you can say “고고싱”.



More Examples

1. **갈까? 고고싱!**
Shall we go? Let's go!
2. **가자 가자! 고고싱!**
Let's go, go!
3. **괜찮아! 고고씽!**
It's okay! Let's go!

Sample Dialogue

- A: **배고파? 점심 먹으러 가자.** Are you hungry? Let's go have lunch.
- B: **응. 좋아. 고고씽! 니가 사는 거지?** Yeah. Sounds good. Let's go! It's your treat, right?
- A: **뭐? 아니. 나 돈 없어.** What? No. I don't have money.

공주병, 왕자병

공주병 is the combination of “공주” (princess) and “병” (disease). It is used to describe a girl or woman who acts as if she is as precious and as pretty as a princess and, therefore, should be regarded as such. The equivalent for males is 왕자병 (prince disease).



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form
공주병, 왕자병

Noun + “to be”
공주병이다, 왕자병이다

More Examples

1. 우리 언니 공주병 걸렸어요.
My older sister has a princess complex.
2. 너 왕자병 걸렸어?
You think you're special or something?
3. 공주병 걸리셨군.
She thinks she's special.

Sample Dialogue

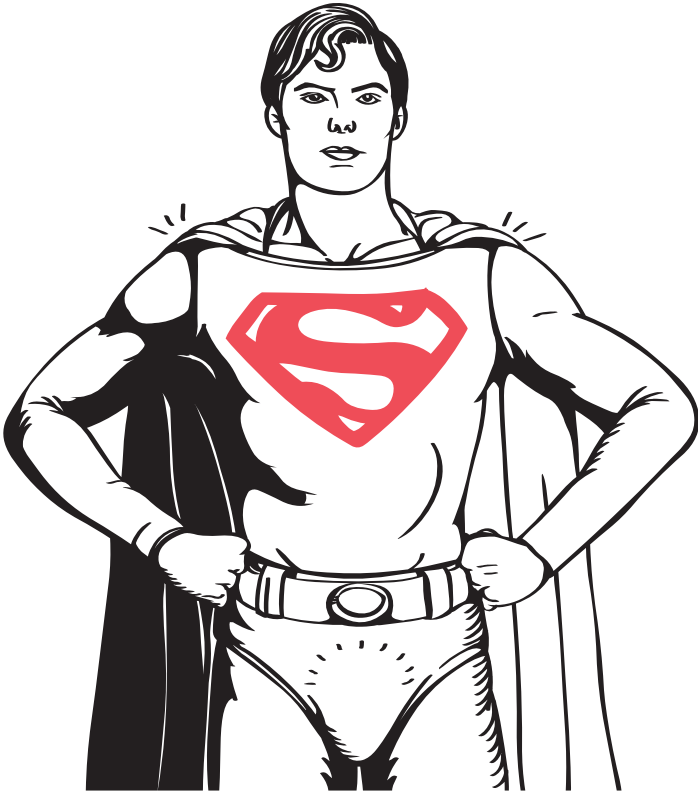
- A: 우리 언니 때문에 정말 미치겠어. 완전 공주병이야.
My sister is driving me crazy. She's so stuck-up.
- B: 왜? 어떤데?
Why? How so?
- A: 맨날 거울만 보고 나한테 집안일 다 시켜.
She only looks at her mirror all day long and makes me do all the housework.
- B: 우리 형도 왕자병인데, 우리 형 이랑 만나면 되겠다.
My brother thinks he's so special, too. Maybe she should date my brother.

근자감

근자감 is short for 근거 없는 자신감, meaning “groundless (and, therefore, inexplicable) self-confidence” or “baseless confidence”. It is a positive thing to have an appropriate level of self-confidence, but when someone has too much confidence and is “full of him/herself”, you can say that the person has 근자감.

근자감 can be about many things: looks and attractiveness, work skills, or how well one will do a certain task in the future. 근자감 is often used with the verb 찰다, meaning “to be great” or “to be awesome”, to form 근자감 찰다 (to have an endless amount of groundless self-confidence).

근자감 is similar to 허세 (pretentiousness), but the difference is that someone who has 근자감 firmly believes in his/her ability, whereas someone who has 허세 knows that it’s just a bluff.



More Examples

- 1. 너는 그런 근자감이 어디에서 생기는 거야?
Where do you get such arrogance?
- 2. 웬 쓸데없는 근자감이래?
Why such unnecessary and groundless confidence?

Sample Dialogue

- A: 시험공부 안 해? You don't study for your exams?
- B: 공부 안 해도 돼. 다 알아. I don't have to study. I know everything.
- A: 근자감이 지나친 거 아니야? Don't you think you have too much groundless confidence?

꼴값 떨어다

꼴 means “shape” or “face”, and it is usually used with another word rather than independently. 값 means “price”, so 꼴값 literally means “the price of one’s face”. The word 꼴값 is typically paired with the verb 하다 or 떨어다 to express that someone is an “eyesore” or that a person is acting or being “ridiculous”. Since this is an insulting expression, it is used in 반말, such as “꼴값 떠네!”, “꼴값 한다!”, or “꼴값 떨어고 있네”.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

꼴깁 떨어다

Adjective Form

꼴깁 떠는

More Examples

1. 니가 가수가 될 거라고? 꼴깁 떨어고 있네!
You are going to be a singer? You are being ridiculous.
2. 꼴깁 떨어지 말고 저리 가.
Don't be such an eyesore (in front of me) and go away.

Sample Dialogue

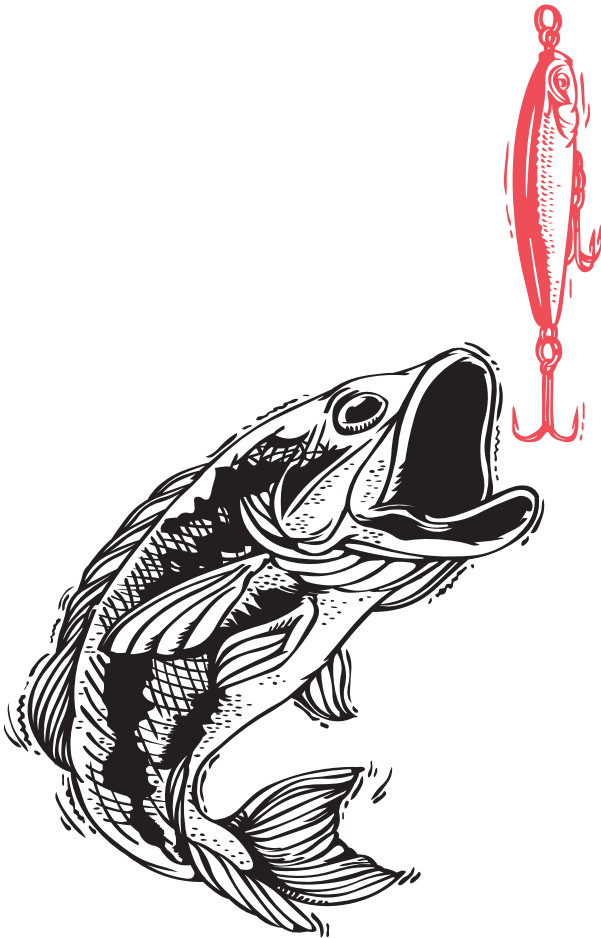
- A: 나 100만원만 빌려줘. Lend me a million won.
- B: 왜? Why?
- A: 여자 친구 생일인데, 명품백 사줘야 돼. It's my girlfriend's birthday, and I have to buy her a brand-name bag.
- B: 꼴깁 떨어고 있네! That's ridiculous!

낚이다

낚이다 is the passive form of 낚다 which means “to fish”, “to hook”, or “to catch (a fish)”, but it has also come to mean “to hook” a person or an opportunity. Since 낚이다 is conjugated in passive voice, it literally means “to be caught or hooked” by someone, meaning that someone fell victim to someone else’s “bait”. 낚이다 is used more to express that a person was deceived, lured, or duped into doing something through someone’s fancy remarks or trap.

Online news articles are notorious for having incredibly awesome titles or descriptions just to get you to click on them. This is known as “click bait” in English. In Korean, if you fell for the “click bait” and ended up reading a ridiculously boring and dull article after clicking on the link with an over-the-top headline, you can say “낚였다”.

낚이다



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

낙이다

Adjective Form

낙이는

낙인 (Past tense)

More Examples

1. 기사 제목에 또 낙였어!

I was deceived by the title of an article again!

2. 진짜인 줄 알았는데 영화 이야기였어. 완전 낙였네!

I thought it was real, but it was a story in a movie. I totally fell for it.

Sample Dialogue

A: 그 카메라 어때요?

How do you like that camera?

B: 완전 별로예요. 가짜 리뷰에 낙
였어요.

It's really bad. I was deceived by a fake
review.

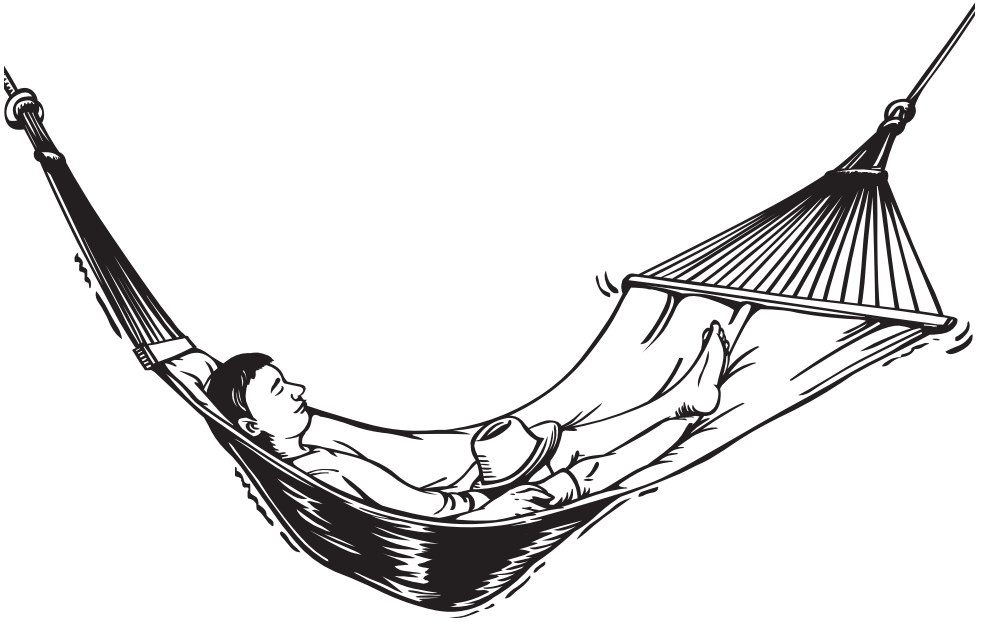
A: 다음에는 카메라는 저한테 물어
보고 사세요.

Next time, ask me before you buy a
camera.

널널하다

널널하다 basically means “to be spacious”, but when used as slang, it refers to how something, usually someone’s schedule, is not very tight or packed. 널널하다 can also mean “to be easy” when you talk about classes or jobs.

For example, a 널널한 수업 can mean a class where you are not given much homework, the exams are very easy, and you don’t have to do much to prepare for future lessons. A 널널한 직장 is a place where the workload is not too heavy, there is not much pressure, and you feel very comfortable. However, when 널널하다 is used to mean “to be easy”, it also has a somewhat negative feel to it, which means that 널널한 수업 is actually a class where you don’t necessarily learn much, and a 널널한 직장 is a workplace that you don’t necessarily care much about. The opposite of 널널하다 is often 빡세다.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

널널하다

Adjective Form

널널한

Adverb Form

널널하게

More Examples

- 이 수업은 과제도 없고 널널해.
This class has no homework, and it's easy.
- 다음주는 스케줄이 좀 널널해.
I have a bit of room in my schedule next week.
- 널널한 직장이 꼭 좋은 건 아니야.
Easy workplaces are not always good.

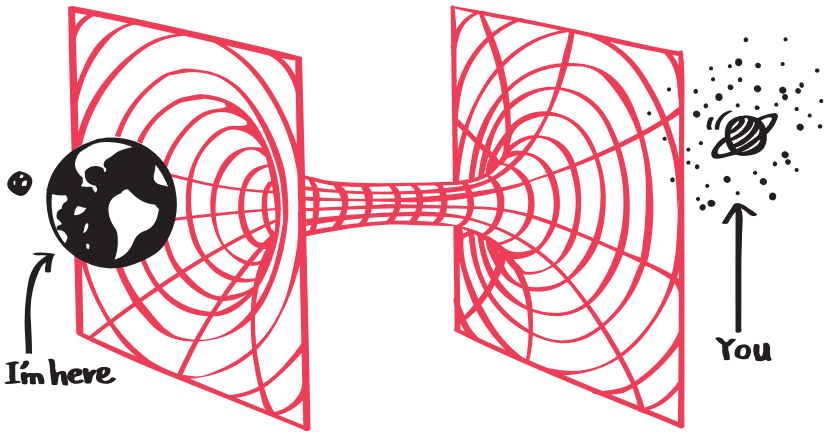
Sample Dialogue

- A: 어떤 수업 신청할 거야? Which class will you sign up for?
- B: 이 영어 수업 어때? 널널하대. How about this English class? I heard it's easy.
- A: 너 신청할 거면 나도 신청할래. If you're going to sign up for it, I will, too.

넘사벽

넘사벽 comes from 넘을 수 없는 사차원의 벽 (a fourth-dimensional wall that you can't overcome) which refers to how one person is so much better than another in a certain aspect that it is impossible to compare the two people. It is thought to have come from a Japanese phrase which translates to Korean as 넘을 수 없는 벽 without the "fourth-dimension" part.

When saying that someone is 넘사벽 or someone's ability is 넘사벽, it means that the person is so talented, skilled, rich, or above your level that you can't even dream of competing with that person. Some examples of 넘사벽 are Michael Jordan in basketball, YouTube views for "Gangnam Style", and Usain Bolt in sprinting.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

넘사벽

Noun + "to be"

넘사벽이다

More Examples

1. 이 영화는 전작이 너무 넘사벽이라서 후속 편이 실망스러웠어요.
This movie's previous episode was so good that the sequel was disappointing.
2. 김연아 선수는 현역 시절 넘사벽이었어요.
Yuna Kim was above everybody else's level before she retired.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 왜 요즘 체육관 안 가요? Why aren't you going to the gym these days?
- B: 다른 사람들이 너무 잘해서 넘사벽이라서... Other people are so good and above my level, so...
- A: 혼자 운동하면 되잖아요? You can work out on your own!

노가다



노가다 is used to describe a very physically difficult situation. For instance, construction workers' tasks can be described as 노가다. In addition, other physically or mentally difficult things can also be described using “노가다”.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

노가다

Noun + "to be"

노가다이다

노가다야
(Present tense)

노가다였어
(Past tense)

Adverb Form

노가다로 + Verb

More Examples

1. 노가다야.
It's tough labor.
2. 완전 노가다예요.
It's really hard labor.
3. 노가다가 따로 없어요.
This is nothing short of tough physical labor.

Sample Dialogue

A: 너 뭐 해?

What are you doing?

B: 풍선 불어. 동생 생일 파티 하는데
100개 불어야 돼. 완전 노가다야.

I'm blowing up these balloons. I have to blow up a hundred of them for my brother's birthday party. It's really hard.

A: 풍선에 바람 넣는 기계 없어?
왜 그렇게 노가다로 해?

Don't you have one of those machines for putting air into balloons? Why are you so tough on yourself?

B: 그런 기계도 있어?

There is a machine like that?

A: 헐. 너 완전 안습이다.

What? You're pathetic!

농땡이



농땡이 is the state or action of someone who doesn't do the things he/she needs to do. If you "do" 농땡이, it means that you are lazy and just fooling around. The word is often put together with "피우다". It sounds similar to "땡땡이" but is different in the sense that "땡땡이" refers to not doing work while "농땡이" refers to just being lazy.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

농땡이

Noun + Verb

농땡이(를) 피우다

More Examples

1. **농땡이 그만 피우고 일 해!**
Stop playing around and do your work!
2. **농땡이 피우지 마!**
Stop being so lazy!
3. **왜 농땡이 피우고 있어?**
Why aren't you working?

Sample Dialogue

- A: **아, 이 번역 언제 다 끝내지?** Argh... when am I going to finish all these translations?
- B: **헐, 너 그거 내일까지 해야 되는 거 아냐? 농땡이 피우지 말고 빨리 해!** Aren't you supposed to finish it by tomorrow? Stop playing around and just do it quickly!
- A: **농땡이가 아니라 너무 많아서 못하겠어.** I'm not being lazy. It's just too much. I can't do it.
- B: **원래 번역은 노가다야. 그냥 해.** Translating is supposed to be tough and takes time! Just do it.

눈(이) 맞다

When two people accidentally make eye contact, it is described as 눈이 마주치다 (eyes meet) in Korean. However, when you shorten this to say 눈이 맞다, or just 눈 맞다, it normally has a more figurative meaning.

눈(이) 맞다 basically has two meanings: “to understand/click with each other”, and “to fall in love with each other”. The second meaning is used more commonly than the first.

When 눈(이) 맞다 is translated as “to fall in love”, sometimes (but not always) it can have somewhat of a bad connotation, whereas 사랑에 빠지다, also translated as “to fall in love”, is always positive.

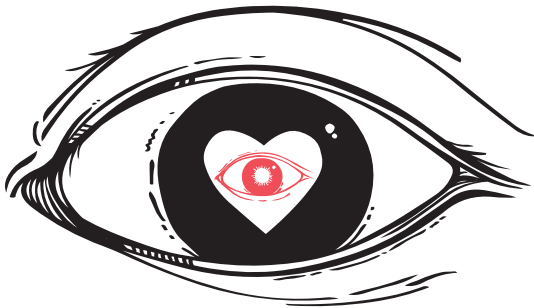
*눈(이) 맞다 is slightly different to the expression “to fall in love at first sight” (첫눈에 반하다) since 눈(이) 맞다 is not just limited to the first time.

More Examples

1. 그 두 사람은 엘리베이터에서 눈이 맞아서 사귀게 됐어요.
Those two fell in love in an elevator and started dating.
2. 제가 좋아하던 여자가 제 친구랑 눈이 맞아서 결혼했어요.
My friend and the girl I used to like fell in love and got married.
3. 그 남자는 다른 여자와 눈이 맞아서 아내와 이혼했어요.
He fell in love with another woman and divorced his wife.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 두 사람 어제 만났는데 벌써 사귀는 거야? Those two met yesterday and they are already dating?
- B: 응. 만나자마자 눈 맞았나 봐. Yeah. Apparently they fell in love as soon as they met.
- A: 헐... 대박! Wow. That's crazy!



단맛, 쓴맛

단맛 means “sweet taste”, and 쓴맛 means “bitter taste”. When used together, the phrase describes the joys and trials/sorrows of life.

Since the verb 보다 is commonly associated with 맛 to mean “to taste something” or “to check the taste of something”, 단맛을 보다 and 쓴맛을 보다 are frequently seen and heard, but more often than not, 단맛 and 쓴맛 are used together in one phrase, such as in “단맛 쓴맛 다 보다” (to taste both the sweetness and bitterness [of life]). Another commonly used phrase is 인생의 쓴맛을 보다, which means “to taste the bitterness of life” or “to experience how bitter life is”.

*It is somewhat different to the English word 'bittersweet' used to describe a mixed emotion towards one particular thing, since 단맛 쓴맛 refers to both the many pleasurable (sweet) things and many painful (bitter) things together.

단맛

쓴맛



단맛

쓴맛

More Examples

1. 그동안 단맛 쓴맛 다 봤어요.

I've tasted the sweetness and the bitterness of life.

2. 연예계에서 성공하려면 단맛 쓴맛 다 봐야 해요.

In order to succeed in the entertainment world, you have to experience both the good and the bad.

Sample Dialogue

A: 이 분야에서 일한 지 얼마나 됐어요?

How long have you been working in this field?

B: 15년 됐어요. 단맛 쓴맛 다 봤는데, 좋은 일이 더 많았어요.

It's been 15 years. I've experienced both the good and the bad, but there were more good things that happened.

A: 우와, 근데 나이가 어떻게 되세요?

Wow, then how old are you?

답문



답문 describes the response message you receive from a person who you are conversing with via text messages. **답문** is the combination of **답장** (reply), or **답** (answer), and **문자 메시지** (text message), or **문자** (text).

More Examples

1. **답문 좀 빨리 보내 주세요.**
Please send me your reply quickly.
2. **제 답문 받으셨어요?**
Have you received my reply?
3. **답문이 아직도 안 왔어요.**
The response hasn't come yet.

Sample Dialogue

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| A: 야, 답문 아직 안 왔어? | Hey, have you received a reply yet? |
| B: 문자 다시 보내 볼까? | Shall I send her another text message? |
| A: 아니야, 그냥 전화를 해 봐. | No, just call her. |

당근

당근, as a noun, means “carrot”, but since it shares the same beginning syllable with 당연 meaning “of course”, some people started saying 당근 instead of 당연 just for fun. The pronunciation of the two words is similar, and saying 당근 instead of 당연 is more common nowadays. Using 당근 in sentence forms, 당근이지 or 당근이죠, is also used by many people to mean “of course”.

Carrots are commonly eaten by horses, so people sometimes change 말밥 (lit. horse food) to 말밥이지 to mean “of course”.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

당근

Noun + “to be”

당근이다
당근이지 (반말)

More Examples

1. 당근이죠. 저 영국 사람이예요.
Of course. I'm British.
2. 숙제는 당근 다 했죠.
Of course I've done all my homework.
3. 당근 도와줄 수 있죠.
Of course I can help you.

Sample Dialogue

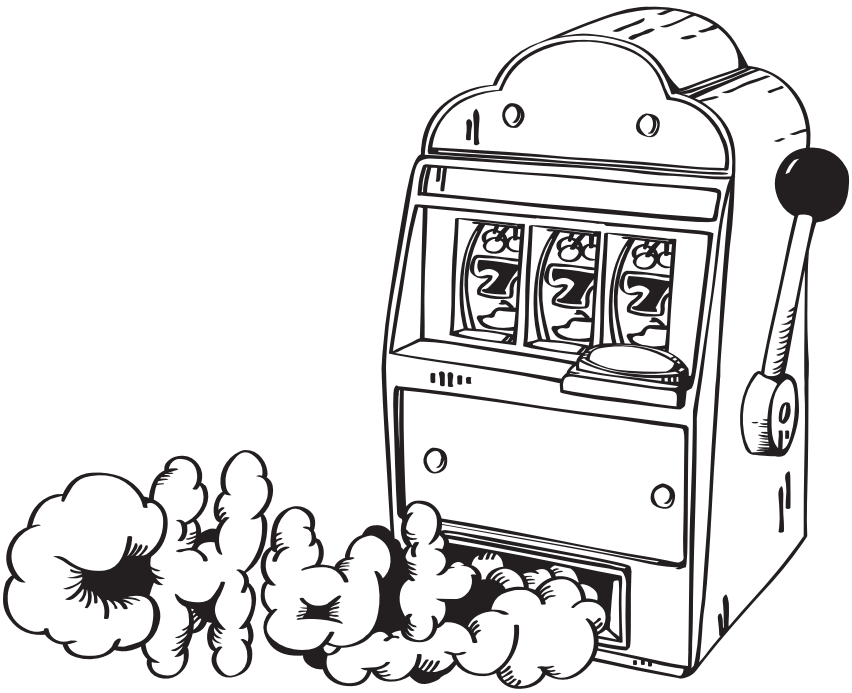
- A: 시험 잘 봤어? Did you do well on the exam?
- B: 당근이지. 이번에 공부 많이 했
거든. Of course. I studied a lot this time.



대박

.....

대박 means “awesome”, “great”, “killer”, or “amazing”. It is often used when you’re dumbfounded by a situation, but it can also be used to say “대박나세요” meaning “I wish you great success!” to wish someone good luck. The word 대박 is used often between friends and can also be seen on advertisements. It is basically a noun and can be used with several verbs. “대박 + 이다 (to be)” means “to be awesome” and “대박 + 나다 (to come out)” means “to become successful” or “to be a hit (product)”. Sometimes, however, 대박 can be used as an adverb, as in “대박 멋있었다 (really cool)”.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun/Adjective Form

대박

Adjective + “to be”

대박이다

대박이야
(Present tense)

대박이었어
(Past tense)

Exclamation

대박

Noun + Verb

대박(이) 나다

대박(이) 터지다

More Examples

1. **대박!**
Awesome!
2. **대박인데?**
That's crazy!
3. **완전 대박이야.**
It's totally awesome!
4. **그 사람 대박 났어.**
He became so successful.
5. **대박 멋있어!**
It's so cool!

Sample Dialogue

A: 너 그 얘기 들었어? 오늘 수업 취소 됐대.

Have you heard? Today's class has been cancelled.

B: 아 진짜? 대박. 완전 좋다.

Oh, really? Sweet! Fantastic!

A: 근데 토요일 아침에 대신 할 거래.

But I heard that the class will be held on Saturday morning instead.

B: 헐. 대박. 어떻게 토요일에 수업을 하나?

What?! That's crazy. How can we have class on a Saturday?

득템

득템 is originally a term used in video games. 득(得) means “to get” or “to gain”, and 템 comes from 아이템 (item). Just because you “get” an item, however, doesn’t mean you have actually done 득템.

득템 is only used when you’ve gotten something that is either rare or high in value. For example, if you are looking for a particular piece of clothing or an electronic device that you have really wanted for a long time, and you finally bought it, you can use the verb 득템하다.

Over time, 득템 has also come to mean that someone has gained something through luck, but in a sarcastic manner.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

득템

Noun + Verb

득템하다

More Examples

1. 어제 백화점 갔다가 이거 득템!

I went to the department store yesterday and got this!

2. 기대 안 하고 있었는데 완전 득템했어요.

I wasn't expecting much, but I really found a gem!

Sample Dialogue

A: 이 치마 예쁘다.

This skirt is pretty.

B: 그치? 5,000원에 득템했어.

I know, right? I got it for 5,000 won.

A: 진짜 싸다!!

So cheap!

땡땡이



땡땡이 means “not doing” or “skipping” something that you are supposed to do; mainly not attending a class in school to go do something else (i.e. go see a movie or play pool). It is almost always used with the verb **치다** as in the form of **땡땡이치다**. When talking about school classes, **땡땡이치다** basically means “playing hooky” or “wagging school”.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

땡땡이

Noun + Verb

땡땡이치다

More Examples

1. 수업 땡땡이쳤어요.
I skipped my class.
2. 학교 땡땡이쳤어요.
I skipped school.
3. 땡땡이치지 마.
Don't skip your classes.

Sample Dialogue

A: 영화 보러 갈래?

Do you want to go watch a movie?

B: 안 돼. 수업 있어.

No, I have a class.

A: 그냥 땡땡이쳐.

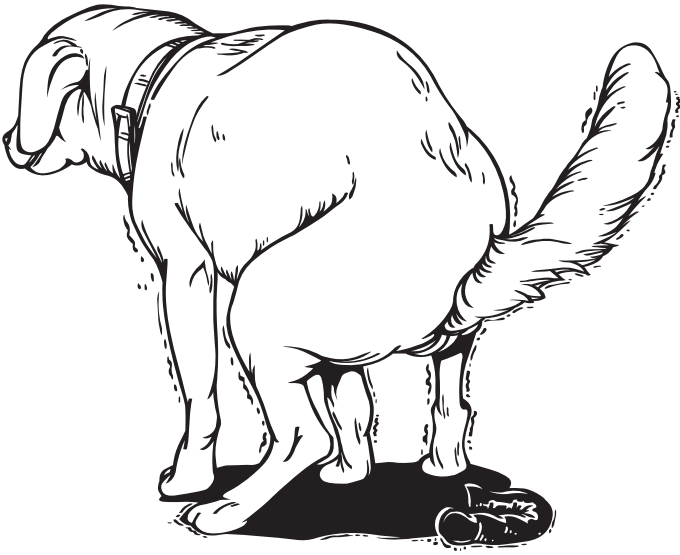
Just skip it.

B: 안 돼. 어제도 안 갔어.

No, I didn't go yesterday, either.

똥개 훈련

똥개 훈련 is the combination of the word 똥개 (mutt) and 훈련 (training). There is a collective thought that crossbred, or mixed, dogs are less intelligent than purebred dogs, which leads to the common belief that the training for a mutt should be tougher and more repetitive than the training for a purebred dog. Therefore, 똥개 훈련 usually refers to the act of making someone do something repetitively in an empty-headed way. When someone makes you do things that seem meaningless, repetitive, or not very effective, you can use the expression “똥개 훈련 시키다”. This is **ONLY** advised to be used to really close friends or people younger than you. The actual expression you can use is “똥개 훈련 시키냐?” or “똥개 훈련 시켜요?”



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

똥개 훈련

Noun + Verb

똥개 훈련(을) 시키다

More Examples

1. 누구 똥개 훈련 시켜?

(lit.) Are you training me as a dog ?
 Are you giving me mindless work?
 Are you making me do this repeatedly?

Sample Dialogue

A: 저기, 이거 다 포장했어.

Hey, I've finished packing this.

B: 아, 근데 이걸 안 넣었네. 다시 해야
 겠다.

Oh, I forgot to put this in. You need
 to do it again.

A: 너 지금 누구 똥개 훈련 시키냐? 지
 금 이거 세 번째 포장하는 거야.

Hey, are you giving me dog training
 now? I'm packing this for the third
 time now.

B: 아니다, 더 큰 상자에 넣을까?

No, should we put it in a bigger box?

A: 니가 해.

You do it yourself!

레알

real

미국, 영국 [ri:ə]

한국 [real]

In Korean, when you want to ask “is it true that …?”, you can use the word 사실 (fact) in a couple of different ways: -했다는 게 사실이야? or -라는 게 사실이야? However, over time, young people started using the Konglish word 리얼 (real), replacing the native Korean word 사실. Nowadays, you will hear many young people saying “-라는 게 리얼?” instead of the former two phrases.

Coincidentally, the Spanish soccer team Real Madrid became very popular in Korea, so many people started using the Spanish pronunciation of “real”, 레알, instead of the English pronunciation, 리얼. Some Real Madrid fans like to point out that the “Real” of “Real Madrid” actually means “royal” and not “real”, but most people don’t care about the difference or even the fact that 레알 came from a Spanish word.

Over time, 레알 has also come to mean “severely”, “very”, “immensely”, etc.

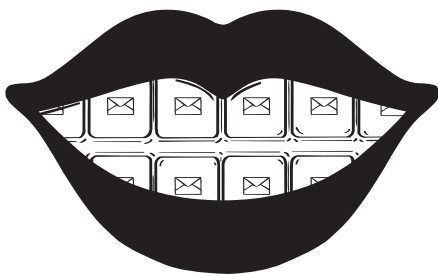
More Examples

1. 이거 레알 웃킨다!
This is freaking hilarious!
2. 이거 레알 진짜 확실해.
This is really certain, for sure.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 내일 수업 없다는 거 진짜야? Is it true that we have no class tomorrow?
- B: 응. 없어. Yeah. We have no class.
- A: 레알? Really?

말을 씹다, 문자를 씹다



말을 씹다 or 문자를 씹다 are used when someone has ignored either what you have said, or a message that you have sent to them and they have not responded. “씹다” means “to chew” in Korean, but in this context, it is used to express that the opposite party is ignoring you and not responding. “Quit blowing me off” or “Are you blowing me off?” would be similar English expressions. The actual sentences you hear people say are “내 말 씹지 마” or “왜 내 문자 씹어?”

More Examples

1. 너 지금 내 말 씹어?
Are you ignoring me now?
2. 왜 사람 말을 씹어?
Why do you ignore what I say?
3. 문자 씹지 마.
Don't ignore my text messages.
4. 문자 씹지 말고 답장 좀 보내.
Don't ignore my text messages, and write back!
5. 내 문자 왜 씹어?
Why do you ignore my text messages?

Sample Dialogue

- A: 야, 너 왜 아까 내 문자 씹었어? Hey, why did you ignore my text message earlier?
- B: 아... 나 배터리가 없어서 핸드폰이 꺼졌어. Oh... my battery is dead, so my cellphone is turned off.
- A: 너 지금 전화 오는데? But your phone is ringing now.



멘붕

멘붕 is a combination of 멘탈 (mental) and 붕괴 (breakdown, collapse) and refers to how someone is frustrated and doesn't know what to do. 멘붕 can be used with a variety of verbs to form expressions such as 멘붕이 오다 (lit. 멘붕 comes; fig. to experience a mental breakdown, to panic), 멘붕을 느끼다 (to feel 멘붕; to feel frustrated), and 멘붕이다 (to be 멘붕; to be frustrating; to cause panic).

A similar expression to 멘붕 is 머릿속이 하얘지다, which literally means “everything turns white inside one’s brain” and your mind “goes blank.” Some people argued that 멘붕 is a word borrowed from Japanese porn so it shouldn’t be used, but the argument turned out to be groundless.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

멘붕

Noun + "to be"

멘붕이다

Noun + Verb

멘붕(이) 오다
멘붕을 느끼다

More Examples

1. 어제 핸드폰, 지갑, 가방 다 잃어버려서 완전 멘붕 왔어.

I lost my cellphone, my wallet, and my bag yesterday and fell into a total panic.

2. 할 일이 너무 많은데 갑자기 컴퓨터가 고장 나서 멘붕이야.

I have so much work to do and my computer suddenly broke, so I'm panicking now.

Sample Dialogue

A: 뭐 해?

What are you doing?

B: 작업하던 파일이 날아가서 멘붕 왔어.

The file I was working on got deleted, so I'm freaking out right now.

A: 저장 안 했어?

You didn't save it?

무개념

개념 means “concept”, and 무(無) means “none” or “nothing”. When you say that someone has 무개념, it means that person has no common sense. If someone is rude, senseless, and/or stupid, therefore causing harm to others and hurting other people’s feelings, that person is 무개념이다.

Often at times, 남 (man) and 녀 (woman) are placed after 무개념 to form 무개념남 and 무개념녀, which refer to a male or female who lacks common sense. If typing the word “무개념” in the YouTube search bar, most of the search results will be videos of people causing harm or inconvenience to other people in public.

Along the same lines as 무개념, there are more expressions which have been formed very recently using 개념. One example is 개념을 상실하다 (to lose one’s common sense), and another is 개념을 안드로메다로 보냈다 (to have sent one’s common sense to the Andromeda Galaxy).



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

무개념

Noun + “to be”

무개념이다

More Examples

1. 너는 왜 이렇게 개념이 없니?

Why are you so rude and stupid?

2. 어제 소개팅했는데, 남자가 완전 무개념이라서 10분 만에 집에 왔어.

I went on a blind date yesterday, and the man was a total dimwit, so I came back home in just 10 minutes.

Sample Dialogue

A: 어떤 사람이 이상형이에요?

What kind of person is your ideal type?

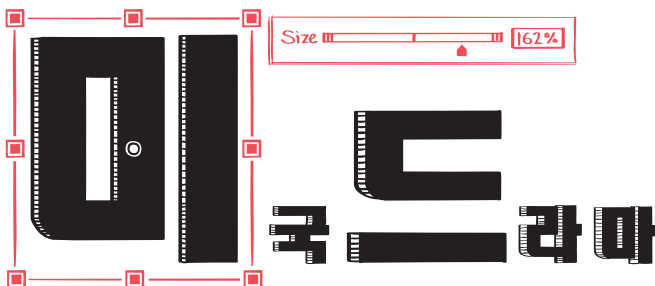
B: 잘생겨야 되는데, 성격은... 무개념만 아니면 돼요.

He has to be handsome, but as for personality... as long as he has common sense, it's fine.

A: 저는 어때요?

How about me?

미드, 일드, 중드



These 3 words are used to describe imported dramas from the United States (미국), Japan (일본), and China (중국) respectively. By using the first syllable of the Korean name for each country, and the first syllable of the Korean word for drama, 드라마, these words are created. Imported dramas are slowly becoming more and more popular with the younger generations, and anyone under 40 years of age knows of and uses these words as common practice.

More Examples

1. 요즘 재미있는 미드 추천 좀 해 줘.

Can you recommend some American TV dramas to me that are interesting these days?

2. 일드 보면서 일본어 공부했어요.

I studied Japanese while watching Japanese TV dramas.

Sample Dialogue

A: 너 요즘 미드 뭐 봐?

Which American TV dramas are you watching these days?

B: 나 요즘 미드 안 보고 일드 보는데?

I don't watch American TV dramas these days, but I do watch Japanese ones.

A: 그래? 일드도 재밌어?

You do? Are Japanese TV dramas fun, too?

B: *얼라 재밌는 거 많아.

There are a ton that are really fun.

* p.124

바가지 쓰다

바가지 is a large plastic bowl or gourd, and in the past, it was an item used in nearly every household for cooking. An old-fashioned and traditional 바가지 is made of wood, but these days, there are many 플라스틱 (plastic) 바가지 being used. This expression means “to be ripped off” or “to be charged more than necessary” and originates from a gambling game that was introduced to Korea about 100 years ago. The host of the game would place ten bowls, or 바가지, upside down on a surface and number the bowls one through ten. The host would then think of a number between one and ten and have the players (usually one or two) place their bets on the bowl they thought the host was thinking of. If the players bet on the right bowl, they would win their money back. If they lost, the host collected the money and all that was left would be the empty bowl which was bet on. 바가지 쓰다, or literally “wearing a bowl”, became a symbol of getting swindled by the host of the game.

More Examples

1. 바가지 쓴 것 같아요.

I think I was ripped off.

2. 인터넷으로 알아보면 바가지를 안 쓸 수 있어요.

If you look it up online, you can avoid getting ripped off.

3. 원래 만 원인데, 바가지 써서 3만 원에 샀어요.

It's actually 10,000 won, but I was ripped off and bought it for 30,000 won.

Sample Dialogue

A: 이거 예쁘다. 얼마 주고 샀어?

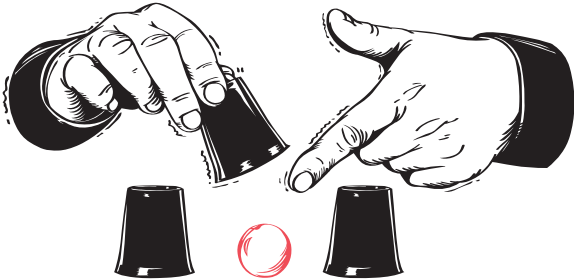
This is pretty. How much did you pay for it?

B: 5만 원.

50,000 won.

A: 5만 원? 완전 바가지 썼네!

50,000 won? You were completely ripped off!

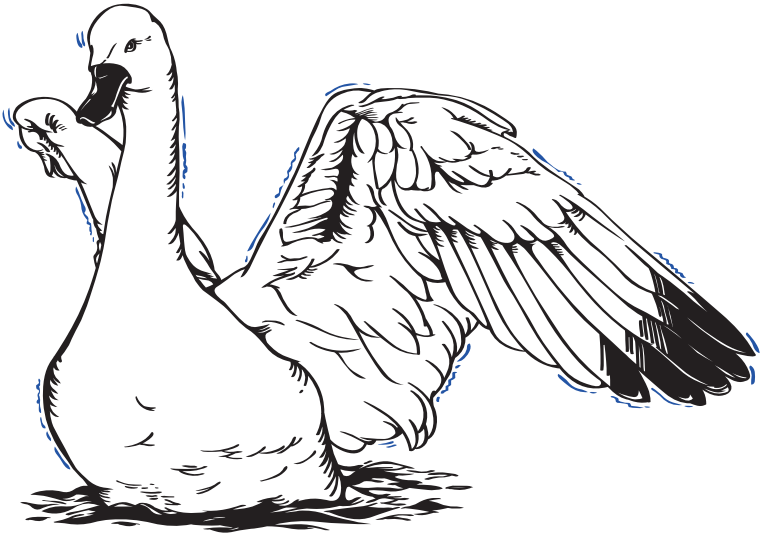


백수, 백조

백수, as a general term, refers to someone who is jobless, while 백조 refers specifically to a female who is jobless. Many people believe that the current meaning of 백수 (白手) came from the fact that if you don't do any work, your hands (手) will be very clean and white (白). There are also some who believe that 백수 should be written as 白首, using the character 首, meaning "head". This would describe someone who would only study, study, and study for a big national exam until their hair turned white, yet failed in getting a job.

The expression 백수건달 (白手乾達) is often used to refer to someone who is jobless and doesn't do anything meaningful. The 건달 part is thought to have derived from the name "Gandharva"; Buddhist spirits who are known for their skills as musicians. When writing the name Gandharva in Hangeul, it is written as 건달바, and when paired with 백수 (白手), it could literally mean "white/

clean-handed Gandharva”, or someone who is not doing any labor other than something as “meaningless” as playing music.



As mentioned before, 백수 is a general term for someone who does not have a job, either male or female. 백조, however, started being used more frequently to refer specifically to women, since 백조 means “swan” and implies that a woman is more graceful about her job situation: more so than someone who is referred to as a 백수.

백수

백조

More Examples

1. 나 오늘부터 백수야.
Starting today, I don't have a job (anymore).
2. 이제 백조 생활 그만하고 싶어요.
I want to stop being jobless now.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 요즘 뭐 하고 지내? What do you do these days?
- B: 나 아직 백수야. I'm still jobless.
- A: 아직도? 5년째? Still? For five years?



빠순이 /빠돌이

.....

빠순이 refers to hardcore female fans who are crazy about celebrities. It is a combination of the words 오빠 and -순이, which used to be a common ending for female names in the past. **빠순이** definitely has a negative feel, and it can also refer to how a hardcore fangirl would take offense at the slightest criticism of her idol, or how she would go to every single concert and buy every single piece of idol merchandise. Additionally, the word **빠순이** is used to condescendingly refer to a group of fan girls by people who don't understand their enthusiasm or level of fandom. **빠돌이** has the same connotations, except that it refers to a male fan and is used less commonly.



More Examples

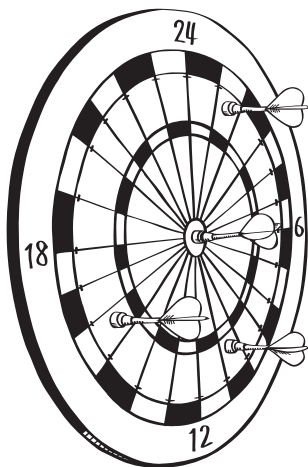
1. 언제 그렇게 빠순이가 됐어?
When did you become such a fangirl?
2. 누가 봐도 빠순이인 거 티 난다.
Anyone can tell that you are a fangirl.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 어제 콘서트 재미있었어? Did you have fun at the concert yesterday?
- B: 빠순이들이 너무 소리 질러서 괴로웠어. Fangirls were screaming too much, so it was painful.
- A: 너도 빠돌이잖아. You're a fanboy, too.

빱세다

빱세다 is used to talk about work in two different ways: when there is a lot of work to do in a short amount of time, and also to describe someone who is working very diligently.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Exclamation

빡세다

Adjective Form

빡센 + Noun

Adverb Form

빡세게 + Verb

More Examples

1. **이거 너무 빡세다.**
This is too tough.
2. **빡센 수업**
tough class
3. **빡센 일**
tough work
4. **오늘 빡세게 일해야 돼.**
We need to work really hard today.
5. **요즘 일이 좀 빡세.**
Work has been tough lately.

Sample Dialogue

A: 요즘 회사 일 어때?

How's work these days?

B: 완전 빡세. 맨날 11시에 끝나.

It's really tough. I finish at 11 o'clock everyday.

A: 진짜 빡세겠다. 그럼 출근은 몇 시에 하는데?

That must be really tough. Then what time do you go to work?

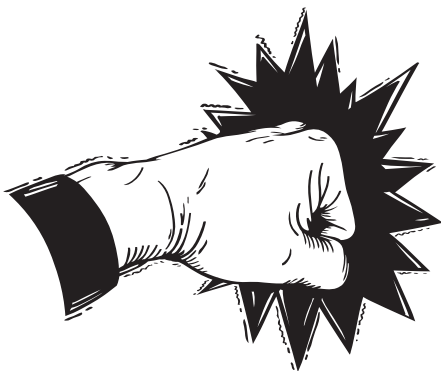
B: 어?... 음... 2시.

What? Um... 2 o'clock.

뺨치다

뺨치다 basically means “to feel irritated” or “to feel angry”. There are mainly two theories about how **뺨치다** came to have these meanings. One theory is that **뺨치다** came from the meaning “to have sexual intercourse” and became another curse word related to sex. The other theory is that it came from **뺨**, which refers to someone’s forehead or head and the way one may hit his/her head on a desk, brick wall, or other object out of anger.

Either way, regardless of the original meaning, **뺨치다** is used among young Koreans today to mean “to feel angry”. It is, however, considered highly inappropriate to use in public or in front of people who are older than oneself.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

빡치다

Adjective Form

빡치는

Narrative

빡친다

More Examples

1. 또 뭐 때문에 그렇게 **빡쳤어?**

What are you so angry about this time?

2. 그 사람이랑 있으면 **빡치는** 일이 많이 생길 거예요.

If you are with him, you will often feel angry.

Sample Dialogue

A: **담배 끊지 않았어?**

Didn't you quit smoking?

B: **끊었었지... 근데 좀 **빡치는** 일이 있을 때는 피워.**

I did... but when something upsetting happens, I smoke.

A: **무슨 일인데?**

What's wrong?

뺨 치다

뺨 means “cheek” and 치다 means “to hit”, therefore 뺨 치다 means “to slap someone in the face”. The most commonly used phrase is 연예인/가수/모델/etc... + 뺨 치게 예쁘다 which means that someone is so pretty that their mere presence would slap a celebrity/singer/model in the face or make them shameful. It can also be used toward men, but the verb which follows 뺨 치게 would change and be something else like 잘 생겼다 or 멋지다.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

뺨 치다

Adverb Form

뺨 치게

Adjective Form

뺨 치는

More Examples

1. 제 친구 중에 한 명은 연예인 뺨 치게 예뻐요.
One of my friends is, truly, as pretty as an actress.
2. 그 아이는 나이는 어린데 피아노 실력이 정말 어른 뺨 쳐요.
This kid is very young, but still has the piano skills of an adult!

Sample Dialogue

- A: 저 애들 좀 봐. 애들이 어른 뺨 치게 춤을 잘 추는데?
Look at those kids. They dance just as well as adults!
- B: 와, 정말 잘한다!
Wow. They are really good!
- A: 응. 정말 프로 댄서들 뺨 치는데?
Yeah. They really dance as well as professional dancers!

뼈기다

뼈기다 means “to brag” or “to boast”, but in a way that makes a person look very arrogant and snobbish. It is similar to the English expression “to be on one’s high horse”. 뼈기다 is often used in sentence structures such as “뼈기지 마” (don’t brag) or “뼈기고 다니다” (to go around bragging about something).

However, 뼈기다 is sometimes also used in place of 버티다 (to endure, to hold out) in slang expressions. For example, instead of saying “안 자고 버티다” (to endure and not sleep), some people say “안 자고 뼈기다” to mean the same thing.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

빠기다

Adjective Form

빠기는

More Examples

1. 개 시계 새로 샀다고 빠기고 다니던데?
I saw him going around bragging about his new watch.
2. 새벽 3시까지 안 자고 빠겼더니 너무 피곤해.
I stayed awake until 3 a.m., so I'm really tired.

Sample Dialogue

A: 눈에 다크 써클 *찌는데?

You've got some serious bags under your eyes.

B: 어제 새벽 4시까지 숙제 한다고 빠겼어.

I stayed up until 4 a.m. yesterday to do my homework.

A: 그래서 다 했어?

So have you finished it?

* p.146

사고 치다

.....

사고 means “accident”, and the verb 치다 is often used after 사고 to mean “to make” or “to create” a problem. In this context, 사고 does NOT necessarily mean an actual “accident”, but rather a mistake or a problem that someone has caused. In some cases, although not very often, 사고 치다 can also mean that a girl and a guy sleep with each other under the influence of alcohol. When you are talking about an actual car accident that someone caused, you need to pair 사고 with the verb 내다.



More Examples

1. 또 사고 쳤어?
You did something bad again?
2. 이번에는 무슨 사고 쳤어?
What did you do this time?
3. 거기 가서 사고 치지 마.
Don't make any mistakes there.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 너 또 학교에서 사고 쳤지? You did something bad at school again, didn't you?
- B: 아니요. 왜요? No. Why?
- A: 선생님이 엄마 보고 학교로 오라던데? 무슨 사고 쳤어? Your teacher told me to come to the school. What did you do?
- B: 아니 그냥, 별 건 아니고, 유리창 몇 개 깬어요. No, it's just... it's nothing big. I just broke a few glass windows.

생까다

생까다 is used to describe how someone pretends to have not heard you or totally ignores something that you said. For example, if you tell some younger children to do something, and they continue to play and totally ignore you, then you can say “생까지 마”. However, this word should not be used in front of older people. Although it is written as “생까다”, it is pronounced as “쌩까다”.



More Examples

1. 생까지 마!

Don't pretend I'm not here!

2. 왜 사람을 보고도 그냥 생까요?

I know you saw me. Why did you pretend to not see me?

Sample Dialogue

A: 야, 너 어제 왜 나 보고도 생김냐?

Hey, you saw me yesterday and still pretended not to see me. Why was that?

B: 아... 나 어제 소개팅했거든.

Oh, I was on a blind date yesterday.

A: 그렇다고 생까냐? 내가 창피해?

You avoided me because of that? Do I embarrass you?

B: 어... 좀...

Yeah, you kind of do.

싸가지

싸가지 is originally used to describe someone's good manners or when talking about what someone is made of. 싸가지 없다 is used quite often to talk about someone who has no manners at all, however its opposing form, 싸가지 있다 is not used any more. Over the course of time, people started using the word 싸가지 to crudely refer to a younger person who doesn't have any manners. You cannot use the word when talking about, or to, someone older than you.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

싸가지

Noun + Verb

싸가지가 있다

싸가지가 없다

Adverb Form

싸가지 없게

Adjective Form

싸가지 없는

More Examples

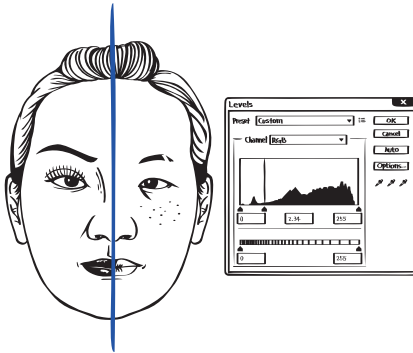
1. 그 사람은 참 싸가지가 없어요.
He's such a rude person.
2. 그렇게 싸가지 없게 말하지 마.
Don't talk in such a rude manner.
3. 아이들이 싸가지가 없어.
The kids are so rude.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 너 왜 아까 우리 오빠한테 그렇게 싸가지 없게 말했어? Why were you so rude to my brother earlier?
- B: 너네 오빠가 이상한 말(을) 하잖아. Your brother was saying something weird.
- A: 뭐라고 했는데? What did he say?
- B: 너네 오빠가 너 싸가지 없대. He says that you are rude and careless.



쌩얼



쌩얼 is used to describe someone's face that has absolutely no makeup on it. It was first used on a comedy program and has become very popular and widely used. It is a combination of the sino-Korean word “쌩” (生) and the first letter “얼” from the word “얼굴” (face). When you say that someone's 쌩얼 is pretty, it means she is naturally beautiful and does not need makeup to look good. It can be written as either 쌩얼 or 생얼.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

쌩얼/쌩얼

Noun + “to be”

쌩얼이다/쌩얼이다

Preposition + Noun

쌩얼로/쌩얼로
(= without any make-up)

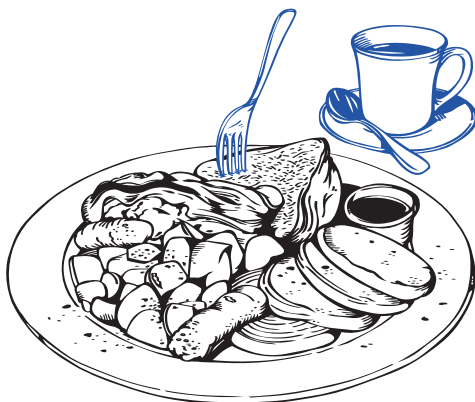
More Examples

1. 그 사람은 쌩얼이 예뻐요.
She looks beautiful without any makeup on.
2. 저는 보통 그냥 쌩얼로 다녀요.
I usually don't wear any makeup.
3. 쌩얼 자신 있어요?
Are you confident without any makeup on?

Sample Dialogue

- A: 어제 길에서 유나 만났는데, 못 알아볼 뻔했잖아. I met Yuna in the street yesterday, and I almost didn't recognize her.
- B: 왜? Why?
- A: 개 쌩얼 처음 봤거든. 완전 다른 사람이던데? It was my first time seeing her without her makeup on. She looked like a totally different person.
- B: 야, 너도 똑같애. 너는 쌩얼 자신 있어? Hey, you're no different. Are YOU confident with your no-makeup face?

아점



아점 is a combination of 아침 (breakfast) and 점심 (lunch). 아점 was probably formed as a result of trying to come up with an equivalent Korean word for “brunch”. Some people use the word 점저 to refer to a meal that you eat between lunch and dinner hours. Just like the words 아침 and 점심, you can use 먹다 with 아점, as in 아점 먹다 (to eat brunch).

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

아점

Noun + Verb

아점(을) 먹다

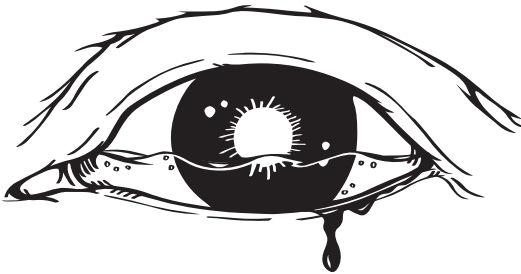
More Examples

1. 우리 내일 같이 아점 먹을까?
Shall we have brunch together tomorrow?
2. 아점을 먹어서 아직 배가 안 고파요.
I had brunch (late breakfast), so I'm not hungry.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 점심 같이 먹을래? Do you want to have lunch together?
- B: 아니, 아점 먹어서 배 안 고파요. No, I had brunch, so I'm not hungry.
- A: 알았어. 나 혼자 먹고 올게. Okay. I'll go and eat by myself.

안습



안습 is an Internet term which is a combination of 안구, the medical term for “eyeball”, and 습기, which translates to “moisture”. 안습 is typically used with 이다, which means “to be”. It is used in a joking manner to tease someone by insinuating that “you look like you might cry” or “you bring tears to my eyes” after a regrettable or pathetic situation occurs. This is often used in a similar fashion to the American slang use of the word “fail”.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

안습

Noun + “to be”

안습이다

More Examples

1. 안습이다.
It's pathetic.
2. 안습이었어.
It was pathetic.
3. 안습인데?
It's really pathetic.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 이거 봐라! 이거 내가 열 시간 걸려서 만든 쿠키야. Look at this! It took me over ten hours to bake these cookies.
- B: 안습이다. 무슨 쿠키를 열 시간씩이나 걸려서 만들어? That's crazy! What kind of cookies do you spend ten hours to bake?
- A: 일단 먹어나 봐. 맛있어. Have some first. They are good.
- B: 이게 뭐야. 진짜 맛없어. 완전 안습이다. What's this? It tastes so bad! This is a total failure.
- A: 헐. What...

알바

알바 is short for 아르바이트, which derives from the German word “Arbeit” meaning “work” or “effort”. Both 알바 and 아르바이트 are frequently used to refer to a “part-time job”. People who do part-time work are referred to as “아르바이트생” or “알바생”.

There are a number of verbs which are typically used along with 알바, such as 알바(를) 하다 (to do a part-time job), 알바(를) 구하다 (to look for a part-time job), 알바(를) 하러 가다 (to go to one’s part-time job), 알바 잘리다 (to be fired from one’s part-time job), and 알바 끝나다 (to get off one’s part-time job). 아르바이트 can be used for all of these examples.

It is common to see young people have more than just one part-time job. When counting one's part-time jobs, although the most basic counter for 알바 is 개 (알바 한 개 = one part-time job), some people also use the counter 탕 and the verb 뛰다 when referring to multiple part-time jobs. For example, someone may say, “알바 두 탕 뛰어요”, meaning “I have two part-time jobs”.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

알바

Noun + Verb

알바(를) 하다

알바(를) 구하다

알바(를) 뛰다

알바(가) 끝나다

More Examples

1. 요즘 알바 세 탕 뛰어서 너무 피곤해.
I have three part-time jobs these days, so I'm really tired.
2. 알바 구하고 있는데 마음에 드는 데가 없어.
I'm looking for a part-time job, but I can't find anything that I like.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 오늘 알바 안 가? Are you not doing your part-time job today?
- B: 나 어제 알바 잘렸어. I got fired from my part-time job yesterday.
- A: 또 술 먹고 갔어? Did you drink and go to work again?

얼짱

얼짱 is used to describe a beautiful face. It is the combination of 얼 from 얼굴 (face) and 짱 which means “awesome” or “the best”. It can be used for both men and women.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

얼짱

Noun + "to be"

얼짱이다

More Examples

1. 우리 학교 얼짱이에요.
She's the prettiest girl in my school.
2. 그 사람은 인터넷에서 얼짱으로 유명했어요.
She was famous on the Internet as a pretty girl.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 저 여자애 보여? 재가 우리 학교 얼짱이야.
Do you see that girl? She's the prettiest girl in my school.
- B: 재가 얼짱이라고? 야, 너네 학교에 예쁜 애가 그렇게 없어?
THAT's the prettiest girl in your school? Are pretty girls that scarce in your school?
- A: 왜? 예쁘지 않아? 너네 학교 얼짱은 누군데?
Why? Isn't she pretty? Who's the prettiest girl in YOUR school?
- B: 나.
Me.

엄친아, 엄친딸

엄친아 is short for “엄마 친구 아들”, and 엄친딸 is short for “엄마 친구 딸”. Mothers (especially in Korea) often like to compare their child with someone else’s child, and for some mysterious reason, the other child always tends to be perfect. Whether it is giving money to their parents, always being nice, always coming in first place, always having the best test scores, or always listening to what his/her parents say, the other child is always superior. The words 엄친아 and 엄친딸, respectively, refer to a man or a woman who is perfect in many aspects; including looks, academic capabilities, career, and personality.

엄친아

엄친딸



More Examples

1. **개는 완전 엄친아야. 못하는 게 없어.**
He's a totally perfect guy. There isn't a single thing he isn't good at.
2. **이제 보니 너 엄친딸이구나? 재수 없어.**
I didn't realize it before, but you are good at everything. I hate you.

Sample Dialogue

- A: **나 하버드대 합격했어!** I was admitted to Harvard University.
- B: **뭐? 너 완전 엄친아구나?** What? You are just perfect!
- A: **하하. 아니야.** Haha. Not really.

열라

열라 is similar to the expressions 매우, 아주, or 몹시 which all mean “very” or “quite”. However, 열라 is much stronger and considered crude, so it is not advised to use it in formal settings or to people older than you. A word that has the same meaning and the same level of casualness is 즐라. Both 열라 and 즐라 are used mostly by young people in their teens, twenties, or thirties at the maximum.



More Examples

1. 열라 많아.
There's so much of it.
2. 열라 덥다!
The weather's so hot!
3. 열라 비싼데?
It's so expensive!

Sample Dialogue

- A: 여보세요? 어디야? Hello? Where are you?
- B: 나 지금 홍대 왔는데 사람 열라 많아. I'm here in Hongdae now, and there's a lot of people here.
- A: 그래? 나는 신촌 쪽인데 여기서도 즐
라 사람 많아. Really? I'm in Sinchon, and there's so many people here, too.

열폭

열폭 is short for 열등감 (sense of inferiority), and 폭 comes from 폭발 (explosion). Although the entire phrase is technically 열등감 폭발 (explosion of inferiority complex), 열폭 is used to describe someone who shows a lot of jealousy or has an inferiority complex toward someone else. Many people think 열폭 means 열라 폭발 (very + explode) or 열 받아서 폭발 (be upset + explode), signifying that they are just “angry”, and often at times, people will misuse the expression. You can also use 열폭하다 as a verb.

Additionally, if someone is using 열폭 about him/herself, he/she is probably misusing the word.

**Soo-ji Kim**

오후 3:52 · 👤

살 찼나봐. 볼살이 터질 것 같앙



좋아요



댓글 달기



공유하기

좋아요 1,321

**Young-ja Lee**

재수없어. 볼살이 뭔지 모르나? -,-

오후 3:53

**Sinyoung Kim**

답정너야 뭐야. 꺼지라 그래 ;;;

오후 3:55

**Bocklim Ma**

떡볶이 먹으러 갔는데 같이갈래?

오후 3:56

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

열폭

Noun + Verb

열폭하다

More Examples

1. 열폭해서 한 말이었어요. 죄송합니다.
I said it out of jealousy. Sorry.
2. 괜히 그런 것 때문에 열폭할 필요 없어.
There is no need to become overly jealous about such a thing.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 그 사람 정말 마음에 안 들어. I really don't like that guy.
- B: 너 괜히 열폭하는 거 아니야? Aren't you just being jealous?
- A: 내가 왜 열등감을 느끼는데? Why would I feel inferior?

염장질

염장질 is an expression used to criticize the things that lovers do to signify their love. 염장 originally means “preserving food in salt”, but in this context it has a totally different meaning. The term 염장을 지르다 can be translated as “to rub salt into the wound”, and it generally means that couples do something in front of single people to show off their love for one another, making single people feel very jealous and angry. The word 염장질 refers to the ACT of 염장을 지르다, and it can be used with the verb -이다 (to be) or 하다 (to do).



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

염장질

Noun + Verb

염장질(을) 하다

Noun + "to be"

염장질이다

More Examples

1. **염장질 하지 마!**
Don't show off that you are a couple!
2. **염장질 좀 그만해!**
Stop showing off that you are a couple!
3. **왜 염장질이야?**
Why are you trying to make me jealous?

Sample Dialogue

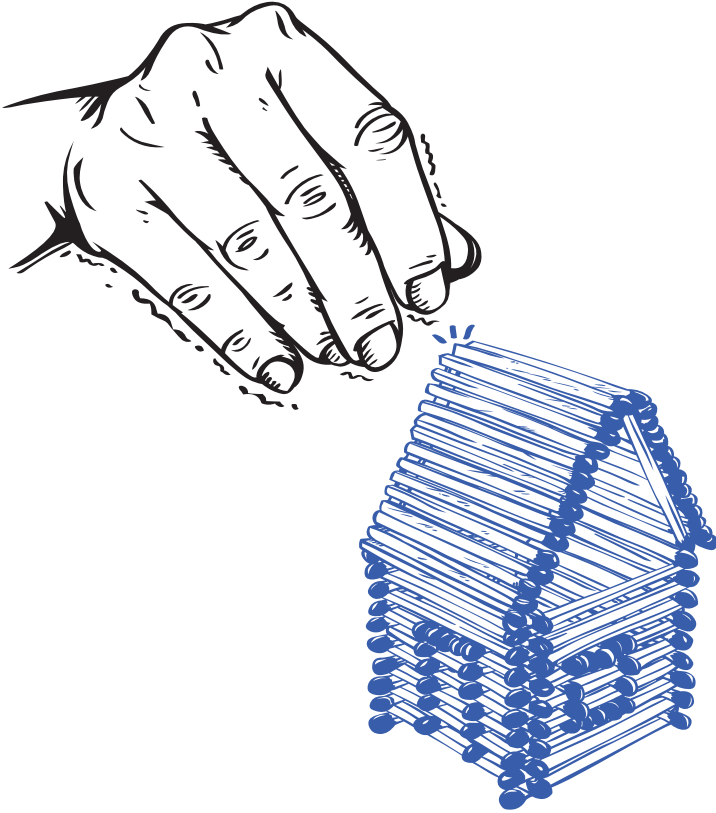
- A: **나 내일 남자 친구랑 영화 볼 건데 같이 갈래?** I'm going to watch a movie with my boyfriend tomorrow. Do you want to come with us?
- B: **내 앞에서 또 염장질 하려고?** And are you going to make me jealous again?
- A: **그럼 너도 여자 친구 데려와.** Then bring your girlfriend, too.
- B: **나 여자 친구 없는 거 알면서 왜 염장질이야?** You know I don't have a girlfriend. Why are you trying to make me jealous?



잉여

The original meaning of 잉여 is “surplus”, but these days, people use the word to talk about a certain person’s capabilities. When you refer to someone as an 잉여, it means that the person is not a “necessary” or “essential” person, and is therefore considered “a surplus”. This concept is sometimes related to young people without a job. You can also describe someone’s unnecessary (but great) skills as 잉여.

잉여 is often combined with other words to form interesting new expressions. For example, 트잉여 is a combination of 트위터 (Twitter) and 잉여, and refers to someone who spends too much time on Twitter. 잉여력 is a combination of 잉여 and 력 (power), which refers to someone’s capability to do unnecessary and seemingly meaningless work in his/her own free time.



More Examples

1. 나 완전 트잉여 됐어.

I've become a complete Twitter addict.

2. 요즘 잉여가 된 기분을 즐기고 있어요.

I'm enjoying the feeling of being unnecessary and idle these days.

Sample Dialogue

A: 요즘 일도 안 하고 공부도 안 해서
완전 잉여처럼 지내.

These days, I don't work, and I don't study, so I am living like a completely unnecessary and free person.

B: 부럽다. 나도 그러고 싶다.

I'm jealous. I wish I could do that, too.

A: 일주일만 해 봐. 지겨워.

Try that just for a week. You get tired of it.

종결자

종결 means “end” or “termination”, and 자 is a word which is often attached to the end of another noun to mean a “person”. Therefore, 종결자 literally means “terminator” or “finisher”. Similar expressions in English are “killer”, “top-notch”, “grade A”, and “first-rate”. If you describe someone as a “종결자” of something, it means that person is at the highest level of achievement, skill, beauty, etc., and that no one else can compare or is a fair match. Words commonly used together with 종결자 are: 몸매 (body figure), 스펙 (specs; academic or career background), and 패션 (fashion). Place 종결자 after those words to create 몸매 종결자, 스펙 종결자, and 패션 종결자.



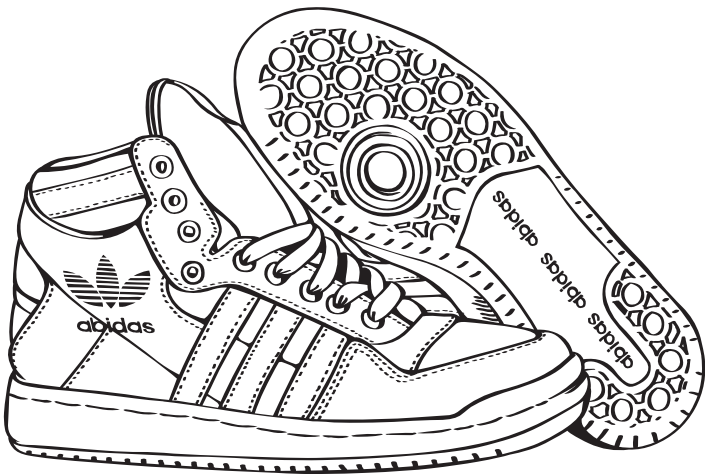
More Examples

1. 저 배우는 완전 몸매 종결자야.
That actor has a killer body.
2. 내가 오늘 공항 패션 종결자가 되어 주겠어!
I'll display top-notch airport fashion today.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 저 친구 완전 스펙 종결자야. He's got the perfect specs.
- B: 어떤 면에서? In what aspect?
- A: 하버드 대학교 나왔고, NASA에서
일했었고, 지금은 UN에서 일해. He graduated from Harvard, used to
work at NASA, and now works at the
UN.

짜퉁



짜통 has the same meaning as 가짜, which means “fake item” or “forgery”. The word 가짜 (which is less slang-like) is used more commonly by the general public, and its antonyms are 진통 and 진짜.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

짜통

Noun + “to be”

짜통이다

More Examples

1. 이거 짜통이죠?
This is a fake, right?
2. 이거 짜통 아니에요.
This is not fake.
3. 짜통인 거 모르겠어요.
I don't think I could tell that it's a fake.

Sample Dialogue

- A: **우와! 너 이거 비싼 거 아냐? 니가 이걸 어떻게 샀어?** Wow! Hey, isn't this expensive? How did you afford to buy this?
- B: **아, 이거 짜퉁이야. 진짜 같지?** Oh, this is a fake. It looks real, right?
- A: **짜퉁이라고? 진짜 명품처럼 보이는데?** It's a fake? But it really looks like a real brand-name product!
- B: **내가 쓰면 짜퉁도 다 명품처럼 보이지?** Even a fake product looks like a real one if I use it, right?
- A: **아, *짱나.** You're annoying.

* p.144

짚없다

짚없다 is usually used to describe someone or something which is very strict, merciless, or doesn't allow for exceptions. 짚없다 is thought to have derived from the expression 일절없다, which means "there is none (of something)" or "to be completely absent". Since the pronunciation of the second letter, 절, changes to 짚 after 일, people started saying 일짚없다. The phrase then changed to 알짚없다 for emphasis. Over time, the first letter was completely removed and only 짚없다 remains.

You can use 짚없다 when talking about someone who is very strict and leaves little room for error, or someone who doesn't cut you any slack. When you make a mistake, someone who is described as 짚없다 won't let it pass and will be merciless about your mistake.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

짘없다

Adjective Form

짘없는

Adverb Form

짘없이

More Examples

1. 그 선생님은 1분만 지각해도 짘없어.

That teacher is so strict that even if you're just 1 minute late, he won't let it pass.

2. 이걸 생방송이라서 실수하면 짘없어요.

This is a live show, so if you make a mistake, you can't undo it.

Sample Dialogue

A: 정말 미안해. 한 번만 봐줘.

I'm so sorry. Please forgive me this time.

B: 다음번에는 짘없어!

I won't forgive you next time.

A: 응. 내년 결혼기념일은 안 잊어버릴게.

Yes. I won't forget next year's wedding anniversary.

짱나



짱나 is short for 짜증 나, which is used to express annoyance when something does not go as well as you would like it to. When you are upset or annoyed, the emotion can be expressed with the word 짜증. The verb 나다 and its variation 내다 are used along with 짜증 to give the full effect.

Conjugations and Common Usages

Exclamation

짱나

Narrative

짱난다

More Examples

1. 아, 진짜 짱나!
I'm really pissed!
2. 짱난다!
I'm so upset!
3. 너 때문에 짱나.
I'm upset because of you.

Sample Dialogue

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| A: 아 짱나! | I'm so annoyed! |
| B: 왜? | Why? |
| A: 친구들이 다 전화를 안 받아! | None of my friends are answering my phone calls! |
| B: 니 전화니까 안 받지. 나라도 안 받겠다. | It's because it's your phone call. I wouldn't answer it, either. |
| A: 아 짱나! 너 저리 가! | You're pissing me off. Go away. |

쩨다

쩨다 is often used to express that something is “great”, “wicked”, or “awesome”. This word is thought to have derived from the meaning of “being soaked in sweat” (from hard labor or hot weather) like a “pickled food is soaked in salt”.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

찢다

Exclamation

찢다!

Adjective Form

찌는

More Examples

1. 찢다!
Sick!
2. 이거 진짜 찢다.
This is really wicked!
3. 그 사람 카메라 완전 찢다.
His camera is awesome!

Sample Dialogue

A: 야, 이거 봐! 완전 찢어.

Hey look! This is awesome!

B: 우와. 이거 누구 카메라야?

Wow. Whose camera is this?

A: 우리 누나 건데, 몰래 가져왔어. 이
걸로 사진 찍으면 진짜 찢어.

It's my sister's, but I snuck it out.
When you take pictures with it, the
pictures are really sick!

B: 야 근데, 배터리가 없는데?

Hey, but there's no battery in it.

쪽팔리다



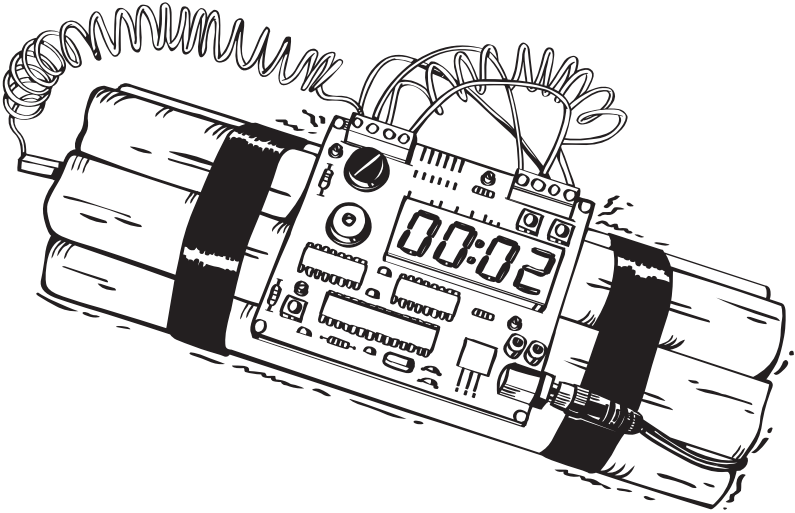
쪽팔리다 is used when someone is embarrassed or has lost face. A more standard way of saying the same thing is 부끄럽다 (to be shy, to be embarrassed) or 창피하다 (to be embarrassed), but in spoken Korean, 쪽팔리다 tends to have a stronger nuance.



쫄다

.....

쫄다 describes how someone's vigor has been squashed out or someone is scared of or feels threatened by someone else. Similar non-slang expressions are 겁먹다 and 무서워하다, but in casual conversations, 쫄다 is used more commonly to mean "to be too timid to challenge someone" or "to be scared by someone".



More Examples

1. **졸지 마!**
Don't be scared.
2. **무서워서 졸았어요?**
Have you lost your nerve because you are scared?
3. **나 안 졸았어!**
I wasn't scared!

Sample Dialogue

- | | |
|---|--|
| A: 이제 우리 차례야. | It's our turn now. |
| B: 나 다음에 타면 안 될까? | Can I ride it in the next turn? |
| A: 뭐야, 너 졸았어? 이거 하나도 안 무서워. | What? Are you scared? This is not scary at all! |
| B: 아니야, 졸긴 누가 졸아. 가자! (끼야아아악~~~) | No, no. Who says I'm scared? Let's go! (Aaahhhhh!!!) |



초딩

.....

초딩 was used as a negative expression for elementary students to criticize careless Internet activities, such as leaving malicious and irresponsible comments, but it is now used as more of a general nickname for elementary students. In a similar fashion, middle school students are 중딩, high school students are 고딩, college students are 대딩, and company employees are referred to as 직딩.



More Examples

1. 그 사람은 정말 초딩 같아요.
He really acts like an elementary school kid.
2. 너가 초딩이냐?
Come on. You are being such a kid.
3. 진짜 초딩들은 못 말려요.
Kids are impossible to control.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 어, 그네다. 그네 타러 가자!
Oh, there's a swing. Let's go ride the swing!
- B: 야, 너 초딩이냐? 무슨 그네야.
Hey, are you an elementary school kid or something? A swing?
- A: 야, 그네는 초딩만 타냐?
Come on, is riding a swing only for elementary school kids?
- B: 응.
Yes.

폐인

폐 is a word based on a Chinese character (廢) which means “abolish” or “ruin”, and 인 (人) refers to “human” or “person”. Combined, 폐인 (廢人) originally referred to someone who is in such a deep state of shock or sadness (due to personal tragic events) that he or she doesn’t take proper care of him/herself. Therefore, the image of a 폐인 is normally associated with unwashed hair and face, dirty clothes, not eating well, and so on.

Whereas this original meaning is still used commonly today, sometimes people also use the word to talk about someone who is very much into a certain hobby or activity. For example, if someone is a big fan of video games and spends the majority of his/her time playing games, you can say that person is a 비디오 게임 폐인, or “video game addict”. Even if that person does not physically look unkempt, using 폐인 gives the impression that he/

she loves video games so much that little time is spent on taking care of him/
herself.



More Examples

1. 우리 이렇게 어두운 데에서 게임 하니까 진짜 페인 같아 보인다.
Playing games in a dark place like this really makes us look like gaming addicts.
2. 저는 작년까지 완전 웹툰 페인이었어요.
I was a total web cartoon addict until last year.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 민수는 요즘 왜 이렇게 연락이 안 돼?
Why is it so difficult to contact Minsoo?
- B: 개 여자 친구랑 헤어지고 페인처럼 지내.
After breaking up with his girlfriend, he lives like a totally dejected person.

허접

허접 is used in Internet games to refer to someone who doesn't understand the game and isn't being very helpful. The word 허접 is from the expression 허섭스레기, which means "useless rubbish". 허접 is the incorrect way to say 허섭, but now, instead of 허섭스레기, people are used to saying 허접 쓰레기, and from this, the word 허접 is widely used. It is mostly used in a disrespectful way to talk about how amateurish and unskilled someone is at a game or a sport. A similar English slang expression is "noob". While 허접 is a noun, you can use it as a descriptive verb, 허접하다, and the meaning remains the same.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Noun Form

허접

Adjective Form

허접한 + Noun

Noun + Verb

허접하다

More Examples

1. 저는 노래 실력이 허접해요.
My singing is terrible.
2. 저 완전 허접이에요.
I'm so bad at it.

Sample Dialogue

A: 너 걔 노래하는 거 들어 봤어? 걔 노래 진짜 허접하던데.

Have you heard her sing before?
She's so bad at singing.

B: 그래? 나한테는 자기 노래 완전 잘 한다던데.

Really? She told me that she's really good at singing.

A: 아니야. 진짜 허접이야.

No, she's terrible.

헛물켜다

When someone is thirsty and drinks a lot of water very fast, you say “물을 들이켜다”. That expression is shortened to 물켜다, and the word 허(虛), meaning “empty” or “useless”, is added to 물켜다 to form 헛물켜다. When literally translated, 헛물켜다 means “to drink a pointless amount of water”, and you can use 헛물켜다 when someone makes fruitless efforts or is “chasing rainbows”.

If you see someone who is trying to “hit on” someone who is already married, or tries really hard to achieve something but never ends up getting what they want, you can say “헛물켜다”.



Conjugations and Common Usages

Infinitive Form

헛물켜다

Adjective Form

헛물켜는

헛물컸 (Past Tense)

More Examples

1. 헛물켜지 마. 저 사람 벌써 결혼했어.
There is no point in hitting on him. He's already married.
2. 영화에 출연하려고 3년 동안 준비했는데, 괜히 헛물켰어요.
I've prepared for three years to appear in a movie, but my efforts were useless.

Sample Dialogue

- A: 저 여자 예쁘지 않냐? Don't you think that girl is pretty?
- B: 헛물켜지 마. 우리 형수님이야. Don't waste your energy. She's my sister-in-law.
- A: 뭐? 너 형 있었어? What? You have a brother?