November Recap

Monthly update of my Korean language progress (weeks 21-24) DEC 2, 2022



안녕! I can't believe I'm already halfway done my Korean course! I'm feeling good about

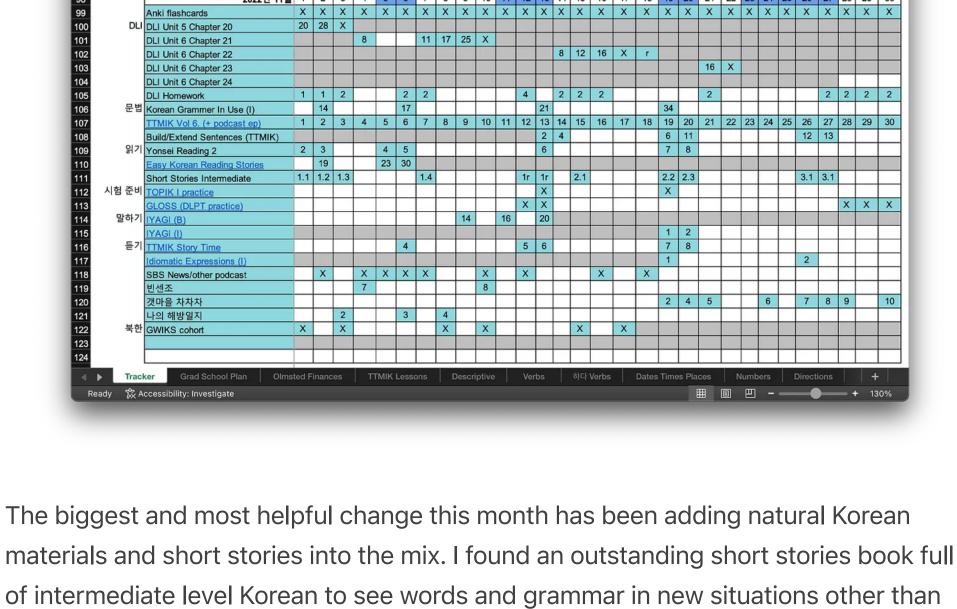
my progress and have still avoided burning out, but I could feel myself getting close a few times. I wake up early to study and prepare for class, and after class, I have a few hours of homework and then Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) classes online, so "personal time" has been pretty much nonexistent. I'm looking forward to being done with ACSC (a requirement for people of my rank to complete) so I can get back to having time for Skype sessions with language partners and the ability to just relax some evenings. I sometimes feel jealous of the European language students in my building, but I still find Korean to be extremely rewarding and I wouldn't have it any other way. FYI, this update is more in the weeds for my friends who're interested in the language

learning nuts and bolts and for those who'll follow in my footsteps in this same program, so if that's you, read on!

I changed things up a little bit in November, but I've kept up my essential daily habits which has helped me retain all the vocabulary I've learned so far. The class

Completed in November:

workload/difficulty has increased, so I have to spend a lot more time each evening ensuring I have the 20+ new vocabulary words and new grammar concepts memorized. Because of this increased time on mandatory material, I haven't used as much supplementary material as I would have liked, but I'm still chipping away at them when I can.



and learn by context in a book entirely in Korean! I also bought a few "young adult" style novels to work through once I'm finished with the short stories I have. '앤더르 왕이 싸움에서 졌어요. 그래서 5 년에 제2장 복습 한 번 동생에게 금을 줘야 해요.' '왜 줘야 돼요? 화해하면 안 돼요?' '화해했어요. 그렇지만 앤더르 왕이 가지고 있 라르스와 앤더르 왕의 병사들은 여행을 시작했어

요. 가는 길에 기사가 옛날 이야기를 해줬어요. 앤

지 않은 것을 아더렌 왕이 가지고 있어요. 앤더르

왕이 아더렌 왕에게서 사야 돼요.'

the boring textbook scenarios. It's been quite rewarding to get attached to characters

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더르 왕과 아더렌 왕은 모두 마법의 물을 원했어
          알프레드가 놀라서 라르스를 봤어요. '그게 뭐
                                               요. 그래서 침묵의 숲에서 싸웠어요. 마법의 물을
         예요?'
                                               마시면 힘이 세졌어요. 전쟁을 하면서 두 왕은 마
                                               법의 물을 다 썼어요. 그렇지만 아더렌 왕은 아직
          '마법의 물이요. 앤더르 왕은 백성들을 위해서
         마법의 물을 사요. 사람들이 마법의 물로 힘의 묘
                                               도 마법의 물을 가지고 있었어요. 아더렌 왕은 그
         약을 만들어요. 여기에 힘의 묘약이 두 개 있어요.'
                                               물을 앤더르 왕에게 팔고 있었어요. 앤더르 왕은
         라르스가 묘약을 꺼냈어요.
                                               마법의 물을 사기 위해서 아더렌 왕에게 금을 보
           '힘의 묘약에 대해서 들은 적이 있어요! 이 약을
                                               냈어요.
         먹으면 정말 강해져요?'
                                               어휘
          '네.' 라르스가 말했어요. 라르스는 힘의 묘약을
                                               마차 wagon, carriage
         가방에 넣고 알프레드를 봤어요. '그렇지만 진짜
                                               싸움 fight, brawl
         마법의 물로 만들어야 돼요. 이제 갑시다.'
                                               피하다 to avoid
                                               기술 skill, technique
                                               다리를 건너다 to cross a bridge
                                               침묵 silence
                                               싸우다 to fight
                                               햇빛 sunshine
                                               분수 fountain
                                               평화롭다 to be peaceful
                                               가끔씩 sometimes, every now and then
                                               마법 magic, witchcraft
         Back to page 2
                                                             111 of 320 13 pages left in this chapter
             After each chapter, there is a concise summary and a list of potentially unfamiliar
                                          words
Speaking of vocab, my Anki deck continues to grow and grow. It's encouraging to look
back on really old cards and remember how hard some of the words were at one point!
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reviews pretty quickly/easily.

As of today, I've "learned" 2,744 unique words and generally run through my daily

I did make a significant change to my Anki deck this past month though. I spent a few

expressions as I come across them and a deck for useful phrases that are niche to me

and my interests. I'm also starting to study Chinese characters (hanja in Korean) which

makes learning harder Korean vocabulary much easier. It's akin to learning basic Latin

roots for learning harder English words, and it's already proven helpful with my limited

hours organizing my cards with tags and moved all grammar cards to separate

grammar decks now that they're adding up. I also started a deck for idiomatic

hanja knowledge.

New consolidated Anki organization

Front of a grammar card - it automatically plays audio of an example dialogue, and I then describe the highlighted grammar form.

traditions and games, so we played a few in class! A game called 윷놀이 (yunnori, pictured below, played during New Years celebrations) was my favorite. Also, the hit show Squid Game has a whole new meaning to me now after learning about the roots

The "back" of the grammar card shows a more detailed explanation of the grammar form and a reference to where I learned it.

In less nerdy news, one of the chapters this month had to do with traditional holiday

North Korea

of those games in Korean history.

envoys, learn from their experiences, and discuss niche North Korea issues with a very small group of interested members of the cohort. It did take up quite a bit of my evening time though, with each session lasting several hours at night, but it was well worth the time. I was happy to have my evenings back for all of a few days though before my next "facilitated" ACSC class started 🤵

I finished the North Korea program this month at George Washington University and

I'm so glad I applied for and participated in this program. I got to meet ambassadors,

people who lived and worked in North Korea, researchers, diplomats, and special

-Sean