



Korean Ladder Study Note

헤헤 / 호호 / 히히

Soft Laugh Sounds Beyond ㅋㅋ

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Colloquial Fillers & Reactions	헤헤 / 호호 / 히히 Soft Laugh Sounds Beyond ㅋㅋ

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-009>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lecYlg9c7fg>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I know ㅋㅋ means laughing, but when I see 헤헤, 호호, or 히히, I panic. Are these all just Korean haha?

좋은 질문이에요. ㅋㅋ는 보통 더 직접적이고 웃긴 느낌이에요. 헤헤, 호호, 히히는 더 부드러운 반응으로 들릴 때가 많아요.

오늘의 핵심은 뜻 하나가 아니라 느낌이에요. Is it shy, polite, cute, or lightly amused? That is what we listen for.

먼저 패턴 이름부터 볼게요. 헤헤, 호호, 히히는 말이나 채팅에서 쓰는 부드러운 웃음 반응이에요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 발표 좋았어요. —	Your presentation was good today.
Junho	헤헤, 감사합니다. —	Hehe, thank you.
Hana	정말 자연스러웠어요. —	It was really natural.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아, 좀 쑥스럽네요. —	Ah, I feel a little embarrassed.
Hana	오늘 발표 좋았어요. —	Your presentation was good today.
Junho	헤헤, 감사합니다. —	Hehe, thank you.
Hana	정말 자연스러웠어요. —	It was really natural.
Junho	아, 좀 쑥스럽네요. —	Ah, I feel a little embarrassed.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
헤헤 / 호호 / 히히 hehe / hoho / hihi	soft laugh reactions	오늘의 핵심은 뜻 하나가 아니라 느낌이에요. Is it shy, polite, cute, or lightly amused? That is what we listen for.
헤헤 · 호호 · 히히 hehe · hoho · hihi	gentle laugh sounds	먼저 패턴 이름부터 볼게요. 헤헤, 호호, 히히는 말이나 채팅에서 쓰는 부드러운 웃음 반응이에요.
웃음 반응 useum baneung	laugh reaction	So these are more like little reaction sounds, not full words I translate every time.
느낌을 들어요 neukkimeul deureoyo	Listen to the feeling	맞아요. English has hehe, haha, teehee, and polite little laughs. Korean also has different colors of laughter.
헤헤, 감사합니다 hehe, gamsahamnida	Hehe, thank you.	헤헤는 보통 살짝 쑥스럽거나 귀엽게 웃는 느낌이에요. A little shy, a little cute.
헤헤는 쑥스러운 웃음 hehe-neun ssukseureoun useum	헤헤 is a shy smile-laugh.	So 헤헤 can soften thank you, especially if I feel a little embarrassed by praise.
헤헤 hehe	shy or cute little laugh	맞아요. 그런데 너무 많이 쓰면 일부러 귀여운 척하는 느낌이 날 수도 있어요. Use it lightly.
호호, 괜찮아요 hoho, gwaenchanayo	Hoho, it's okay.	이제 호호예요. 호호는 더 점잖고 부드러운 웃음처럼 들릴 수 있어요. Sometimes it feels polite, gentle, or elegant.



Grammar / Structure Notes

헤헤 / 호호 / 히히

헤헤 / 호호 / 히히 — soft laugh reactions

Use them by tone and context, not by dictionary meaning.

헤헤 · 호호 · 히히

헤헤 · 호호 · 히히 — gentle laugh sounds

Softer than big ㅋㅋ energy.

웃음 반응

웃음 반응 — laugh reaction

A feeling cue, not a fixed sentence.

느낌을 들어요

느낌을 들어요 — Listen to the feeling

Different laugh sounds, different mood.

헤헤, 감사합니다

헤헤, + 감사 + 합니다 — Hehe, thank you.

헤헤는 보통 살짝 쑥스럽거나 귀엽게 웃는 느낌이에요. A little shy, a little cute.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
헤헤	hehe
헤헤, 감사합니다	hehe, gamsahamnida
호호, 괜찮아요	hoho, gwaenchanayo
히히, 맞혀 봐요	hihi, matchyeo bwayo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 헤헤 / 호호 / 히히 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
네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 Natural Korean Reactions	A1 Colloquial: compare 네 / 아니요 / 맞아요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-001
아 / 오 / 헐 / 어머 First Korean Interjections for Surprise and Feeling	A1 Colloquial: compare 아 / 오 / 헐 / 어머 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-003
아하 / 오호 / 흠 Beginner 'I See' and Thinking Sounds	A1 Colloquial: compare 아하 / 오호 / 흠 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-005
앗 / 어이쿠 / 이런 Beginner 'Oops' and Startle Sounds	A1 Colloquial: compare 앓 / 어이쿠 / 이런 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-COLLOQ-FIL-008

My Notes

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