



Korean Ladder Study Note

오랜만이에요 / 잘 지냈어요

Greeting Someone After a Long Time

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Greetings & Basics	오랜만이에요 / 잘 지냈어요 Greeting Someone After a Long Time

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnyv4DtgU9I>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. I ran into a Korean friend I hadn't seen in a year, and all I had was 안녕하세요. It felt... flat.

Right? 안녕하세요 works, but it doesn't say 'wow, long time no see.' What do Koreans actually say?

There is a perfect phrase. 오랜만이에요. In English, it means 'it's been a while' — long time no see.

It's the greeting you use the moment you see someone after a long gap. Warm, natural, everyday.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어? 준호 씨, 오랜만이에요. —	Oh? Junho, it's been a while.
Junho	아, 하나 씨. 정말 오랜만이에요. 잘 지냈어요? —	Ah, Hana. Really been a while. Have you been well?
Hana	네, 잘 지냈어요. 준호 씨는요? —	Yes, I've been well. And you, Junho?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저도 잘 지냈어요. —	I've been well too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
오랜만이에요 oraenman-ieyo	It's been a while / Long time no see	There is a perfect phrase. 오랜만이에요. In English, it means 'it's been a while' — long time no see.
오랜만 oraenman	a long interval (fixed word)	Wait — so 오랜만 isn't 오랜 plus 만? I shouldn't reuse 만 by itself?
오랜만 + 이에요 oraenman + ieyo	a long interval + it is	Got it. So 오랜만 plus 이에요 equals 'it's been a while.' One block plus 'it is.'
오랜마니에요 oraenman-ieyo	Greeting Someone After a Long Time	오랜마니에요.
긴 시간 안 봤어요 ☒ gin sigan an bwasseoyo (unnatural)	literal 'long time not saw' — not used	English speakers translate 'long time no see' word-for-word and try 긴 시간 안 봤어요. Koreans don't say that. The real phrase is 오랜만이에요.
오랜만이에요 ✓ oraenman-ieyo	the natural 'long time no see'	Ha — guilty. I definitely tried to build it from English. So skip the literal version entirely.



Grammar / Structure Notes

오랜만이에요

오랜만이에요 — It's been a while / Long time no see

The go-to reconnecting greeting

오랜만이에요

오랜만이에요 — It's been a while

Use it the second you reunite

오랜만이에요

오랜만 + 이에요 — It's been a while

하나씩 뜯어볼게요. Let's take it apart. 오랜만 is one fixed word — it's short for 오래간만 — and it means 'a long interval.' Then 이에요 is the copula ending, 'it is.'

오랜만

오랜만 — a long interval (fixed word)

Wait — so 오랜만 isn't 오랜 plus 만? I shouldn't reuse 만 by itself?

오랜만

오랜만 — one fixed noun (from 오래간만)

Correct. 오랜만 is a single locked word — think of it as one block, short for 오래간만. Don't split off 만 on its own.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
오랜만이에요	oraenman-ieyo
잘 지냈어요?	jal jinaesseoyo?
잘 지내세요	jal jinaesseoyo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 오랜만이에요 / 잘 지냈어요 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
안녕하세요 / 안녕히 계세요 Greetings and Goodbyes	A1 Conversation: compare 안녕하세요 / 안녕히 계세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-001
날씨 좋네요 / 주말 잘 보내세요 Easy Small Talk to Start and End a Chat	A1 Conversation: compare 날씨 좋네요 / 주말 잘 보내세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-SML-001
여기서 어떻게 가요 Asking How to Get Somewhere	A1 Conversation: compare 여기서 어떻게 가요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-DIR-001
우리 언제 만날까요 약속 날짜와 시간 정하기	A1 Conversation: compare 우리 언제 만날까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-APT-001

My Notes

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