



Korean Ladder Study Note

실례합니다 / 잠깐만요

Excusing Yourself and Getting Past People

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Greetings & Basics	실례합니다 / 잠깐만요 Excusing Yourself and Getting Past People

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmx3IFFL-eg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk — I froze in a packed Seoul subway car and just... pushed. Silently. It felt so rude. What was I supposed to say?

그건 정말 좋은 질문이에요. That is such a common moment. In Korea, you almost always say something — silence is what feels rude.

You have three little phrases for this. Learn them and you can move through any space with confidence.

First, the most polite one: 실례합니다. It literally means 'I'm committing a rudeness' — so it's a soft, formal 'excuse me.'

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	잠깐만요, 내릴게요. —	Excuse me, I'm getting off.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아, 네. 여기 지나가세요. —	Oh, sure. Go on through here.
Hana	감사합니다. 실례했습니다. —	Thank you. Sorry for the trouble.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
실례합니다 · 잠깐만요 · 저기요 sillyehamnida · jamkkanmanyō · jeogiyo	Excuse me / One moment / Over here (hey)	You have three little phrases for this. Learn them and you can move through any space with confidence.
실례합니다 sillyehamnida	Excuse me (polite / formal)	First, the most polite one: 실례합니다. It literally means 'I'm committing a rudeness' — so it's a soft, formal 'excuse me.'
잠깐만요 jamkkanmanyō	One moment / Hold on / Let me through	Second: 잠깐만요. This one means 'just a moment' — you use it when you need someone to wait or to let you through right now.
저기요 jeogiyo	Excuse me / Hey there (getting attention)	Third: 저기요. It's like calling out 'over here' or 'hey there' to get attention — for a waiter, or a stranger who dropped something.
잠깐 + 만 = 잠깐만 jamkkan + man = jamkkanman	brief moment + only = just a moment	Oh, so 잠깐 plus 만 is basically 'just a sec.' That actually makes sense now.
실례했습니다 sillyehaetseumnida	Sorry for the trouble (just now)	Notice Hana opened with 잠깐만요 to move, and closed with 실례했습니다 — the past form, like 'sorry for the bother.' Warm and complete.
미안해요 mianhaeyo	I'm sorry (a genuine apology)	미안해요 is a real apology — for stepping on a foot, breaking something. To simply pass, it sounds heavy and a little strange.
지나갈 때 → 잠깐만요 jinagal ttae → jamkkanmanyō	To pass through → use 잠깐만요	그래서 지나갈 때는 잠깐만요를 쓰세요. So to pass, use 잠깐만요. Save 미안해요 for when you actually bump into someone.



Grammar / Structure Notes

실례합니다 · 잠깐만요 · 저기요

실례합니다 · 잠깐만요 · 저기요 — Excuse me / One moment / Over here (hey)

Three tools for three situations

실례합니다

실례합니다 — Excuse me (polite / formal)

Lit. 'I'm being rude' — a courteous apology in advance

실례합니다

실례합니다 — Excuse me (safe with anyone)

Use with strangers, elders, quiet spaces

잠깐만요

잠깐만요 — One moment / Hold on / Let me through

잠깐 = a short moment, 만 = only, 요 = polite

잠깐만요

잠깐만요 — Coming through / just a sec

Great for exiting a crowded bus or subway

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
잠깐만요, 내릴게요	jamkkanmanyoy, naerilgeyo
잠깐만요	jamkkanmanyoy
저기요	jeogiyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 실례합니다 / 잠깐만요 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
오랜만이에요 / 잘 지냈어요 Greeting Someone After a Long Time	A1 Conversation: compare 오랜만이에요 / 잘 지냈어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-002
잘 가요 / 조심히 가세요 Seeing Someone Off Warmly	A1 Conversation: compare 잘 가요 / 조심히 가세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-003
처음 뵙겠습니다 / 잘 부탁드립니다 Polite First-Meeting Phrases	A2 Conversation: compare 처음 뵙겠습니다 / 잘 부탁드립니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CONV-GRT-001

My Notes

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