



Korean Ladder Study Note

축하해요 / 생일 축하합니다

Congratulating Someone in Everyday Korean

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Conversation Greetings & Basics	축하해요 / 생일 축하합니다 Congratulating Someone in Everyday Korean

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-008>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP9kwyWgEfo>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my problem. If my Korean friend gets a new job, can I just say 생일 축하합니다? I know it from the birthday song.

좋은 질문이에요. 생일 축하합니다 is for birthdays. For good news in general, 축하해요 means congratulations.

축하해요 is polite enough for most everyday situations. A friend, a classmate, a coworker, or someone you do not know very well.

So 축하해요 is my all-purpose polite congratulations.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 생일 축하해요. —	Junho, happy birthday.
Junho	고마워요, 하나 씨. —	Thank you, Hana.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	취업 축하해요. —	Congratulations on getting a job.
Hana	고마워요. 정말 기뻐요. —	Thank you. I'm really happy.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
축하해요 chukahaeyo	Congratulations. / Congrats.	좋은 질문이에요. 생일 축하합니다 is for birthdays. For good news in general, 축하해요 means congratulations.
명사 + 축하해요 myeongsa + chukahaeyo	noun + congratulations	오늘의 기본 패턴은 명사 더하기 축하해요예요. In English, put the thing you are celebrating first, then 축하해요.
생일 축하해요 saengil chukahaeyo	Happy birthday. / Congratulations on your birthday.	For a birthday, say 생일 축하해요. 생일 means birthday, and 축하해요 means congratulations.
생일 축하합니다 saengil chukahamnida	Happy birthday.	You will also hear 생일 축하합니다. It is a little more formal and very common in songs, cards, and public birthday greetings.
취업 축하해요 chwieop chukahaeyo	Congratulations on getting a job.	맞아요. Now for a new job, the natural noun is 취업. 취업 축하해요 means congratulations on getting a job.
합격 축하해요 hapgyeok chukahaeyo	Congratulations on passing. / Congratulations on getting accepted.	For passing an exam or getting accepted, say 합격 축하해요. 합격 is passing or acceptance.
생일 / 취업 / 합격 + 축하해요 saengil / chwieop / hapgyeok + chukahaeyo	birthday / new job / passing + congratulations	Let me reason it out. 생일 is birthday, 취업 is getting a job, 합격 is passing. Then 축하해요.
잘됐네요 jal dwaenneyo	That's great. / I'm glad it worked out.	맞아요. For simple good news, Koreans often add 잘됐네요. It means that turned out well, or I'm glad to hear that.



Grammar / Structure Notes

축하해요

축하해요 — Congratulations. / Congrats.

Everyday polite

축하해요

축하해요 — Congratulations.

Casual-polite speech: friendly but respectful

명사 + 축하해요

명사 + 축하해요 — noun + congratulations

Say what you are congratulating them for

생일 축하해요

생일 + 축하해요 — Happy birthday. / Congratulations on your birthday.

For a birthday, say 생일 축하해요. 생일 means birthday, and 축하해요 means congratulations.

생일 축하합니다

생일 + 축하합니다 — Happy birthday.

You will also hear 생일 축하합니다. It is a little more formal and very common in songs, cards, and public birthday greetings.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
축하해요	chukahaeyo
생일 축하해요	saengil chukahaeyo
생일 축하합니다	saengil chukahamnida

Self-Check

- 1 Say 축하해요 / 생일 축하합니다 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
실례합니다 / 잠깐만요 Excusing Yourself and Getting Past People	A1 Conversation: compare 실례합니다 / 잠깐만요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-004
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
안녕히 주무세요 / 잘 자 Saying Good Night in Korean	A1 Conversation: compare 안녕히 주무세요 / 잘 자 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CONV-GRT-007
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

My Notes

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