



Korean Ladder Study Note

어서 오세요 / 몇 명이세요

The Culture of Greeting Customers

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Business Norms	어서 오세요 / 몇 명이세요 The Culture of Greeting Customers

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-BIZ-001>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5W5ArzKQ4w>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I used to think Korean staff were calling me out when they said 어서 오세요 the second I walked in. Like, did I do something wrong?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korea, that quick greeting is normal customer service. It says, we noticed you, and you are welcome here.

And in restaurants, the next question is often 몇 명이세요? It is practical. They need to know the table size.

So 어서 오세요 is not personal pressure. It is the shop doing its job politely.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어서 오세요. —	Welcome.
Junho	안녕하세요. —	Hello.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	몇 명이세요? —	How many are in your party?
Junho	두 명이예요. —	We are two.
Hana	어서 오세요. —	Welcome.
Junho	안녕하세요. —	Hello.
Hana	몇 명이세요? —	How many are in your party?
Junho	두 명이예요. —	We are two.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
어서 오세요 eoseo oseyo	Welcome; please come in	어서 오세요 is used by staff to customers. It is not usually what customers say back.
안녕하세요 annyeonghaseyo	Hello	맞아요. As a customer, a simple 안녕하세요 is fine, or just a polite nod if you are browsing.
어서오세요 eoseo oseyo	Welcome; please come in	Listen first. 어서 오세요.
짧아도 공손해요 jjalbado gongsonhaeyo	Even if it is short, it is polite	네. Korean service speech is often brief, clear, and polite. Short does not always mean cold.
입장할 때 ipjanghal ttae	When entering	Good. Now let's hear a full doorway moment. Notice how fast and polite it is.
네 명이예요 / 네 명이요 ne myeong-ieyo / ne myeong-iyο	We are four / Four, please	맞아요. 네 명이예요 is also good. 네 명이요 is a little shorter and very common.



Grammar / Structure Notes

어서 오세요 / 몇 명이세요?

어서 오세요 / 몇 명이세요? — Welcome / How many are in your party?

Common first phrases in shops and restaurants

어서 오세요

어서 오세요 — Welcome; please come in

Staff → customer

어서 오세요

어서 오세요 — Staff welcome

Customer response can be a small nod or 안녕하세요

안녕하세요

안녕하세요 — Hello

Natural customer response

몇 명이세요?

몇 명이세요? — How many are in your party?

Staff asking for party size

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
어서 오세요	eoSEO oSeyo
몇 명이세요?	myeot myeong-iSeyo?
두 명이예요.	du myeong-ieyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 어서 오세요 / 몇 명이세요 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
명함 주고받기 Exchanging Business Cards the Korean Way	B2 Culture: compare 명함 주고받기 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-BIZ-002
보고와 결재 상사에게 일을 보고하고 승인받는 방식	C1 Culture: compare 보고와 결재 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-BIZ-002
비즈니스 이메일 예절 수신·참조부터 'OOO 드림'까지	B2 Culture: compare 비즈니스 이메일 예절 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-BIZ-001
수고하셨습니다 / 회식 Korean Workplace Norms	C1 Culture: compare 수고하셨습니다 / 회식 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-BIZ-001

My Notes

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