



Korean Ladder Study Note

문 잡아 드리기 / 먼저 지나가세요

Holding Doors and Letting Elders Pass

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Etiquette	문 잡아 드리기 / 먼저 지나가세요 Holding Doors and Letting Elders Pass

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-007>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clv4KTgsOCg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my awkward question. If I'm holding a door in Korea, do I just smile silently, or should I say something?

좋은 질문이에요. 한국어에서는 짧게 말해 주면 훨씬 더 공손하고 자연스러워요.

오늘의 핵심 표현은 먼저 지나가세요예요. In English, it means "Please go ahead first," or "Please pass through first."

So if someone older is at the doorway, I can say, 먼저 지나가세요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	먼저 지나가세요. —	Please go ahead first.
Junho	감사합니다. —	Thank you.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	문을 잡아 드릴게요. —	I'll hold the door for you.
Junho	네, 감사합니다. —	Yes, thank you.
Junho	먼저 들어가세요. —	Please go in first.
Hana	감사합니다. 먼저 가세요. —	Thank you. Please go first.
Junho	괜찮아요. 먼저 들어가세요. —	It's okay. Please go in first.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
먼저 지나가세요 meonjeo jinagaseyo	Please go ahead first.	오늘의 핵심 표현은 먼저 지나가세요예요. In English, it means "Please go ahead first," or "Please pass through first."
문을 잡아 드릴게요 mun-eul jaba deurilgeyo	I'll hold the door for you.	문을 잡아 드릴게요도 같이 알아두면 좋아요. It means, "I'll hold the door for you."
잡아 드릴게요 jaba deurilgeyo	I'll hold it for you.	Exactly. 잡다 means hold, and 드리다 makes the help polite. You can use it when your hand is already on the door.
먼저 들어가세요 meonjeo deureogaseyo	Please go in first.	At an apartment entrance, if two people arrive at the same time, 먼저 들어가세요 is also natural. It means, "Please go in first."
지나가세요 / 들어가세요 jinagaseyo / deureogaseyo	Please pass through / Please go in	지나가세요 is broader: pass through, go ahead, go by. 들어가세요 is specifically go inside. At a door, both can work, but the nuance changes.
먼저 타세요 meonjeo taseyo	Please get on first.	If you are letting someone enter an elevator first, 먼저 타세요 is natural. It means, "Please get on first."
먼저 + 동사세요 meonjeo + dongsa-seyo	first + please do the action	So the shape is 먼저 plus a polite action: 지나가세요, 들어가세요, 타세요.
지나가세요 jinagaseyo	Holding Doors and Letting Elders Pass	좋아요. One small thing: keep 지나가세요 connected, not separated into tiny blocks. 지나가세요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

먼저 지나가세요

먼저 지나가세요 — Please go ahead first.

Use it when yielding a doorway, hallway, elevator entrance, or narrow path.

먼저 지나가세요

먼저 + 지나가 + 세요 — Please go ahead first.

먼저 means first. 지나가세요 means please pass or please go by. Together, 먼저 지나가세요 is a polite invitation to go ahead.

먼저 지나가세요

먼저 지나가세요 — Please go ahead first.

Good for elders, customers, coworkers, and strangers.

먼저 지나가세요

먼저 지나가세요 — Please go ahead first.

Polite, everyday, and not too formal.

문을 잡아 드릴게요

문 + 을 + 잡아 드릴게요 — I'll hold the door for you.

문을 잡아 드릴게요도 같이 알아두면 좋아요. It means, "I'll hold the door for you."

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
먼저 지나가세요	meonjeo jinagaseyo
지나가세요	jinagaseyo
문을 잡아 드릴게요	mun-eul jaba deurilgeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 문 잡아 드리기 / 먼저 지나가세요 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
고개 숙여 인사 How Koreans Bow and Greet Elders	A1 Culture: compare 고개 숙여 인사 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-003
공공장소에서 목소리 낮추기 Keeping Your Voice Down in Shared Spaces	A1 Culture: compare 공공장소에서 목소리 낮추기 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-006
공공장소에서 이어폰 Keeping Phone Sound Private in Korea	A1 Culture: compare 공공장소에서 이어폰 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-005
내릴게요 / 타는 사람은 잠깐만요 Getting On and Off Buses and Subways Politely	A1 Culture: compare 내릴게요 / 타는 사람은 잠깐만요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-004

My Notes

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