



Korean Ladder Study Note

바닥에 앉을 때 예절

Floor Seating, Feet, and Personal Space in Korean Homes

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Culture Etiquette	바닥에 앉을 때 예절 Floor Seating, Feet, and Personal Space in Korean Homes

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-039>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vesit3kax9c>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, quick story. A Korean friend invited me home for dinner. No chairs. Just a low table and cushions on the floor. I froze. How do I even sit?

많은 분들이 처음에 그래요. That's very normal. Lots of visitors feel exactly the same.

오늘은 앉는 법, 다리를 두는 곳, 그리고 사람들 사이를 지나가는 법을 배워요. Today: how to sit, where your legs go, and how to pass between people.

이렇게 바닥에 앉는 문화를 좌식 문화라고 해요. In English: 좌식 means floor-seated style, the opposite of chair-style living.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어서 오세요. 신발은 여기서 벗으세요. —	Welcome. Please take your shoes off here.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 실례하겠습니다. —	Thank you. Excuse me for coming in.
Hana	편하게 앉세요. —	Please sit comfortably.
Junho	감사합니다. 다리가 좀 저려서요. 다리 좀 펴도 될까요? —	Thank you. My legs are a bit numb. May I stretch my legs a bit?
Hana	그럼요. 편하게 펴세요. —	Of course. Go ahead.
Junho	잠시만요. 화장실 좀 써도 될까요? —	Excuse me. May I use the restroom?
Hana	네, 저쪽이에요. —	Sure, it's over there.
Junho	잠시만요, 지나갈게요. —	Excuse me, coming through.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
좌식 문화 jwasik munhwa	floor-seated culture	이렇게 바닥에 앉는 문화를 좌식 문화라고 해요. In English: 좌식 means floor-seated style, the opposite of chair-style living.
좌식 식당 jwasik sikdang	a floor-seating restaurant	좌식은 집에서도, 식당에서도 자주 볼 수 있어요. You'll see floor seating in homes and in many restaurants too.
신발, 다리, 묻기, 지나가기 sinbal, dari, mutgi, jinagagi	shoes, legs, asking, passing by	맞아요. 오늘 기억할 건 네 가지예요. 신발, 다리, 묻기, 그리고 지나가기. Four things to remember: shoes, legs, asking, and passing by.
양반다리 yangbandari	sitting cross-legged	둘째, 다리. 양반다리로 앉아도 돼요. 책상다리라고도 해요. Second, legs. You can sit cross-legged. That's 양반다리, also called 책상다리.
잠시만요 jamsimanyo	Excuse me (lit. just a moment)	넷째, 지나가기. 사람 앞을 지나갈 때는 '잠시만요'라고 해요. Fourth, passing by. When you pass in front of someone, say 잠시만요. Excuse me.
발 · 다리 bal · dari	foot · leg	참고로, 발은 foot이고 다리는 leg예요. 어른 쪽으로 발을 뺀 것도 실례예요. Quick note: 발 is your foot, 다리 is your leg. Pointing your 발 at an elder is rude too.



Grammar / Structure Notes

좌식 문화

좌식 문화 — floor-seated culture

좌식 = floor-seated style · 입식 = chair style

좌식 식당

좌식 식당 — a floor-seating restaurant

좌식은 집에서, 식당에서도 자주 볼 수 있어요. You'll see floor seating in homes and in many restaurants too.

좌식 식당

좌식 식당 — a floor-seating restaurant

So it's not just old traditional houses. It's everyday life. And I'm guessing there are rules.

신발, 다리, 묻기, 지나가기

신발, 다리, 묻기, 지나가기 — shoes, legs, asking, passing by

Today's four things

신발을 벗어요.

신발 + 을 + 벗 + 어요. — I take off my shoes.

첫째, 신발. 집에 들어갈 때는 신발을 벗어요. First, shoes. When you go into a home, you take your shoes off.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
다리 좀 펴도 될까요?	dari jom pyeodo doelkkayo?
잠시만요	jamsimanyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 바닥에 앉을 때 예절 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
가방·충전기는 자리를 막지 않게 카페·스터디 공간 짐 예절	A1 Culture: compare 가방·충전기는 자리를 막지 않게 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-013
가방은 앞으로 Crowded Subway and Bus Bag Etiquette	A1 Culture: compare 가방은 앞으로 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-012
계산대 트레이와 장바구니 Checkout Tray and Bagging Etiquette	A1 Culture: compare 계산대 트레이와 장바구니 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-015
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

My Notes

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