



Korean Ladder Study Note

-(으)세요

Making Polite Requests and Gentle Commands

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Grammar Sentence Endings	-(으)세요 Making Polite Requests and Gentle Commands

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kv2GBbxzRsl>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk — how do I tell a Korean person to 'please sit' without sounding like a drill sergeant?

좋은 질문이에요. Many learners either sound too blunt or way too formal. There's a warm middle.

그 중간이 바로 -(으)세요예요. That warm middle is the ending -(으)세요.

-(으)세요 does two jobs at once. 첫째, it makes a request or gentle command. 둘째, it respects the listener.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	여기 앉으세요. —	Please sit here.
Hana	네, 감사합니다. 물 좀 주세요. —	Yes, thank you. Please give me some water.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	잠시만 기다리세요. —	Please wait a moment.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-(으)세요 -(eu)se-yo	please do ____ (polite request/command)	그 중간이 바로 -(으)세요예요. That warm middle is the ending -(으)세요.
-시- + -어요 → -세요 -si- + -eo-yo → -se-yo	honorific 시 melts into 세요	사실 -(으)세요 안에 존댓말 '시'가 숨어 있어요. Inside it lives the honorific 시 — that's why it sounds respectful.
받침 X → -세요 / 받침 O → -으세요 batchim X → -se-yo / batchim O → -eu-se-yo	no final consonant → 세요; final consonant → 으세요	The rule is simple. Take the verb stem. 받침 없으면 -세요, 받침 있으면 -으세요.
가세요 ga-se-yo	please go / go ahead	예를 들어 '가다', to go. 가 has no 받침, so 가 + 세요 = 가세요.
앉으세요 an-jeu-se-yo	please sit down	이번엔 '앉다', to sit. 앉 has a 받침, so we add 으 first: 앉 + 으세요 = 앉으세요.
하세요 ha-se-yo	please do (it)	가장 많이 쓰는 건 '하다', to do. 하 + 세요 = 하세요. 이걸 통째로 외우세요.
오세요 o-se-yo	please come / come on in	Wait — so 오다, to come, becomes 오세요? 오 has no 받침, so just 오 plus 세요.
어서 오세요 eo-seo o-se-yo	welcome! (please come in quickly)	완벽해요. 오세요 is what a shop owner says at the door — 어서 오세요, welcome in.



Grammar / Structure Notes

-(으)세요

-(으)세요 — please do ____ (polite request/command)

friendly + respectful at the same time

-(으)세요

-(으)세요 — polite request + built-in respect

honorific 시 is hiding inside it

-시- + -어요 → -세요

-시- + -어요 → -세요 — honorific 시 melts into 세요

you don't build it — just learn the shape

받침 X → -세요 / 받침 O → -으세요

받침 X → -세요 / 받침 O → -으세요 — no final consonant → 세요; final consonant → 으세요

받침 = the bottom consonant of a syllable

가세요

가 + 세요 — please go / go ahead

예를 들어 '가다', to go. 가 has no 받침, so 가 + 세요 = 가세요.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
앉으세요	an-jeu-se-yo
하세요	ha-se-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say -(으)세요 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
-(으)르까요? / -(으)브시다 Suggesting and Proposing Together	A1 Grammar: compare -(으)르까요? / -(으)브시다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-003
이에요 / 예요 Saying What Something Is	A1 Grammar: compare 이예요 / 예요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-001
있어요 / 없어요 There Is / There Isn't	A1 Grammar: compare 있어요 / 없어요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-GRAM-END-002
-네요 / -군요 / -잖아요 Reacting, Realizing, and Reminding	B1 Grammar: compare -네요 / -군요 / -잖아요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-GRAM-END-001

My Notes

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