



Korean Ladder Study Note

아줌마 / 아가씨 / 총각

Calling Strangers by Age and Gender

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Titles & Address	아줌마 / 아가씨 / 총각 Calling Strangers by Age and Gender

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-ADR-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C597vk7twiM>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I hear 아줌마 and 아저씨 in Korean dramas. Can I just use them for any older stranger?

좋은 질문이에요. 아줌마, 아저씨, 아가씨, 총각은 사람을 부를 수 있는 말이지만, 듣는 사람이 불편할 수 있어요. In English, they can point to age, gender, or marriage, so they are not always safe.

오늘의 핵심은 먼저 저기요예요. 저기요 means excuse me, and it gets attention without labeling the person.

So instead of guessing someone's category, I can start with 저기요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저기요, 물 좀 주세요. —	Excuse me, please give me some water.
Junho	네, 잠시만요. —	Yes, one moment please.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그리고 주문할게요. —	And I'll order now.
Junho	네, 말씀하세요. —	Sure, go ahead.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
저기요 jeogiyo	Excuse me	오늘의 핵심은 먼저 저기요예요. 저기요 means excuse me, and it gets attention without labeling the person.
실례합니다 sillyehamnida	Excuse me; more formal/polite	조금 더 공손하게 주의를 끌고 싶으면 실례합니다도 좋아요. It is more formal and polite.
아줌마 ajumma	middle-aged woman; auntie-like address	이제 하나씩 볼게요. 먼저 아줌마예요.
아저씨 ajeossi	middle-aged man; mister / uncle-like address	다음은 아저씨예요.
기사님 gisanim	driver; respectful address	택시 기사님처럼 역할이 확실하면 아저씨보다 기사님이 더 자연스러울 수 있어요. If you know the role, use the respectful role title.
아가씨 agassi	young woman; miss	다음은 아가씨예요.
직원분 jigwonbun	staff member; respectful	맞아요. 식당에서는 저기요나 직원분이 더 좋아요. In a restaurant, 저기요 gets attention, and 직원분 means staff member respectfully.
총각 chonggak	unmarried young man; bachelor	마지막은 총각이에요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

저기요

저기요 — Excuse me

Safe when you need attention

저기요

저기요 — Excuse me

Neutral attention phrase

저기요.

저기요 + . — Excuse me.

맞아요. 저기요에는 상대의 나이나 성별, 결혼 여부가 드러나지 않아요. In English, it does not reveal the listener's age, gender, or marital status.

실례합니다

실례합니다 — Excuse me; more formal/polite

Useful in more polite situations

아줌마

아줌마 — middle-aged woman; auntie-like address

Can be friendly in familiar places, but risky with strangers

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
저기요, 물 좀 주세요.	jeogiyo, mul jom juseyo.
저기요, 주문할게요.	jeogiyo, jumunhalgeyo.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 아줌마 / 아가씨 / 총각 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
선생님 / 언니 / 아저씨 Addressing People You See Every Day	A1 Honorifics: compare 선생님 / 언니 / 아저씨 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-ADR-001
귀하 / 귀사 / 본인 Formal Written Address in Letters	C1 Honorifics: compare 귀하 / 귀사 / 본인 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-003
그쪽 / 본인 / 당신 The 'You' Words That Can Backfire	B1 Honorifics: compare 그쪽 / 본인 / 당신 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-002
님 / 씨 Korean Titles and Address	A2 Honorifics: compare 님 / 씨 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-ADR-001

My Notes

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