



Korean Ladder Study Note

저기요 다음에 뭐라고 부를까

Choosing a Safe Title After You Get Attention

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Titles & Address	저기요 다음에 뭐라고 부를까 Choosing a Safe Title After You Get Attention

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3i9w6oun_DY

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my real fear. I can say 저기요, but then I freeze. Do I say 아줌마, 아저씨, 사장님, 선생님, or nothing?

좋은 질문이에요. 저기요 is just getting attention. After that, the title can make you sound warm or a little too direct.

In Korean, a safe title often comes from the person's role, like 기사님 for a driver or 사장님 for a shop owner.

핵심 패턴은 '저기요' 다음에 상황에 맞는 호칭을 넣고 이어서 말하는 거예요. In English, say excuse me, then choose a safe address term if it helps.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	저기요, 기사님. 여기서 세워 주세요. —	Excuse me, driver. Please stop here.
Junho	네, 여기서 세워 드릴게요. —	Yes, I'll stop here for you.



Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
역할 + 님 yeokhal + nim	role plus polite suffix 님	In Korean, a safe title often comes from the person's role, like 기사님 for a driver or 사장님 for a shop owner.
상황에 맞는 호칭 sanghwang-e matneun hoching	an address term that fits the situation	So the goal is not memorizing one magic word. It's choosing the safest title for the situation.
사장님 sajangnim	owner, boss; polite small-business address	사장님 has 님, so it sounds respectful. But don't use it for every person in every place. It fits small shops, restaurants, and local businesses best.
선생님 seonsaengnim	teacher; also respectful address for an adult	And if you do not know the exact role, 선생님 can be a respectful, safe title for an adult stranger in many everyday situations.
혹시 hoksi	by any chance	Good. Notice 혹시. Here it means by any chance. It makes a stranger question softer.
기사 + 님 = 기사님 gisa + nim = gisa-nim	driver plus respectful suffix	I heard 기사님 because it was a taxi. Role plus 님.
여기요 yeogiyo	Excuse me; over here	Exactly. Now in a restaurant, you may hear 여기요 to call staff over. 여기요 means over here or excuse me here, especially when calling someone in a place like a restaurant.
저기요 vs 여기요 jeogiyo vs yeogiyo	excuse me over there vs excuse me over here	So 저기요 is a general excuse me, 여기요 is often over here, like at my table.



Grammar / Structure Notes

역할 + 님

역할 + 님 — role plus polite suffix 님

Use the person's role when you know it.

저기요, [호칭], ...

저기요, [호칭], ... — Excuse me, [title], ...

[호칭] 자리에는 사장님, 기사님, 선생님 같은 말을 넣을 수 있어요. 상황에 따라 호칭을 아예 안 붙이는 것이 더 자연스러울 때도 있어요.

상황에 맞는 호칭

상황에 맞는 호칭 — an address term that fits the situation

One English “excuse me” can lead to different Korean choices.

저기요, 사장님.

저기요, + 사장님 + . — Excuse me, owner or boss.

First, in a small restaurant or shop, 사장님 is often a friendly, respectful call. It literally means boss or owner, but it can work broadly in small businesses.

사장님

사장님 — owner, boss; polite small-business address

Good in many small shops and restaurants.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
선생님, 혹시 1203호에 사세요?	seonsaengnim, hoksi cheonibaeksam-ho-e saseyo?
저기요, 사장님.	jeogiyo, sajangnim.
저기요, 기사님.	jeogiyo, gisa-nim.
선생님, 혹시 관창으세요?	seonsaengnim, hoksi gwaenchaneuseyo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 저기요 다음에 뭐라고 부를까 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
아줌마 / 아가씨 / 총각 Calling Strangers by Age and Gender	A1 Honorifics: compare 아줌마 / 아가씨 / 총각 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-ADR-002
호칭이 애매하면 저기요 A Safe Opener Before Any Title	A1 Honorifics: compare 호칭이 애매하면 저기요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-ADR-003
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

My Notes

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