



Korean Ladder Study Note

저한테 / 저에게 / 저를

Humbling Yourself in Particle Choice

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Humble Forms	저한테 / 저에게 / 저를 Humbling Yourself in Particle Choice

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI3o2XSjYYg>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my real question. If 나 means me, why does my sentence sound too casual when I say 선생님이 나한테 말했어요?

좋은 질문이에요. 선생님처럼 높여 말하고 싶은 사람 앞에서는 나보다 저를 쓰면 더 공손해요.

Today's focus is not changing the particle first. First, choose the respectful pronoun 저, then attach 한테, 에게, or 를.

핵심 패턴은 저한테예요. In English, 저한테 means to me, for me, or sometimes from me, in everyday speech.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 선생님이 저한테 전화하셨어요. —	Junho, the teacher called me.
Junho	그래요? 선생님이 뭐라고 하셨어요? —	Really? What did the teacher say?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	내일 저를 도와주신대요. —	They said they'll help me tomorrow.
Junho	좋네요. 저한테도 알려 주세요. —	That's good. Please let me know too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
저 + 한테 / 에게 / 를 jeo + hante / ege / reul	me + to me / to me formal / me as object	Today's focus is not changing the particle first. First, choose the respectful pronoun 저, then attach 한테, 에게, or 를.
저한테 jeo-han-te	to me / for me / from me	핵심 패턴은 저한테예요. In English, 저한테 means to me, for me, or sometimes from me, in everyday speech.
저에게 jeo-e-ge	to me / for me	저에게도 같은 기본 뜻이에요. It sounds a little more formal, careful, or written than 저한테.
저를 jeo-reul	me as the object	그리고 저를은 me as the object. Someone sees me, calls me, helps me, or waits for me.
저 + particle jeo + particle	respectful me + sentence job	So 저 is the respectful me, and 한테, 에게, 를 show the job of me in the sentence.
나 → casual / 저 → polite na / jeo	나 = casual me / 저 = polite humble me	Exactly. 나 is casual me. 저 is humble, polite me. With teachers, customers, elders, or new people, 저 is safer.
저한테 · 저에게 · 저를 jeo-han-te · jeo-e-ge · jeo-reul	to me · to me formal · me object	But today, we are practicing me with three other jobs: to me, formal to me, and me as object.
저한테 ≈ 저에게 jeo-han-te ≈ jeo-e-ge	both can mean 'to me'	맞아요. In daily conversation, 저한테 이메일을 보냈어요 is also okay. 저에게 just feels a bit more careful.



Grammar / Structure Notes

저 + 한테 / 에게 / 를

저 + 한테 / 에게 / 를 — me + to me / to me formal / me as object

Choose 저 in polite or respectful situations.

저한테

저한테 — to me / for me / from me

Common in conversation

저에게

저에게 — to me / for me

A little more formal or written

저를

저를 — me as the object

Object particle 를 after 저

선생님이 저한테 말했어요.

선생님 + 이 + 저 + 한테 + 말했 + 어요. — The teacher spoke to me.

First native example. 선생님이 저한테 말했어요. The teacher spoke to me.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
저한테	jeo-han-te
선생님이 저한테 말했어요	seonsaengnim-i jeo-han-te mal-haesseyo.
저에게 이메일을 보냈어요	jeo-e-ge imeil-eul bonaesseyo.
선생님이 저를 기다리셨어요	seonsaengnim-i jeo-reul gidarisyeosseoyo.
저를	jeo-reul

Self-Check

- 1 Say 저한테 / 저에게 / 저를 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
제가 도와드릴게요 / 들어드릴게요 Offering Help to Elders the Humble Way	A1 Honorifics: compare 제가 도와드릴게요 / 들어드릴게요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-002
제가 할게요 / 제가요 Offering to Do Something the Humble Way	A1 Honorifics: compare 제가 할게요 / 제가요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-001
당사 / 폐사 / 소생 Humbling Your Own Company in Business Korean	B2 Honorifics: compare 당사 / 폐사 / 소생 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-HUM-003
도와드릴게요 / 여쭙봐도 될까요 나를 낮추는 기본 표현	A2 Honorifics: compare 도와드릴게요 / 여쭙봐도 될까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-HUM-002

My Notes

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