



Korean Ladder Study Note

안녕히 계세요

Who Stays and Who Leaves

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Speech Levels	안녕히 계세요 Who Stays and Who Leaves

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-009>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqaS-tCo68Y>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here is my real-life panic. I am leaving a café, the barista is staying, and I say 안녕히 가세요. Did I just tell the barista to leave?

좋은 질문이에요. If you are leaving and the other person stays, say 안녕히 계세요.

And if the other person is leaving, say 안녕히 가세요. It means, please go peacefully, in a polite natural way.

So the goodbye is not about me first. It is about what the other person is doing.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	하나 선생님, 안녕히 계세요. —	Teacher Hana, goodbye. You are staying.
Hana	네, 준호 씨, 안녕히 가세요. —	Yes, Junho, goodbye. You are leaving.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	안녕히 계세요. —	Said to the person staying
Hana	안녕히 가세요. —	Said to the person leaving

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
안녕히 계세요 annyeonghi gyeseyo	Goodbye, when the other person stays	좋은 질문이에요. If you are leaving and the other person stays, say 안녕히 계세요.
안녕히 가세요 annyeonghi gaseyo	Goodbye, when the other person leaves	And if the other person is leaving, say 안녕히 가세요. It means, please go peacefully, in a polite natural way.
안녕히 계세요 / 안녕히 가세요 annyeonghi gyeseyo / annyeonghi gaseyo	Stay peacefully / Go peacefully	맞아요. Today's pattern is polite goodbyes with honorific verbs. 계세요 means someone respectfully stays or exists there. 가세요 means someone respectfully goes.
계세요 gyeseyo	please stay; are here, honorifically	계세요 comes from 계시다, the honorific form of 있다. So it points to staying or being at the place, respectfully.
가세요 gaseyo	please go; are going, honorifically	가세요 comes from 가시다, the honorific form of 가다. So it points to going, respectfully.
상대방이 머물러요 → 안녕히 계세요 sangdaebangi meomulleoyo → annyeonghi gyeseyo	The other person stays → 안녕히 계세요	완벽해요. In English, think, as for you, please stay well. Natural Korean is 안녕히 계세요.
상대방이 떠나요 → 안녕히 가세요 sangdaebangi tteonayo → annyeonghi gaseyo	The other person leaves → 안녕히 가세요	Home test. My friend leaves my apartment. I stay. I say 안녕히 가세요.
둘 다 떠나요 → 안녕히 가세요 dul da tteonayo → annyeonghi gaseyo	Both leave → say 안녕히 가세요 to the other person	One more important point. If both people are leaving the same place, you usually say 안녕히 가세요 to the other person, because they are also going.



Grammar / Structure Notes

안녕히 계세요

안녕히 계세요 — Goodbye, when the other person stays

You leave. They remain there.

안녕히 가세요

안녕히 가세요 — Goodbye, when the other person leaves

They leave. You may stay, or you may both leave.

안녕히 계세요 / 안녕히 가세요

안녕히 계세요 / 안녕히 가세요 — Stay peacefully / Go peacefully

Choose by the other person's movement.

안녕히 계세요

안녕히 + 계세요 — Please stay peacefully. Goodbye to someone staying.

The word 안녕히 means peacefully or well. The second verb carries the direction.

계세요

계세요 — please stay; are here, honorifically

계세요 comes from 계시다, the honorific form of 있다. So it points to staying or being at the place, respectfully.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
안녕히 계세요	annyeonghi gyeseyo
계세요	gyeseyo
안녕히 가세요	annyeonghi gaseyo
가세요	gaseyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 안녕히 계세요 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
감사합니다 / 죄송합니다 Formal Thanks and Apologies	A1 Honorifics: compare 감사합니다 / 죄송합니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-002
네 / 예 / 알겠습니다 Three Polite Acknowledgments	A1 Honorifics: compare 네 / 예 / 알겠습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-008
네 Two Polite Ways to Say Yes	A1 Honorifics: compare 네 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-006
네 Adding 요 to Single Words and Fragments to Sound Polite	A1 Honorifics: compare 네 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-003

My Notes

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