



Korean Ladder Study Note

할아버지 / 할머니 / 누나 / 동생

More Family Members

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Vocabulary Family & People	할아버지 / 할머니 / 누나 / 동생 More Family Members

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SgnjweW20A>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

I thought 누나 just meant older sister, but then I heard 언니. Are those two words the same?

좋은 질문이에요. Both can mean older sister, but Korean also cares about the speaker's gender.

For grandparents, it is easier. 할아버지 means grandfather, and 할머니 means grandmother.

오늘의 틀은 가족 단어예요. In English, today's frame is family words plus who is speaking.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	준호 씨, 할머니가 계세요? —	Junho, do you have a grandmother?
Junho	네, 할머니가 계세요. 하나 씨는요? —	Yes, I have a grandmother. How about you, Hana?
Hana	저는 남동생이 있어요. —	I have a younger brother.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	저는 누나가 있어요. —	I have an older sister.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
누나 / 언니 nuna / eonni	older sister	좋은 질문이에요. Both can mean older sister, but Korean also cares about the speaker's gender.
할아버지 / 할머니 harabeoji / halmeoni	grandfather / grandmother	For grandparents, it is easier. 할아버지 means grandfather, and 할머니 means grandmother.
가족 단어 gajok daneo	family words	오늘의 틀은 가족 단어예요. In English, today's frame is family words plus who is speaking.
동생 dongsaeng	younger sibling	맞아요. 동생 means younger sibling. It can be a younger brother or a younger sister.
남동생 / 여동생 namdongsaeng / yeodongsaeng	younger brother / younger sister	If you need to be specific, 남동생 is younger brother, and 여동생 is younger sister.
할아버지가 계세요 harabeoji-ga gyeseyo	My grandfather is there / I have a grandfather	Listen to the first example. 할아버지가 계세요 means my grandfather is there, or I have a grandfather, in a respectful way.
할머니가 계세요 halmeoni-ga gyeseyo	My grandmother is there / I have a grandmother	계세요 is polite and respectful, so it fits well with older family members.
계세요 gyeseyo	is there / exists / has, respectful	네, 맞아요. 있어요 is not always wrong, but 계세요 is the safer polite choice for grandparents.



Grammar / Structure Notes

누나 / 언니

누나 / 언니 — older sister

누나 is said by a male speaker. 언니 is said by a female speaker.

할아버지 / 할머니

할아버지 / 할머니 — grandfather / grandmother

Polite everyday family words.

가족 단어

가족 단어 — family words

Some sibling words change by the speaker.

동생

동생 — younger sibling

Can mean younger brother or younger sister.

남동생 / 여동생

남동생 / 여동생 — younger brother / younger sister

동생 alone is often enough.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
할머니가 계세요	halmeoni-ga gyeseyo
할아버지, 할머니, 누나, 동생	harabeoji · halmeoni · nuna · dongsaeng
할머니, 동생	halmeoni / dongsaeng
누나	nuna
저는 언니가 있어요	jeo-neun eonni-ga isseoyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 할아버지 / 할머니 / 누나 / 동생 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
사람 / 친구 / 남자 / 여자 / 아이 Your First Words for People	A1 Vocabulary: compare 사람 / 친구 / 남자 / 여자 / 아이 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-FAM-001
사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 Extended Family and In-Law Terms	C1 Vocabulary: compare 사촌 / 이모부 / 며느리 / 처가 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-VOCAB-FAM-001
엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 Naming Your Family	A2 Vocabulary: compare 엄마 / 아빠 / 형 / 오빠 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-VOCAB-FAM-001
Counting in Korean Native vs Sino Numbers	A1 Vocabulary: compare Counting in Korean with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-VOCAB-NUM-001

My Notes

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