



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 님 / 씨

## Korean Titles and Address

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Honorifics Titles & Address	님 / 씨 Korean Titles and Address

## Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-ADR-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-ADR-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmhr254UUPk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmhr254UUPk>

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

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## Core Idea

Okay, real question. In a drama I heard someone called 'Minsu-ssi,' and someone else called '선생님.' Why not just say the name?

Right — in English I'd just say 'Hey, Minsu.' What's all this 님 and 씨 doing on the end?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, a bare name can feel too blunt. So we add a little tag — 님 or 씨 — to show respect or politeness.

Here's the frame for today. 님 attaches to a TITLE or role. 씨 attaches to a NAME. Same idea, different jobs.

## Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	지영 씨, 이거 같이 봐요. —	Jiyeong, let's look at this together.
Junho	네, 하나 씨. 지금 갈게요. —	Sure, Hana. I'll come now.



# Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
님 → 직책 / 씨 → 이름 nim → jikchaek / ssi → ireum	님 goes on a title; 씨 goes on a name.	Here's the frame for today. 님 attaches to a TITLE or role. 씨 attaches to a NAME. Same idea, different jobs.
님 nim	honorific suffix — respect for a role	님은 높임의 표시예요. In English, 님 is an honorific — it lifts a role up and shows respect.
선생님 seonsaengnim	teacher (with built-in respect)	Listen to the safe one first. 선생님 — teacher. The 님 is already built in, so it's respectful for any teacher.
사장님 sajangnim	boss / company president (polite)	사장님도 같아요. 사장 means company boss, and 님 makes it polite — 사장님.
씨 → 이름에 ssi → ireume	씨 attaches to a name.	Got it. Title plus 님 equals safe and respectful. So where does 씨 come in?
씨 ssi	polite-neutral name tag (like Mr./Ms.)	씨 goes on a name, and it's polite but more neutral than 님. Think 'Mr.' or 'Ms.' among people on a similar footing.
민수 씨 Minsu-ssi	Minsu (polite, neutral)	예를 들어, 민수 씨. Minsu plus 씨 — a polite way to say 'Minsu' to a coworker or someone you don't know well.
김 씨 (어색해요) Kim-ssi (eosaekhaeyo)	Family-name-only + 씨 can feel cold.	One warning. 씨 on a family name ALONE — like 김 씨 — can sound cold or distancing. Use the given name, or the full name.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 님 → 직책 / 씨 → 이름

님 → 직책 / 씨 → 이름 — 님 goes on a title; 씨 goes on a name.

Two tags, two different jobs.

### 님

님 — honorific suffix — respect for a role

Attaches to titles, not bare names.

### 선생님

선생님 — teacher (with built-in respect)

선생 (teacher) + 님 (honorific).

### 사장님

사장님 — boss / company president (polite)

사장 (boss) + 님.

### 선생님

선생 + 님 — teacher + honorific

Oh — so 님 is like sticking 'Dr.' or 'Professor' onto the job itself, not the person's name.

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
지영 씨	Jiyeong-ssi
민수 씨	Minsu-ssi
지영 씨 / 선생님	Jiyeong-ssi / seonsaengnim
선생님	seonsaengnim

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 님 / 씨 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
이모 / 사장님 / 기사님 Kinship & Job Titles for Strangers	C1 Honorifics: compare 이모 / 사장님 / 기사님 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-001</a>
Korean Honorifics 세요 and 께서	A2 Honorifics: compare Korean Honorifics with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-SUB-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-SUB-001</a>
저 / 제 / 저희 The Humble 'I' and 'We'	A2 Honorifics: compare 저 / 제 / 저희 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-HUM-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-HUM-001</a>
-(으)시- Adding the Honorific Infix to Any Verb	B1 Honorifics: compare -(으)시- with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-002</a>

## My Notes

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Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.