



Korean Ladder Study Note

편하게 하세요 / 말씀 낮추세요

Inviting Someone to Drop the Formality

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Honorifics Speech Levels	편하게 하세요 / 말씀 낮추세요 Inviting Someone to Drop the Formality

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-LVL-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGapGYkwIB0>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my fear. If an older person says, "Speak comfortably," can I actually stop using 존댓말 right away, or is that a trap?

좋은 질문이에요. In Korean, the invitation matters, but your response also matters. You don't want to sound too eager or presumptuous.

Today's key phrase is used by the older person, senior, or higher-status speaker. They say, in effect, "You don't have to be so formal with me."

The frame is this. 편하게 means comfortably, and 말씀하세요 is the honorific form of 말하세요, "please speak." So 편하게 말씀하세요 means "Please speak comfortably."

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	우리 자주 보니까 말 놓아도 돼요. —	Since we see each other often, you can drop the formal speech.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 그럼 조금 편하게 말씀드릴게요. —	Okay, then I'll speak a little more comfortably.
Hana	좋아요. 그냥 편하게 하세요. —	Good. Just feel comfortable.
Junho	네, 고마워요. —	Okay, thanks.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
편하게 말씀하세요 pyeonhage malsseumhaseyo	Please speak comfortably.	Today's key phrase is used by the older person, senior, or higher-status speaker. They say, in effect, "You don't have to be so formal with me."
말 놓아도 돼요 mal noado dwaeyo	You may drop the formal speech.	Another natural phrase is 말 놓아도 돼요. Literally, "It's okay if you put down speech." In real English, "You can drop the formal speech."
편하게 하세요 pyeonhage haseyo	Please be comfortable / Go ahead and speak comfortably.	맞아요. Usually the senior offers first. The junior can accept gently, or politely decline and keep using 존댓말.
제가 나이가 더 많으니까 편하게 말씀하세요 jega naiga deo maneunikka pyeonhage malsseumhaseyo	Since I'm older, please speak comfortably.	Let's hear the first example. 제가 나이가 더 많으니까 편하게 말씀하세요. It means, "Since I'm older, please speak comfortably."
조금씩 편하게 해도 돼요 jogeumssik pyeonhage haedo dwaeyo	You can relax your speech little by little.	Exactly. And because this is socially sensitive, many seniors soften the offer with 조금 or 천천히: "a little" or "slowly."
그냥 편하게 하세요 geunyang pyeonhage haseyo	Just be comfortable / Go ahead and speak comfortably.	A softer everyday version is 그냥 편하게 하세요. It means, "Just be comfortable," or in context, "You can speak comfortably."
먼저 제안하는 사람 meonjeo jeanhaneun saram	the person who offers first	Usually no. A junior telling a boss to drop formality can sound like you are managing the relationship. Wait for the senior to offer.
네, 그럼 조금 편하게 말씀드릴게요 ne, geureom jogeum pyeonhage malsseumdeurilgeyo	Okay, then I'll speak a little more comfortably.	Now let's unpack the response. If you accept, don't suddenly become too casual. A safe response is 네, 그럼 조금 편하게 말씀드릴게요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

편하게 말씀하세요

편하게 말씀하세요 — Please speak comfortably.

A polite, gentle invitation from a senior

편하게 말씀하세요

편하게 말씀하세요 — Please speak comfortably.

Safe, polite, and common

말 놓아도 돼요

말 놓아도 돼요 — You may drop the formal speech.

Often said by the older or senior person

편하게 하세요

편하게 하세요 — Please be comfortable / Go ahead and speak comfortably.

Short and common in context

제가 나이가 더 많으니까 편하게 말씀하세요

제가 + 나이가 + 더 + 많으니까 + 편하게 + 말씀하세요 — Since I'm older, please speak comfortably.

Let's hear the first example. 제가 나이가 더 많으니까 편하게 말씀하세요. It means, "Since I'm older, please speak comfortably."

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
편하게 말씀하세요	pyeonhage malsseumhaseyo
말씀	malsseum
말 놓아도 돼요	mal noado dwaeyo
네, 그럼 조금 편하게 말씀드릴게요	ne, geureom jogeum pyeonhage malsseumdeurilgeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 편하게 하세요 / 말씀 낮추세요 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
존댓말이 꼭 필요한 순간 When Polite Speech Is Non-Negotiable	A2 Honorifics: compare 존댓말이 꼭 필요한 순간 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-LVL-003
해 주세요 Levels of Asking a Favor	A2 Honorifics: compare 해 주세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-LVL-002
해요체 Choosing Between Two Polite Styles	A2 Honorifics: compare 해요체 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-LVL-001
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

My Notes

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