



Korean Ladder Study Note

식사하셨습니다

Everyday Subject Honorific Phrases

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Honorifics Subject Honorifics	식사하셨습니다 Everyday Subject Honorific Phrases

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-SUB-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H20QnD--hyA>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. When I finally meet my friend's grandmother, do I really just say 안녕하세요? Honestly it feels... not enough.

그렇죠. With elders, Koreans reach for special greeting phrases. 'Have you eaten?' sounds strange in English, but in Korean it's a warm daily hello.

The secret is one tiny piece hiding inside the verb: the honorific 시. 동사에 시를 넣으면 존댓말이 돼요.

In Korean, we slip 시 into the verb to lift up the person we're greeting. 하다 becomes 하시다, and in the past it becomes 하셨습니다.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	할머니, 안녕히 주무셨어요? —	Grandma, did you sleep well?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그래, 잘 잤다. 너도 잘 잤니? —	Yes, I slept well. Did you sleep well too?
Junho	네. 식사하셨어요? —	Yes. Have you eaten?
Hana	이제 먹어야지. 같이 먹자. —	I'll eat now. Let's eat together.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
동사 + 시 dongsa + si	verb + honorific 시 → respectful form	The secret is one tiny piece hiding inside the verb: the honorific 시. 동사에 시를 넣으면 존댓말이 돼요.
하다 → 하시다 → 하셨어요 hada → hasida → hasyeosseoyo	do → (honorably) do → (honorably) did	In Korean, we slip 시 into the verb to lift up the person we're greeting. 하다 becomes 하시다, and in the past it becomes 하셨어요.
식사하다 → 식사하시다 siksahada → siksahasida	to have a meal → to (honorably) have a meal	식사하다 means to have a meal. Add 시, and it becomes 식사하시다 — the polite, elder-lifting form.
자다 → 주무시다 jada → jumusida	to sleep → to (honorably) sleep	Not quite — sleep swaps the whole verb. 자다 becomes 주무시다.
다녀오세요 danyeooseyo	Go safely and come back (respectful)	그리고 배웅하는 사람은 다녀오세요, 라고 해요. To the person leaving, you say 다녀오세요 — go safely and come back.
다녀오세요 ↔ 다녀올게 danyeooseyo ↔ danyeoolge	'Go safely' ↔ 'I'll be back'	So it's a little pair: one goes out, one sends them off. 다녀오세요 ↔ 다녀올게.
다녀오세요 / 다녀올게 danyeooseyo / danyeoolge	send-off / reply	Got it — 다녀오세요 to the one leaving, and they answer 다녀올게. That's such a sweet exchange.
아침 인사 achim insa	A morning greeting scene	완벽해요. Now let's hear the phrases living together in a real morning.



Grammar / Structure Notes

동사 + 시

동사 + 시 — verb + honorific 시 → respectful form

시 lifts up the person you're talking about

하다 → 하시다 → 하셨어요

하다 → 하시다 → 하셨어요 — do → (honorably) do → (honorably) did

셨 = 시 + 었 (honorific + past)

식사하셨어요?

식사 + 하 + 셧 + 어요 + ? — Have you eaten? (respectful)

Our first everyday phrase. 식사하셨어요? — Have you eaten?

식사하다 → 식사하시다

식사하다 → 식사하시다 — to have a meal → to (honorably) have a meal

식사하다 means to have a meal. Add 시, and it becomes 식사하시다 — the polite, elder-lifting form.

식사하셨어요?

식사하셨어요? — Did you eat? (respectful greeting)

A warm hello, not a real food question

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
안녕히 자셨어요?	annyeonghi jasyeosseoyo?
안녕히 주무셨어요?	annyeonghi jumusyeosseoyo?
주무셨어요?	jumusyeosseoyo?
식사하셨어요?	siksahasyeosseoyo?
안녕히 주무세요	annyeonghi jumuseyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 식사하셨어요 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
Korean Honorifics 세요 and 께서	A2 Honorifics: compare Korean Honorifics with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-SUB-001
-(으)시- Adding the Honorific Infix to Any Verb	B1 Honorifics: compare -(으)시- with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-002
간접 높임 말씀·연세·댁에 높임 붙이기	C1 Honorifics: compare 간접 높임 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-SUB-002
계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 Special Honorific Words	B1 Honorifics: compare 계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-001

My Notes

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