



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 저기요 / 여기요 / 여보세요

## Getting Someone's Attention Politely

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Honorifics Titles & Address	저기요 / 여기요 / 여보세요 Getting Someone's Attention Politely

### Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T1Skt6B8C8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T1Skt6B8C8>

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

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### Core Idea

Real question. In English I say 'excuse me' to a waiter, a clerk, or someone on the street. Is there one Korean word for all of that?

I always feel like I'm about to shout 'hey,' and that feels too rough before I even say it.

좋은 질문이에요. Good question. Korean changes the phrase by situation: in person, at your table, or on the phone.

The safest in-person word is 저기요. In English, it works like 'excuse me' when you want a stranger or staff member to notice you.

### Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	여기요, 물 좀 주세요. —	Excuse me, some water please.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 잠시만요. —	Yes, one moment.
Hana	저기요, 메뉴판도 주세요. —	Excuse me, the menu too, please.
Junho	네, 여기 있습니다. —	Yes, here it is.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
저기요 jeo-gi-yo	Excuse me (polite attention call)	The safest in-person word is 저기요. In English, it works like 'excuse me' when you want a stranger or staff member to notice you.
여기요 yeo-gi-yo	Over here, please	Now compare 여기요. 여기 means 'here,' so 여기요 means 'over here, please.' It is very common when you are seated and want staff to come to your table.
저기요 / 여기요 jeo-gi-yo / yeo-gi-yo	Excuse me / over here, please	정확해요. Exactly. In a restaurant, both can work, but 여기요 more clearly says, 'please come to this table.'
여보세요 yeo-bo-se-yo	Hello? (on the phone)	Now the phone is different. On the phone, say 여보세요. In English, it is the phone 'hello.'
식당에서 sik-dang-e-seo	At a restaurant	맞아요. Right. Let's hear it in a real restaurant scene.
저 → 저기요 jeo → jeo-gi-yo	저 alone does not call someone	저 by itself means 'I' or sounds like 'um.' It is not an attention call. Say 저기요 instead.
야 ya	Hey	And avoid 야 with strangers. 야 is like 'hey' for close friends, younger people, or children. To an adult stranger, it sounds rude.
사장님 sa-jang-nim	owner; respectful address for shop staff	There are softer alternatives too. If you know the role, 사장님 can sound respectful and friendly in a shop or restaurant.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 저기요

저기요 — Excuse me (polite attention call)

Safe default in person

### 저기요

저기요 — Excuse me — polite, in person

Use with strangers and staff

### 저기요

저기 + 요 — over there + polite ending

Let's break 저기요 into two pieces. 저기 means 'over there,' and 요 adds politeness.

### 저기요

저기 + 요 — Excuse me (polite in-person signal)

저기 alone points away from you. 저기요 becomes a soft way to call attention without sounding sharp.

### 여기요

여기요 — Over here, please

Calling staff to your spot

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
여보세요?	yeo-bo-se-yo
여기요, 메뉴판 주세요.	yeo-gi-yo, me-nyu-pan ju-se-yo
여기요	yeo-gi-yo

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 저기요 / 여기요 / 여보세요 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
님 / 씨 Korean Titles and Address	A2 Honorifics: compare 님 / 씨 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-ADR-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-ADR-001</a>
선생님 / 언니 / 아저씨 Addressing People You See Every Day	A1 Honorifics: compare 선생님 / 언니 / 아저씨 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-ADR-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-ADR-001</a>
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>
-(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.