



Korean Ladder Study Note

사모님 / 댁 / 어르신

Respectfully Naming Someone's Spouse and Home

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Honorifics Titles & Address	사모님 / 댁 / 어르신 Respectfully Naming Someone's Spouse and Home

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5AYHzvIl4c>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. My boss invited me over, and I almost said 'your wife' and 'your house' like English. Is that too plain in Korean?

좋은 질문이에요. Korean doesn't just translate 'wife' and 'house' — it often picks a more respectful noun for someone's spouse, home, or age.

Exactly. Today's three words are 사모님, 댁, and 어르신. Together, they keep respect smooth in Korean.

So the pattern is simple. When the person is above you, or older, Korean often upgrades the noun itself — not only the verb ending.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	오늘 팀장님 댁에 가나요? —	Are we going to the team leader's house today?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네. 사모님께 인사드려야 해요. —	Yes. We should pay our respects to his wife.
Hana	어르신도 계신다고 들었어요. —	I heard an elder is there too.
Junho	그럼 더 조심해서 인사드려요. —	Then let's greet even more carefully.
Hana	오늘 팀장님 댁에 가나요? —	Are we going to the team leader's house today?
Junho	네. 사모님께 인사드려야 해요. —	Yes. We should pay our respects to his wife.
Hana	어르신도 계신다고 들었어요. —	I heard an elder is there too.
Junho	그럼 더 조심해서 인사드려요. —	Then let's greet even more carefully.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
사모님 · 댁 · 어르신 sa-mo-nim · daek · eo-reu-sin	respectful nouns for a superior's wife, someone's home, and elders	So the pattern is simple. When the person is above you, or older, Korean often upgrades the noun itself — not only the verb ending.
사모님 sa-mo-nim	honorific for a superior's wife	First word: 사모님. This is the respectful way to talk about a superior's wife — your boss's wife, your teacher's wife, that circle.
사모님께 인사드려요 sa-mo-nim-kke in-sa-deu-ryeo-yo	I pay my respects to 사모님 / I'll greet 사모님	Listen to a natural line. 사모님께 인사드려요.
사모님 + 인사드리다 sa-mo-nim + in-sa-deu-ri-da	respectful person + respectful greeting verb	Got it. So 사모님 is the respectful noun, and 인사드려요 carries the respectful greeting. Not just 'hi, Mrs. whoever.'
댁 daek	honorific for someone else's home	Second word: 댁. This is the honorific noun for someone else's home.
어르신 eo-reu-sin	respectful term for an elder	Third word: 어르신. This is a safe, respectful way to refer to an older person when you do not need a family title.
어르신, 여기 앉으세요 eo-reu-sin, yeo-gi an-jeu-se-yo	Sir/Ma'am — please sit here	You might say 어르신, 여기 앉으세요. Soft, careful, and clear.



Word	Meaning	Example
흔한 실수 heun-han sil-su	common mistakes	Now the catch — the places English speakers usually slip.



Grammar / Structure Notes

사모님 · 댁 · 어르신

사모님 · 댁 · 어르신 — respectful nouns for a superior's wife, someone's home, and elders

Upgrade the noun, not only the ending

사모님

사모님 — honorific for a superior's wife

Boss · teacher · that circle

사모님께 인사드려요

사모님 + 께 + 인사드려요 — I pay my respects to 사모님 / I'll greet 사모님

Listen to a natural line. 사모님께 인사드려요.

사모님께 인사드려요

사모님 + 께 + 인사드려요 — pay respects / give greetings — more respectful than a casual hi

Notice the verb too. 인사드려요 is not a flat 'I say hi.' In English, that means 'I pay my respects to 사모님' / 'I'll greet 사모님.'

사모님 + 인사드리다

사모님 + 인사드리다 — respectful person + respectful greeting verb

Noun and verb both carry respect

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
사모님께 인사드려요	sa-mo-nim-kke in-sa-deu-ryeo-yo
댁이 어디세요?	daek-i eo-di-se-yo?
어르신, 여기 앉으세요	eo-reu-sin, yeo-gi an-jeu-se-yo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 사모님 / 댁 / 어르신 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
그쪽 / 본인 / 당신 The 'You' Words That Can Backfire	B1 Honorifics: compare 그쪽 / 본인 / 당신 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-002
저기요 / 여기요 / 여보세요 Getting Someone's Attention Politely	B1 Honorifics: compare 저기요 / 여기요 / 여보세요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-001
귀하 / 귀사 / 본인 Formal Written Address in Letters	C1 Honorifics: compare 귀하 / 귀사 / 본인 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-003
님 / 씨 Korean Titles and Address	A2 Honorifics: compare 님 / 씨 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-ADR-001

My Notes

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