



Korean Ladder Study Note

이분 / 그분 / 저분

The Honorific Way to Say 'This/That Person'

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Honorifics Titles & Address	이분 / 그분 / 저분 The Honorific Way to Say 'This/That Person'

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-004>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgW3KcNJ1ww>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Here's my real problem. I know 이 사람 means this person. But in Korean, sometimes that sounds too direct, right? Like pointing at someone with words.

맞아요. 이 사람, 그 사람, 저 사람은 문법적으로 맞지만,윗사람이나 손님을 말할 때는 딱딱하거나 덜 공손하게 들릴 수 있어요.

오늘의 핵심은 사람 대신 분을 쓰는 거예요. 이분, 그분, 저분. In English, think this person respectfully, that person respectfully, and that person over there respectfully.

So not 이 사람 if I'm introducing my professor or someone important. I should say 이분.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이분이 새로 오신 교수님이세요. —	This is the new professor, respectfully.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아, 그분이 서울에서 오셨어요? —	Oh, is that person from Seoul? / Oh, did they come from Seoul?
Hana	네. 그리고 저분이 학과장님이세요. —	Yes. And that person over there is the department chair, respectfully.
Junho	그럼 저분께 먼저 인사드릴게요. —	Then I'll greet that person over there first, respectfully.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
이분 / 그분 / 저분 ibun / geubun / jeobun	this person / that person / that person over there, respectfully	오늘의 핵심은 사람 대신 분을 쓰는 거예요. 이분, 그분, 저분. In English, think this person respectfully, that person respectfully, and that person over there respectfully.
이 사람 → 이분 i saram → ibun	this person → this person, respectfully	So not 이 사람 if I'm introducing my professor or someone important. I should say 이분.
이분이 선생님이세요 ibun seonsaengnimiseyo	This person is a teacher, respectfully.	좋아요. 그리고 이분만 바꾸면 끝이 아니예요. 뒤에 오는 말도 높임 표현으로 맞춰야 자연스러워요.
이분 ibun	this person, respectfully	먼저 거리감을 볼게요. 이분은 나에게 가까운 사람, or the person I am presenting right here.
그분 geubun	that person, respectfully	그분은 앞에서 말한 사람, 또는 듣는 사람 쪽에 가까운 사람을 공손하게 가리킬 때 써요. In English, that person respectfully.
저분 jeobun	that person over there, respectfully	네. 저분은 말하는 사람과 듣는 사람 모두에게서 떨어져 있는 사람, 즉 저쪽에 있는 사람을 공손하게 가리킬 때 써요.
이분이 김민수 선생님이세요 ibun Gim Minsu seonsaengnimiseyo	This is Teacher Kim Minsu, respectfully.	예문으로 들어볼게요. 이분이 김민수 선생님이세요. This is Mr. or Teacher Kim Minsu, respectfully.
그분은 지금 회의 중이세요 geubuneun jigeum hoeui jungiseyo	That person is in a meeting, respectfully.	다음은 그분은 지금 회의 중이세요. That person is in a meeting, respectfully.



Grammar / Structure Notes

이분 / 그분 / 저분

이분 / 그분 / 저분 — this person / that person / that person over there, respectfully

분 is the respectful counterpart of 사람 when referring to someone.

이 사람 → 이분

이 사람 → 이분 — this person → this person, respectfully

Use 이분 when the person is near you or being introduced.

이분이 선생님이세요

이분이 선생님이세요 — This person is a teacher, respectfully.

분 pairs naturally with honorific endings like -세요 / -이세요.

이분

이 + 분 — this person, respectfully

먼저 거리감을 볼게요. 이분은 나에게 가까운 사람, or the person I am presenting right here.

그분

그 + 분 — that person, respectfully

그분은 앞에서 말한 사람, 또는 듣는 사람 쪽에 가까운 사람을 공손하게 가리킬 때 써요. In English, that person respectfully.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
이분이세요	ibuniseyo
이분이 선생님이세요	ibuni seonsaengnimiseyo
이분이 선생님이예요	ibuni seonsaengnimieyo
그분이세요	geubuniseyo
저분이 원장님이세요	jeobuni wonjangnimiseyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 이분 / 그분 / 저분 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
사모님 / 댁 / 어른신 Respectfully Naming Someone's Spouse and Home	B1 Honorifics: compare 사모님 / 댁 / 어른신 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-003
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

My Notes

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