



Korean Ladder Study Note

부탁드립니다 / 알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다

Humble Ways to Ask a Favor

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Honorifics Humble Forms	부탁드립니다 / 알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다 Humble Ways to Ask a Favor

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWelyDZc8po>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real confession. I emailed a Korean professor and just wrote 알려 주세요. It felt polite to me. Was it? It's not wrong. 알려 주세요 is polite. But to a professor, it can feel a little... direct. Like a small command. 주세요 means 'give me' — a request that points at the other person. For a boss, a professor, a customer service email, we lower ourselves instead.

So there's a whole gentler gear above 주세요. That's today's rung, right?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	혹시 회의 시간을 알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다. —	If you could let me know the meeting time, I'd be grateful.
Hana	네, 확인하고 바로 알려 드리겠습니다. —	Yes, I'll check and let you know right away.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	감사합니다. 그럼 부탁드립니다. —	Thank you. Then I leave it to you.
Hana	별말씀을요. 걱정하지 마세요. —	Not at all. Don't worry.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
드리다 deurida	to give (humble) — the polite version of 주다	네. Three tools. 드리다, 주시면, and 겠습니다. Let's meet the first one. 드리다 is the humble form of 주다 — 'to give.'
부탁드리다 butak-deurida	to make a humble request	So 부탁하다 is 'to ask a favor.' The humble version is 부탁드리다 — literally 'I humbly offer my request to you.'
부탁드립니다 butak-deurimnida	I humbly ask this favor of you.	In an email, you close with 부탁드립니다. It means 'I sincerely ask this of you.' Warm, respectful, professional.
부탁해요 → 부탁드립니다 butakhaeyo → butak-deurimnida	casual-polite → humble-formal	So instead of 부탁해요, which is casual-polite, I upgrade to 부탁드립니다 for anyone above me.
-아/어 주시면 -a/eo jusimyeon	if you would kindly do it for me	Tool two. Take any 주세요 request and bend it: 아/어 주시면. This means 'if you would do it for me.' You turn a command into a soft condition.
알려 주시면 allyeo jusimyeon	if you would kindly let me know	Listen to the shift. 알려 주세요 — 'tell me.' 알려 주시면 — 'if you would tell me...' It leaves room. It's not a demand anymore.
-겠습니다 -getseumnida	I would / I shall (softening, modest)	That's tool three. 감사하겠습니다 — 'I would be grateful.' The 겠 makes it gentle and hypothetical, not blunt.
알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다 —	The email-safe, boss-safe, professor-safe request	Oh, that's smooth. It's basically 'It would mean a lot if you'd let me know.' Nobody could take that as bossy.



Grammar / Structure Notes

드리다

드리다 — to give (humble) — the polite version of 주다

You give upward, so you lower your own action.

부탁드리다

부탁드리다 — to make a humble request

부탁하다 → 부탁드리다: swap 하다 for 드리다

부탁드립니다

부탁 + 드립 + 니다 — I humbly ask this favor of you.

In an email, you close with 부탁드립니다. It means 'I sincerely ask this of you.' Warm, respectful, professional.

부탁해요 → 부탁드립니다

부탁해요 → 부탁드립니다 — casual-polite → humble-formal

Same meaning, different height.

-아/어 주시면

-아/어 주시면 — if you would kindly do it for me

주시면 = the honorific 주시 + 면 'if'

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
부탁드립니다	butak-deurimnida
부탁드립니다	butak-deurimnida
알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다	allyeo jusimyeon gamsahagetseumnida
알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다	allyeo jusimyeon gamsahagetseumnida
알려	allyeo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 부탁드립니다 / 알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다 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
도와드릴게요 / 여쭙봐도 될까요 나를 낮추는 기본 표현	A2 Honorifics: compare 도와드릴게요 / 여쭙봐도 될까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-HUM-002
드리다 / 뵙다 / 여쭙보다 Humble Forms That Show Respect	B2 Honorifics: compare 드리다 / 뵙다 / 여쭙보다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-HUM-001
모시다 / 올리다 / 말씀 올리다 Elevated Humble Vocabulary	C1 Honorifics: compare 모시다 / 올리다 / 말씀 올리다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-HUM-001
저 / 제 / 저희 The Humble 'I' and 'We'	A2 Honorifics: compare 저 / 제 / 저희 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-HUM-001

My Notes

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