



Korean Ladder Study Note

계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지

Special Honorific Words

Level	Topic	Focus
B1 · Intermediate TOPIK 3	Honorifics Subject Honorifics	계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 Special Honorific Words

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DkryEb-Pa8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DkryEb-Pa8>

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Core Idea

Okay, real question. I learned that to be polite you just add -시- to the verb. So why does my textbook suddenly use a totally different word for 'eat'?

Right, like — I thought 먹다 plus -시- gives 먹으시다, and we're done. Where does 드시다 come from?

좋은 질문이에요. For most verbs, yes, you just add -(으)시-. But a few special words have their own honorific form. We call them 특수 어휘 — special vocabulary.

Today we focus on five. 계시다, 드시다, 주무시다, 연세, 진지. Three verbs and two nouns.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	할머니께서 지금 진지 드세요? —	Is Grandmother eating her meal now?
Hana	아니요, 지금 주무세요. —	No, she's sleeping right now.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	그럼 이따가 식사 드시겠네요. —	Then she'll eat a little later.
Hana	네, 방에 계세요. —	Yes, she's in her room.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
특수 어휘 teuksu eohwi	special honorific words	좋은 질문이에요. For most verbs, yes, you just add -(으)시-. But a few special words have their own honorific form. We call them 특수 어휘 — special vocabulary.
계시다 · 드시다 · 주무시다 · 연세 · 진지 —	the five special honorific words	Today we focus on five. 계시다, 드시다, 주무시다, 연세, 진지. Three verbs and two nouns.
께서 + 계시다 kkeseo + gyesida	honorific subject marker + honorific 'to be'	Notice we also use께서 instead of 이/가 for the subject. The honorific particle and the honorific verb travel together.
드시다 → 드시 + 어요 → 드세요 deusida → deuseyo	honorific verb, polite present tense	맞아요. 드시다 already contains the respect. To make it the polite present, we say 드세요 — that's 드시 plus 어요, smoothed together.
respect (in the word) + politeness (-세요) —	two layers stacking	Okay so let me reason it out. The respect is built into the word itself, then -세요 makes it polite present. Two layers.
밥 → 진지 bap → jinji	meal (very respectful)	And 밥, meal or cooked rice, becomes 진지. But a small honesty here — 진지 is the most formal, old-fashioned of the five. Many people today say 식사 or simply 밥 드세요 instead.
진지 = the formal outlier —	save it for very deferential contexts	Good to know — so 진지 is the fancy one I'll hear more from very deferential or older speech, not everyday chatter.
진지 · 주무세요 · 드시겠네요 · 계세요 —	four honorifics in one short chat	Did you catch all four? 진지, 주무세요, 식사 드시겠네요, 계세요 — respect woven through every line.



Grammar / Structure Notes

특수 어휘

특수 어휘 — special honorific words

a few verbs/nouns swap entirely instead of just adding -시-

계시다 · 드시다 · 주무시다 · 연세 · 진지

계시다 · 드시다 · 주무시다 · 연세 · 진지 — the five special honorific words

계시다·드시다·주무시다 are everyday family words; 진지 is the most formal and old-fashioned of the five — many modern speakers prefer 식사하세요 or 밥 드세요 in casual family talk.

할머니께서 집에 계세요.

할머니께서 + 집에 + 계세요 — Grandmother is at home.

First, the everyday three. 있다, to be or to stay, becomes 계시다 for a person you respect.

께서 + 계시다

께서 + 계시다 — honorific subject marker + honorific 'to be'

께서 replaces 이/가 when the subject is respected

아버지께서 과일을 드세요.

아버지께서 + 과일을 + 드세요 — Father is eating fruit.

Next, 먹다 and 마시다, to eat and to drink, both become 드시다. One word covers both.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
할머니께서 집에 계세요	halmeoni-kkeseo jibe gyeseyo
집에 계세요	jibe
아버지께서 과일을 드세요	abeoji-kkeseo gwail-eul deuseyo
과일을 드세요	gwa-i-reul
연세가 어떻게 되세요?	yeonse-ga eotteoke doeseyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 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
-(-)시- Adding the Honorific Infix to Any Verb	B1 Honorifics: compare -(-)시- with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-002
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
압존법 When to Lower Honorifics in Front of a Higher Superior	C1 Honorifics: compare 압존법 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-SUB-001
하십시오체 The Formal Speech Level for Announcements	B1 Honorifics: compare 하십시오체 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-LVL-001

My Notes

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