



Korean Ladder Study Note

당사 / 폐사 / 소생

Humbling Your Own Company in Business Korean

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Honorifics Humble Forms	당사 / 폐사 / 소생 Humbling Your Own Company in Business Korean

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-HUM-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnHMdWXq300>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real mistake. I emailed a partner and wrote 귀사는 검토하겠습니다. I meant our company would review it. Why did my coworker wince?

아, 그거예요. 귀사는 상대 회사예요. You used the honorific for their company about your own company. So it sounded like you were praising yourself.

Today's pattern is simple. In formal business Korean, you lower your own side and raise the other side. Nouns do a lot of that work.

우리 회사 쪽에는 당사, 폐사, 저희 회사를 써요. In English, those mark our company as the humble side.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	귀사 견적서 잘 받았습니다. —	We received your company's quote well.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 감사합니다. 일정은 어떠십니까? —	Yes, thank you. How is the schedule?
Hana	당사에서는 다음 주까지 회신드리겠습니다. —	Our company will reply by next week.
Junho	알겠습니다. 귀하께 바로 공유하겠습니다. —	Understood. I'll share it with you right away.
Hana	귀사 견적서 잘 받았습니다. —	We received your company's quote well.
Junho	네, 감사합니다. 일정은 어떠십니까? —	Yes, thank you. How is the schedule?
Hana	당사에서는 다음 주까지 회신드리겠습니다. —	Our company will reply by next week.
Junho	알겠습니다. 귀하께 바로 공유하겠습니다. —	Understood. I'll share it with you right away.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
자기 쪽 ↓ / 상대 쪽 ↑ jagi jjok / sangdae jjok	Own side down / other side up	Today's pattern is simple. In formal business Korean, you lower your own side and raise the other side. Nouns do a lot of that work.
당사 · 폐사 · 저희 회사 dangsa · pyesa · jeohui hoesa	our company (formal / humble / spoken-formal)	우리 회사 쪽에는 당사, 폐사, 저희 회사를 써요. In English, those mark our company as the humble side.
귀사 ↔ 당사 / 폐사 gwsa ↔ dangsa / pyesa	your company ↔ our company	And their company gets 귀사. So if I say 귀사 about us, I've flipped the ladder.
소생 · 본인 sosaeng · bonin	humble I · I / the undersigned	소생이 직접 담당하겠습니다. 요즘 이메일에서는 본인이 더 흔해요. In English, 본인 is the humble I on forms and careful emails.
문서 ≠ 회의 말투 munseo ≠ hoeui maltu	Writing style ≠ meeting talk	So 당사 is normal formal for our company, 폐사 is extra humble, and 소생 or 본인 lowers the writer. Got it — but when do I say these out loud?
회의: 저희 회사 / 문서: 당사 · 폐사 hoeui: jeohui hoesa / munseo: dangsa · pyesa	Meeting: 저희 회사 / Documents: 당사 · 폐사	Good question. In a spoken meeting, 저희 회사 is usually safer and more natural. 당사 can appear, but 폐사 and 소생 sound like paper Korean if you force them into casual talk.



Word	Meaning	Example
귀사 + 여쭙다 / 당사 + 드리다 gwisa + yeojjeupda / dangsa + deurida	raise them when asking / humble us when giving	Hear the pair: 귀사 with 여쭙다. You raise their side and lower your asking. That is the business choreography.
폐사 사정으로... pyesa sajeongeuro...	Due to our company's circumstances...	Yes. That sentence apologizes by lowering our organization first. Very business Korean.



Grammar / Structure Notes

자기 쪽 ↓ / 상대 쪽 ↑

자기 쪽 ↓ / 상대 쪽 ↑ — Own side down / other side up

Core business honorific move

당사 · 폐사 · 저희 회사

당사 · 폐사 · 저희 회사 — our company (formal / humble / spoken-formal)

All point to our side

귀사 ↔ 당사 / 폐사

귀사 ↔ 당사 / 폐사 — your company ↔ our company

Never swap these sides

당사는 검토 후 회신드리겠습니다.

당사 + 는 + 검토 + 후 + 회신드리겠습니다 + . — Our company will review it and reply.

First, 당사. In contracts and formal emails, 당사 means our company — the party on our side.

당사는 검토 후 회신드리겠습니다.

당사 + 는 + 검토 + 후 + 회신드리겠습니다 + . — Our company will review it and reply.

당사는 검토 후 회신드리겠습니다. 여기서 당사는 우리 회사예요. And 회신드리겠습니다 pairs it with a humble verb — we give the reply down, politely.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
당사는 확인하겠습니다.	dangsa-neun hwaginhagetseumnida.
당사에서는 회신드리겠습니다.	dangsa-eseoneun hoesin-deurigetseumnida.
폐사 사정으로 늦었습니다.	pyesa sajeongeuro neujeotseumnida.

Self-Check

- 1 Say 당사 / 폐사 / 소생 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
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
실례합니다 / 죄송하지만 / 다름이 아니라 Softening a Request Humbly	B2 Honorifics: compare 실례합니다 / 죄송하지만 / 다름이 아니라 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-HUM-002
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
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

My Notes

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