



Korean Ladder Study Note

하셨습니다 / 하실 거예요

Honorifics in the Past and Future

Level	Topic	Focus
B2 · Upper-Intermediate TOPIK 4	Honorifics Subject Honorifics	하셨습니다 / 하실 거예요 Honorifics in the Past and Future

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-SUB-001>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljPhQ1OefMQ>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real confession. I learned 하세요 for being polite to elders. But then someone asked me what my grandmother DID yesterday, and I just... froze.

Same. I can be respectful in the present tense, but the second it's past or future, my respect just falls off a cliff.

This is such a common moment. Many learners think the honorific only lives in 하세요. But respect should travel through every tense.

The key is one little piece — the subject honorific 시. We call it the particle 시. Add it, and the whole sentence becomes respectful.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	부모님께서 어제 도착하셨어요? —	Did your parents arrive yesterday?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	네, 어제 저녁에 도착했어요. —	Yes, they arrived yesterday evening.
Hana	내일은 뭐 하실 거예요? —	What will they do tomorrow?
Junho	시내를 구경하실 거예요. —	They'll look around downtown.
Hana	도착했어요 —	arrived (honorific past)
Junho	하실 거예요 —	will do (honorific future)

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
-(으)시- -(eu)si-	subject honorific infix — raises respect for the doer	The key is one little piece — the subject honorific 시. We call it the particle 시. Add it, and the whole sentence becomes respectful.
하세요 haseyo	(you/he/she respectfully) do / please do	Let me show you the base. 하다 means 'to do.' Add the honorific and the present polite ending, and you get 하세요.
시 + 어요 → 세요 si + eoyo → seyo	the honorific 시 blends into 세요 in the present	Here 세요 is really 시 plus 어요, blended together. The particle 시 is hiding inside. Remember that — it's the heart of today.
하셨어요 hasyeosseoyo	(he/she respectfully) did	Now the past. Take 시, add the past 었, and the polite 어요. 시 plus 었 becomes 션, so we get 하셨어요.
시 + 었 → 션 si + eoss → syeoss	honorific + past blend → 션	So 션 is just 시 plus 었 pressed together — 시었 → 션. The respect lives right there in that one syllable.
할머니께서 책을 읽으셨어요 halmeonikkeseo chaegeul ilgeusyeosseoyo	Grandmother read a book.	Real example. 할머니께서 책을 읽으셨어요. In English — Grandmother read a book. 읽다 'to read' plus the honorific past becomes 읽으셨어요.
께서 kkeseo	honorific subject marker (replaces 이/가)	Notice께서. With honorifics, the subject marker 이/가 often becomes께서. We call it the particle께서 — it lifts the subject too.



Word	Meaning	Example
읽 + 으 + 션어요 ilg + eu + syeosseoyo	consonant stem takes 으 before 시	Wait, let me reason this out. 읽다 ends in a consonant, 르, so we add 으 first — 읽으, then 션어요. That's why it's 읽으션어요, not 읽션어요?



Grammar / Structure Notes

-(으)시-

-(으)시- — subject honorific infix — raises respect for the doer

Goes inside the verb, before the tense ending.

하세요

하 + 세 + 요 — (you/he/she respectfully) do / please do

Let me show you the base. 하다 means 'to do.' Add the honorific and the present polite ending, and you get하세요.

시 + 어요 → 세요

시 + 어요 → 세요 — the honorific 시 blends into 세요 in the present

Present polite honorific.

하셨어요

하 + 셧 + 어요 — (he/she respectfully) did

Now the past. Take 시, add the past 였, and the polite 어요. 시 plus 였 becomes 셧, so we get 하셨어요.

시 + 었 → 셧

시 + 었 → 셧 — honorific + past blend → 셧

Past honorific core.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
도착하셨어요	dochakhasyeosseoyo
하셨어요	hasyeosseoyo
하실 거예요	hasil geoyeyo

Self-Check

- 1 Say 하셨어요 / 하실 거예요 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
-(으)시- Adding the Honorific Infix to Any Verb	B1 Honorifics: compare -(으)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
계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 Special Honorific Words	B1 Honorifics: compare 계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-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

My Notes

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