



Korean Ladder Study Note

수고하셨습니다 / 회식

Korean Workplace Norms

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Culture Business Norms	수고하셨습니다 / 회식 Korean Workplace Norms

Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-BIZ-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-BIZ-001>

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

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

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

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Core Idea

Okay, here's my real problem. When I leave the Korean office, everyone says something and I just nod and panic. What are they saying?

Same. And I've heard 수고하셨습니다 a hundred times but I genuinely don't know when to use it.

좋은 질문이에요. 수고하셨습니다 is the heartbeat of a Korean workday. It means, roughly, 'thank you for your hard work.'

이 표현은 하루를 닫는 인사예요. You say it when work ends, when a meeting finishes, or when someone completes a task.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	김 대리님, 오늘 수고하셨습니다. —	Assistant Manager Kim, thank you for your hard work today.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	부장님도 수고하셨습니다. 먼저 들어가 보겠습니다. —	You too, sir. I'll be heading out first.
Junho	네, 조심히 들어가세요. —	Yes, get home safely.
Hana	내일 뵙겠습니다. —	See you tomorrow.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
수고하셨습니다 sugo-hasyeotseumnida	Thank you for your hard work (formal)	좋은 질문이에요. 수고하셨습니다 is the heartbeat of a Korean workday. It means, roughly, 'thank you for your hard work.'
먼저 들어가 보겠습니다 meonjeo deureoga bogetseumnida	I'll be heading out first (to a senior)	그리고 한 가지 더. 뒷사람에게는, 시제와 상관없이, 그냥 '먼저 들어가 보겠습니다'라고 해요. To a senior, regardless of tense, you simply say you'll head out first.
들어가세요 deureogaseyo	Get home safely (lit. 'go in')	맞아요. It signals respect — you acknowledge that they're still here working. The one staying replies, 수고하셨습니다 or 들어가세요.
먼저 들어가 보겠습니다 — 수고하셨습니다 meonjeo deureoga bogetseumnida — sugo-hasyeotseumnida	Leaver → stayer exchange	So the leaver says 먼저 들어가 보겠습니다, and the stayer says 수고하셨습니다. It's a little call and response.
직급 jikgeup	Job rank / position level	정확해요. Now, who is 'senior'? In Korean offices, rank — 직급 — shapes every word you choose.
이름 대신 직급 ireum daesin jikgeup	Titles, not first names	직급을 이름 대신 불러요. We rarely use first names at work. We call people by their title.
김 과장님 Kim gwajang-nim	Manager Kim (respectful)	예를 들면, 김민수 과장님. You take the family name, add the title, and add 님 for respect.
사원 · 대리 · 과장 · 차장 · 부장 sawon · daeri · gwajang · chajang · bujang	Staff · Asst. Mgr · Manager · Deputy GM · GM	직급 사다리를 빠르게 볼게요. Here are common rungs, from newer to senior.



Grammar / Structure Notes

수고하셨습니다

수고하셨습니다 — Thank you for your hard work (formal)

Said to acknowledge someone's effort, especially at the end of work.

수고하셨습니다

수고하셨습니다 — A closing acknowledgment of effort

End of day, end of a meeting, after a finished task.

수고하셨습니다

수고하셨습니다 — To peers and seniors — deferential

합니다체 — the formal, respectful register for the office.

수고하셨습니다

수고 + 하 + 션 + 습니다 — You('ve) worked hard (formal, deferential)

Note the register, not just the tense: 수고하셨습니다 is 합니다체 (formal-deferential) while 수고하세요 is 해요체 (polite). They differ in BOTH formality and tense — 수고하세요 is not simply the present of 수고하셨습니다. For the office, reach for the formal-deferential 수고하셨습니다.

먼저 들어가 보겠습니다

먼저 들어가 보겠습니다 — I'll be heading out first (to a senior)

Said when you leave before someone of higher rank stays.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
수고하셨습니다	sugo-hasyeotseumnida
먼저 들어가 보겠습니다	meonjeo deureoga bogetseumnida

Self-Check

- 1 Say 수고하셨습니다 / 회식 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
눈치 / 정 / 체면 The Social Concepts Behind Korean Behavior	C1 Culture: compare 눈치 / 정 / 체면 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-ETQ-001
사극 말투 하옵니다 / 마마 / 통촉하여 주시옵소서	C1 Culture: compare 사극 말투 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-MED-001
K-드라마 단골 대사 Phrases You Always Hear in K-Dramas	A2 Culture: compare K-드라마 단골 대사 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-CULTURE-MED-001
경조사 예절 결혼식·장례식 봉투와 조의금	B2 Culture: compare 경조사 예절 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-CULTURE-ETQ-001

My Notes

Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.