



Korean Ladder Study Note

집들이 / 병문안 / 답례

Visiting and Gift-Return Etiquette

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Culture Etiquette	집들이 / 병문안 / 답례 Visiting and Gift-Return Etiquette

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-ETQ-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WEeEFh7Xow>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, I have a confession. The first time I was invited to a friend's apartment in Seoul, I brought a bouquet of white flowers, while every other guest walked in carrying giant packs of toilet paper!

그럴 수 있어요. In Korea, 집들이 means a housewarming party, and guests traditionally bring 두루마리 휴지, rolls of toilet paper, or 세제, laundry detergent.

휴지가 술술 풀리듯 모든 일이 잘 풀리라는 뜻이에요. Just as a roll of paper unwinds smoothly and detergent bubbles up richly, those gifts wish the host smooth luck and growing prosperity.

오늘은 세 가지 상황을 함께 볼 거예요: 집들이, 병문안, 그리고 답례예요. Today we are connecting three essential social moments: housewarmings, hospital visits, and gift-return etiquette.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	하나 씨, 지난번에 바쁘신데도 병문안 와 주셔서 정말 감사했습니다. —	Hana, thank you so much for visiting me in the hospital last time despite being busy.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	별말씀을요, 당연한 일을 했을 뿐인데요. 몸은 좀 어떠세요? —	Don't mention it, I only did what was natural. How are you feeling?
Junho	덕분에 많이 좋아졌습니다. 변변치 않지만 감사한 마음을 담아 작은 답례품을 준비했어요. —	Thanks to you, I've gotten much better. It's nothing special, but I prepared a small return gift with a grateful heart.
Hana	이렇게까지 신경 안 쓰셔도 되는데, 마음만으로도 충분해요. 잘 쓰겠습니다. —	You really didn't have to go to this trouble, the thought alone is plenty. I will use it well.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
집들이 · 병문안 · 답례 jipdeuri · byeongmunan · dapnye	housewarming · hospital visit · return gift or favor	오늘은 세 가지 상황을 함께 볼 거예요: 집들이, 병문안, 그리고 답례예요. Today we are connecting three essential social moments: housewarmings, hospital visits, and gift-return etiquette.
겸손과 답례의 예절 gyeomsongwa dapnyeui yejeol	The etiquette of humility and reciprocity	한국 예절의 핵심은 겸손과 주고받는 정이에요. Two values drive all three situations: humility when you give or host, and reciprocity so that kindness always circles back.
부담을 줄여 주는 겸손한 표현 budameul juryeo juneun gyeomsonhan pyohyeon	Humble expressions that ease the receiver's burden	맞아요. In Korean, you lower your own preparation so the receiver feels zero pressure. Even when you spent hours choosing a gift or cooking a feast, your words stay modest.
변변치 않다 → 변변치 않다 byeonbyeonhaji anta → byeonbyeonchi anta	to be modest / nothing fancy (contracted form)	여기서 변변치 않다는 원래 변변치 않다는 줄임말이에요. It softens the moment so the host never feels obligated to match the price of your gift.
변변치 않지만 byeonbyeonchi anchiman	Visiting and Gift-Return Etiquette	발음도 자연스럽게 연습해 볼까요. 변변치 않지만에서 않지만의 니은과 히읃이 뒤에 오는 지읊과 만나 거센소리 치읊이 돼요. So it sounds like 변변치 안치만.
쾌차하시기를 바랍니다 kwaechahasigireul baramnida	Visiting and Gift-Return Etiquette	쾌차하시기를 바랍니다에서는 바랍니다의 받침 비읍이 뒤의 니은 앞에서 미음 소리로 바뀝니다. Read it smoothly as 쾌차하시기를 바랍니다.



Word	Meaning	Example
퇴원 후 직장에서 건네는 답례 인사 Toewon hu jikjang-eseo geonneneun dapnye insa	Giving a return gift at work after being discharged from the hospital	Now let's hear how these pieces come together in real life. Imagine Junho just returned to the office after recovering from hospital treatment, and he stops by Hana's desk with a small return gift.
집들이 선물 전달하기 Jipdeuri seonmul jeondalhagi	Handing over a housewarming gift	Let's practice building these lines for ourselves. Suppose I am arriving at a colleague's housewarming party holding a nice bottle of hand wash and detergent. How do I hand it over with both the humble opener and the wish for good luck?



Grammar / Structure Notes

모든 일이 술술 풀리기를 바랍니다.

모든 일이 술술 풀리기를 바랍니다. — I hope everything goes smoothly for you.

술술 풀리다 = to unwind smoothly without tangles (the cultural reason behind gifting toilet paper at a 집들이).

집들이 · 병문안 · 답례

집들이 · 병문안 · 답례 — housewarming · hospital visit · return gift or favor

Three pillars of Korean visiting and reciprocity etiquette.

겸손과 답례의 예절

겸손과 답례의 예절 — The etiquette of humility and reciprocity

Downplay your own gift or table to elevate the other person.

겸손과 답례의 예절

겸손과 답례의 예절 — The etiquette of humility and reciprocity

In Korean, praising your own gift or feast can sound boastful; humble framing shows warmth.

부담을 줄여 주는 겸손한 표현

부담을 줄여 주는 겸손한 표현 — Humble expressions that ease the receiver's burden

Lowering what you offer is how Korean etiquette elevates the guest or recipient.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
변변치 안치만	byeonbyeonchi anchiman
꽤차하시기를 바랍니다	kwaechahasigireul baramnida

Self-Check

- 1 Say 집들이 / 병문안 / 답례 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
대중교통 예절 Priority Seats, Phone Calls, and Quiet Cars	C1 Culture: compare 대중교통 예절 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-CULTURE-ETQ-002
ATM 줄과 비밀번호 가리기 Korean Banking Privacy Etiquette	A1 Culture: compare ATM 줄과 비밀번호 가리기 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-040
가방·충전기는 자리를 막지 않게 카페·스터디 공간 짐 예절	A1 Culture: compare 가방·충전기는 자리를 막지 않게 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-CULTURE-ETQ-013

My Notes

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