



Korean Ladder Study Note

아드님 / 따님 / 자제분

Referring to Someone Else's Family Politely

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Honorifics Titles & Address	아드님 / 따님 / 자제분 Referring to Someone Else's Family Politely

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-002>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnlK6tkoQGE>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

My manager mentioned his son, and I wanted to ask a friendly follow-up. But saying 아들 felt too direct. Do I just say 아들은 잘 지내요?

That hesitation is good. 아들 and 딸 are plain words. When the son or daughter belongs to someone you respect, Korean uses honorific nouns.

오늘의 핵심은 아드님, 따님, 자제분이에요. In English: 아드님 is someone's son, 따님 is someone's daughter, and 자제분 is someone's child or children, politely.

먼저 아드님. 아들에 높임의 님이 붙은 말이에요. In English, it politely means another person's son.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	부장님, 따님께서 대학에 합격하셨다면서요? 축하드립니다. —	Director, I heard your daughter was accepted to university. Congratulations.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	감사합니다. 과장님 자제분들도 잘 지내시죠? —	Thank you. Your children are doing well too, right?
Hana	네, 덕분에 잘 지냅니다. 부모님께서도 안녕하시죠? —	Yes, thanks to you. And your parents are well, right?
Junho	따님께서 대학에 합격하셨다면서요? —	I heard your daughter was accepted to university.
Hana	자제분들도 잘 지내시죠? —	Your children are doing well too, right?

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
아드님 · 따님 · 자제분 adeunim · ttanim · jajebun	someone's son · daughter · child, honorific	오늘의 핵심은 아드님, 따님, 자제분이에요. In English: 아드님 is someone's son, 따님 is someone's daughter, and 자제분 is someone's child or children, politely.
아드님 adeunim	someone's son — honorific	먼저 아드님. 아들에 높임의 님이 붙은 말이에요. In English, it politely means another person's son.
따님 ttanim	someone's daughter — honorific	그리고 따님. 딸에 님이 붙었지만, 실제 말은 딸님이 아니라 따님이에요. In English, it means another person's daughter, politely.
자제분 jajebun	someone's child or children — honorific	그리고 자제분. 성별을 말하지 않거나 자녀 전체를 공손하게 말할 때 써요. In English, it is a polite, gender-neutral way to say someone's child or children.
제 아들 / 부장님 아드님 je adeul / bujangnim adeunim	my son / the manager's son, honorific	정확해요. The direction of respect matters. 내 아들은 아들, 상대의 아들은 아드님. My son is plain; your respected person's son is honorific.
제 딸 / 교수님 따님 je ttal / gyosunim ttanim	my daughter / the professor's daughter, honorific	따님도 같아요. 내 딸은 딸, 상대의 딸은 따님. In English, do not honor your own daughter when speaking to others.
부모님 bumonim	parents — respectful	부모님도 중요해요. 부모님 means parents with respect. It can refer politely to someone else's parents, and it is also commonly used warmly for your own parents.
춘부장 chunbujang	your honored father — very formal	격식을 아주 높이면 춘부장이라는 말도 있어요. It means your honored father, but it sounds literary or ceremonial. Recognize it more than you use it.



Grammar / Structure Notes

아드님 · 따님 · 자제분

아드님 · 따님 · 자제분 — someone's son · daughter · child, honorific

Use for another person's child, not your own

아드님

아드님 — someone's son — honorific

아들 becomes 아드님

따님

따님 — someone's daughter — honorific

Say 따님, not 딸님

자제분

자제분 — someone's child or children — honorific

Useful when gender is unknown or not important

아드님 · 따님 · 자제분

아드님 · + 따님 · + 자제분 — son · daughter · child, all honorific

So 아드님 is their son, 따님 is their daughter, and 자제분 is their child or children. The key word is their, not mine.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
아드님은 요즘 어떻게 지내세요?	adeunimeun yojeum eotteoke jinaeseyo?
아드님은	adeunimeun
따님은 대학생이세요?	ttanimeun daehaksaengiseyo?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 아드님 / 따님 / 자제분 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
이모 / 사장님 / 기사님 Kinship & Job Titles for Strangers	C1 Honorifics: compare 이모 / 사장님 / 기사님 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-001
그쪽 / 본인 / 당신 The 'You' Words That Can Backfire	B1 Honorifics: compare 그쪽 / 본인 / 당신 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-ADR-002
님 / 씨 Korean Titles and Address	A2 Honorifics: compare 님 / 씨 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-ADR-001
부장님 / 과장님 / 대리님 Addressing Coworkers by Rank	B2 Honorifics: compare 부장님 / 과장님 / 대리님 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-ADR-001

My Notes

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