



Korean Ladder Study Note

모시다 / 올리다 / 말씀 올리다

Elevated Humble Vocabulary

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Honorifics Humble Forms	모시다 / 올리다 / 말씀 올리다 Elevated Humble Vocabulary

Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceh3dc4BOsE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceh3dc4BOsE>

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Core Idea

Okay, real question. My Korean friend's grandmother is visiting and I want to say 'I'll bring her to the table.' Do I just say 데리고 가다?

I have the same problem the other way. I tried to give my teacher a gift and panicked — give? hand over? present? I had no idea which verb was polite enough.

좋아요. 오늘의 핵심은 세 개예요. 모시다, 올리다, 그리고 말씀 올리다. These are humble verbs you use to lift the other person up.

이건 단순한 존댓말이 아니예요. 어휘 자체가 바뀌어요. The whole word changes — not just the ending. We use these for elders, teachers, and formal or ceremonial moments.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	교수님을 무사히 모시고 왔어요. —	I escorted the professor here safely.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	잘하셨습니다. 안쪽 자리로 모실까요? —	Well done. Shall we seat him inside?
Hana	네, 제가 먼저 인사를 올릴게요. —	Yes, I'll offer my greeting first.
Junho	그럼 손님께 다과도 좀 내드리세요. —	Then please serve the guest some refreshments too.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
모시다 · 올리다 · 말씀 올리다 mosida · ollida · malsseum ollida	escort (respectfully) · offer up · humbly say	좋아요. 오늘의 핵심은 세 개예요. 모시다, 올리다, 그리고 말씀 올리다. These are humble verbs you use to lift the other person up.
어휘가 통째로 바뀐다 eohwiga tongjjae-ro bakkwinda	The vocabulary itself changes	이건 단순한 존댓말이 아니예요. 어휘 자체가 바뀌어요. The whole word changes — not just the ending. We use these for elders, teachers, and formal or ceremonial moments.
할머니를 모시고 병원에 갔어요 halmeoni-reul mosigo byeongwon-e gaseoyo	I took (escorted) my grandmother to the hospital.	먼저 모시다. 사람을 정중하게 모시고 가다. 예를 들어, 할머니를 모시고 병원에 갔어요. It means to escort or accompany someone you respect.
데리다 ↔ 모시다 derida ↔ mosida	bring (casual) vs. escort (respectful)	여기가 핵심이에요. 데리다는 아랫사람이나 아이에게 써요. 모시다는 윗사람에게 써요. 데리다 is for kids or peers; 모시다 lifts up someone above you.
할아버지께 세배를 올렸어요 harabeoji-kke sebae-reul ollyeosseoyo	I made (offered) a New Year's bow to my grandfather.	다음은 올리다. 올리다는 '드리다'보다 더 격식 있고 의례적인 표현이에요. 예를 들어, 새해에 할아버지께 세배를 올렸어요. It's for ceremonial offerings — a deep bow, a greeting, ancestral rites.
인사를 / 절을 / 차례를 올리다 insa-reul / jeol-eul / charye-reul ollida	to offer a greeting / a bow / ancestral rites	올리다는 의식·격식 표현에 한정돼요. 인사를 올리다, 절을 올리다, 차례를 올리다. 평범한 물건에는 쓰지 않아요. Don't use 올리다 for everyday gifts — only for ceremonial things.
한 말씀 올리겠습니다 han malsseum olligesseumnida	I would like to (humbly) say a few words.	그리고 말씀 올리다. 말씀은 '말'의 높임말이고, 올리다와 합치면 아주 공손하게 '말씀드리다'예요. 예를 들어, 한 말씀 올리겠습니다. It means to humbly say a few words, often in a formal speech.



Word	Meaning	Example
말씀 올리다 = 말씀드리다 malsseum ollida = malsseumdeurida	to humbly say / to report respectfully	말씀 올리다는 말씀드리다와 같은 뜻이지만, 더 격식 있어요. 결혼식, 장례식, 공식 행사에서 자주 들려요. You'll hear it at weddings, ceremonies, and official events.

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Grammar / Structure Notes

모시다 · 올리다 · 말씀 올리다

모시다 · 올리다 · 말씀 올리다 — escort (respectfully) · offer up · humbly say

High-register humble vocabulary.

어휘가 통째로 바뀐다

어휘가 통째로 바뀐다 — The vocabulary itself changes

Humble forms replace the plain verb entirely.

할머니를 모시고 병원에 갔어요

할머니 + 를 + 모시고 + 병원 + 에 + 갔어요 — I took (escorted) my grandmother to the hospital.

먼저 모시다. 사람을 정중하게 모시고 가다. 예를 들어, 할머니를 모시고 병원에 갔어요. It means to escort or accompany someone you respect.

데리다 ↔ 모시다

데리다 ↔ 모시다 — bring (casual) vs. escort (respectful)

Same action, different status of the person.

할아버지께 세배를 올렸어요

할아버지 + 께 + 세배 + 를 + 올렸어요 — I made (offered) a New Year's bow to my grandfather.

다음은 올리다. 올리다는 '드리다'보다 더 격식 있고 의례적인 표현이에요. 예를 들어, 새해에 할아버지께 세배를 올렸어요. It's for ceremonial offerings — a deep bow, a greeting, ancestral rites.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
모시고 가다	mosigo gada
할머니를 모시고 갈게요	halmeoni-reul mosigo galgeyo
한 말씀 올리겠습니다	han malsseum olligesseumnida

Self-Check

- 1 Say 모시다 / 올리다 / 말씀 올리다 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
저 / 제 / 저희 The Humble 'I' and 'We'	A2 Honorifics: compare 저 / 제 / 저희 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-HUM-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
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

My Notes

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