



Korean Ladder Study Note

송구스럽다 / 황송하다 / 면목 없습니다

Deep Humble Apologies

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Honorifics Humble Forms	송구스럽다 / 황송하다 / 면목 없습니다 Deep Humble Apologies

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M76YhbZg2jQ>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. I already learned 죄송합니다 for 'I'm sorry.' So why would I ever need anything more than that?

It's a great question. 죄송합니다 is polite, but sometimes you need to lower yourself much more — to a boss, a client, an elder at a ceremony.

Today we learn three elevated, self-lowering expressions: 송구스럽다, 황송하다, and 면목 없다.

먼저 송구스럽다. In English, it means 'to feel deeply sorry and unworthy' — heavier than 죄송해요.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	부장님, 이번 실수는 전적으로 제 책임입니다. 정말 송구스럽습니다. —	Director, this mistake is entirely my responsibility. I'm deeply sorry.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	그래도 끝까지 책임지려는 자세가 보기 좋네요. —	Still, it's good to see you taking full responsibility.
Junho	그렇게 말씀해 주시니 오히려 황송합니다. —	For you to say that — I feel truly unworthy of such kindness.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
송구스럽다 · 황송하다 · 면목 없다 songguseureopda · hwangsonghada · myeonmok eopda	Three ways to apologize or feel humbled — deeper than 죄송합니다	Today we learn three elevated, self-lowering expressions: 송구스럽다, 황송하다, and 면목 없다.
송구스럽다 songguseureopda	To feel deeply, humbly sorry	먼저 송구스럽다. In English, it means 'to feel deeply sorry and unworthy' — heavier than 죄송해요.
회의에 늦어서 송구스럽습니다 hoeuie neujeoseo so ngguseureopseumnida	I'm deeply sorry for being late to the meeting	회의에 늦어서 정말 송구스럽습니다. It means, 'I'm truly, deeply sorry for being late to the meeting.'
송구스럽습니다 songguseureopseumnida	Deeply, formally sorry	So 송구스럽습니다 is like 'sorry' but with your whole heart bowing. Got it.
황송하다 hwangsonghada	To feel humbled/unworthy of an honor or kindness	다음은 황송하다. This one is special. It means feeling 'unworthy' — but often of KINDNESS, not just of a mistake.
칭찬해 주시니 황송합니다 chingchanhae jusini hwangsonghamnida	I feel humbled that you praise me	칭찬해 주시니 황송합니다. It means, 'You praise me — I feel unworthy of such an honor.'
면목 없다 myeonmok eopda	To be too ashamed to show one's face	세 번째, 면목 없다. Literally 'to have no face' — meaning you're too ashamed to face the person.
면목(面目) myeonmok	One's 'face' — social standing, honor	면목이라는 단어는 '체면', your social face. So 면목 없다 means your face is gone — you failed someone who trusted you.



Grammar / Structure Notes

송구스럽다 · 황송하다 · 면목 없다

송구스럽다 · 황송하다 · 면목 없다 — Three ways to apologize or feel humbled — deeper than 죄송합니다

Humble register for superiors and formal settings

송구스럽다

송구스럽다 — To feel deeply, humbly sorry

Formal apology to a superior

회의에 늦어서 송구스럽습니다

회의 + 에 + 늦어서 + 송구스럽습니다 — I'm deeply sorry for being late to the meeting

회의에 늦어서 정말 송구스럽습니다. It means, 'I'm truly, deeply sorry for being late to the meeting.'

송구스럽습니다

송구스럽습니다 — Deeply, formally sorry

Feel it, don't just say it

황송하다

황송하다 — To feel humbled/unworthy of an honor or kindness

Used for gratitude too, not only apology

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
송구스럽습니다	songguseureopseumnida
황송합니다	hwangsonghamnida
면목 없습니다	myeonmok eopseumnida

Self-Check

- 1 Say 송구스럽다 / 황송하다 / 면목 없습니다 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
모시다 / 올리다 / 말씀 올리다 Elevated Humble Vocabulary	C1 Honorifics: compare 모시다 / 올리다 / 말씀 올리다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-HUM-001
도와드릴게요 / 여쭙봐도 될까요 나를 낮추는 기본 표현	A2 Honorifics: compare 도와드릴게요 / 여쭙봐도 될까요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-HUM-002
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
부탁드립니다 / 알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다 Humble Ways to Ask a Favor	B1 Honorifics: compare 부탁드립니다 / 알려 주시면 감사하겠습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-HUM-001

My Notes

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