



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 하계체

## The Familiar Speech Level Elders Use

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Honorifics Speech Levels	하계체 The Familiar Speech Level Elders Use

### Study Links

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

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

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1nV2ElmhBg)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1nV2ElmhBg>

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

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### Core Idea

Okay, real talk — I learned 해요, I learned 한다. Then my friend's grandfather opened the door and said 어서 오게, and I just froze.

그게 바로 하계체예요. 진짜 말 단계예요 — 어르신들이 쓰고, 소설에서도 자주 나와요.

So it's like... polite, but not super formal? Where does it even sit on the ladder?

하계체는 점잖지만 친근해요. In English, it's dignified but warm — a notch above blunt 해라체, a notch below polite 해요체.

### Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	어서 오게. 자네, 잘 지냈는가? —	Come in. Have you been well?
Hana	덕분에 잘 지냈네. 자네는 별일 없는가? —	I've been well, thanks to you. Anything new with you?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	여기 앉게. 우리 차 한잔하세. —	Sit here. Let's have a cup of tea.
Hana	좋네. 참 오랜만일세. —	Sounds good. It really has been a while.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
점잖지만 친근한 말투 jeomjanchiman chingeunhan maltu	Dignified but friendly speech	하계체는 점잖지만 친근해요. In English, it's dignified but warm — a notch above blunt 해라체, a notch below polite 해요체.
장인어른 · 교수님 · 소설 속에서 —	From fathers-in-law, professors, and in novels	왜 배워야 할까요. 드라마 속 할아버지, 장인어른, 그리고 소설에서 자주 나와요. You'll hear it from grandfathers and fathers-in-law, and read it in books.
-네 / -는가 / -게 / -세 —	statement / question / command / let's	끝맺음이 네 가지예요. 서술은 -네, 의문은 -는가, 명령은 -게, 청유는 -세. Statement, question, command, and 'let's' — four endings.
다정한 윗사람의 말투 —	the speech of a kind elder	Wait — so the warmth isn't bossy. It's like an elder being kind, but still clearly in charge?
오랜 친구끼리 —	between long-time friends	맞아요. 그래서 오랜 친구끼리도 써요. 오래된 남자 친구들끼리 서로 '하계'로 편하게 말하죠. Old friends use it with each other too.
장인 → 사위, 교수 → 제자 —	father-in-law to son-in-law; professor to grown student	장인어른이 사위에게, 교수님이 다 큰 제자에게도요. A father-in-law to a son-in-law, a professor to a grown student.
너 → 자네 neo → jane	'you' becomes 자네	대명사도 바뀌어요. '너' 대신 '자네', 그리고 '나'를 써요. Instead of 너, you say 자네.
윗사람 · 낯선 사람 ☒ —	Not for elders or strangers	조심하세요. 처음 본 사람이나 윗사람에겐 절대 안 써요. Never use it with strangers or with someone above you.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 점잖지만 친근한 말투

점잖지만 친근한 말투 — Dignified but friendly speech

해라체 < 하계체 < 해요체 < 하십시오체

### 장인어른·교수님·소설 속에서

장인어른·교수님·소설 속에서 — From fathers-in-law, professors, and in novels

where learners actually meet 하계체

### -네 / -는가 / -게 / -세

-네 / -는가 / -게 / -세 — statement / question / command / let's

서술 · 의문 · 명령 · 청유

### 어서 오게.

어서 + 오 + 게 + . — Come on in.

명령부터요. 어서 오게. Come on in — the -게 ending turns 오다 into a gentle command.

### 잘 지냈는가?

잘 지냈는가? — Have you been well?

동사는 받침과 상관없이 -는가 (가는가, 먹는가); 형용사·이다는 받침 없으면 -ㄴ가 (예쁜가, 학생인가), 받침 있으면 -은가 (좋은가).

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
참 따뜨탄 마릴세	cham ttatteutan marilse
잘 지냈는가	jal ji-naen-neun-ga
어서 오게	eoseo oge

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 하계체 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
감사합니다 / 죄송합니다 Formal Thanks and Apologies	A1 Honorifics: compare 감사합니다 / 죄송합니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-002</a>
요 Polite and Casual Korean	A1 Honorifics: compare 요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-LVL-001</a>
하십시오체 The Formal Speech Level for Announcements	B1 Honorifics: compare 하십시오체 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-LVL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-LVL-001</a>
해라체 The Plain Style for Writing and News	B2 Honorifics: compare 해라체 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-LVL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-HON-LVL-001</a>

## My Notes

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