



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# 간접 높임

말씀·연세·택에 높임 붙이기

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Honorifics Subject Honorifics	간접 높임 말씀·연세·택에 높임 붙이기

## Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

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

Watch the full video on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctbMt8\\_oDbs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctbMt8_oDbs)

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

## Core Idea

Okay, real confession. I wanted to ask my teacher her age politely, so I said 나이... and the room went quiet.

좋아요. 나이라는 말이 틀린 건 아니에요. 그런데 웃어른께는 나이 대신 높여 부르는 말(높임말)이 따로 있어요. In English, for elders Korean has a separate honorific word instead of 나이 — and it's 연세.

이게 간접 높임이에요. 그분을 직접 높이는 게 아니라, 그분에게 속한 것을 높여요. In English, we raise the noun that BELONGS to the respected person.

방법은 두 가지예요. 첫째, 높임말 명사를 골라요. 둘째, 그 명사의 동사에 -시-를 붙여요. In English, pick the honorific noun, then add -시- to its verb.

## Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	어르신, 연세가 어떻게 되세요? —	Sir, may I ask your age?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	올해 여든입니다. —	I'm eighty this year.
Hana	택이 이 근처세요? —	Is your home nearby?
Junho	네, 바로 앞 건물이에요. —	Yes, the building right in front.
Hana	곧 원장님 말씀이 있으세요. 잠깐만 기다려 주세요. —	The director will say a few words soon. Please wait a moment.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
나이 → 연세 nai → yeonse	age → age (honorific)	좋아요. 나이라는 말이 틀린 건 아니에요. 그런데 웃어른께는 나이 대신 높여 부르는 말(높임말)이 따로 있어요. In English, for elders Korean has a separate honorific word instead of 나이 — and it's 연세.
간접 높임 gan-jeop no-pim	indirect honorification	이게 간접 높임이에요. 그분을 직접 높이는 게 아니라, 그분에게 속한 것을 높여요. In English, we raise the noun that BELONGS to the respected person.
높임 명사 + -(으)시- —	honorific noun + -si-	방법은 두 가지예요. 첫째, 높임말 명사를 골라요. 둘째, 그 명사의 동사에 -시-를 붙여요. In English, pick the honorific noun, then add -si- to its verb.
말씀이 있으십니다 malsseum-i isseu-sim-nida	He/she has something to say (hon.)	예를 들어, 회의 전에 이렇게 말해요. 사장님께서 '말씀이 있으십니다.'
말 → 말씀 mal → malsseum	words → words (honorific)	말씀은 '말'의 높임말이에요. 그래서 있다가 있으시다가 돼요. In English, 말씀 is the elevated word for 'words,' so 있다 becomes 있으시다.
말씀 + 있으시다 —	the honored noun steers the verb	So the respect lands on 말씀 first, and then the verb has to match it with -시-. The word pulls the honorific along.
집 → 택 jip → daek	house → home (honorific)	택은 '집'의 높임말이에요. 사장님, 택이 어디세요 — where is your home? 그런데 조심하세요. 택을 '너'라는 뜻으로도 쓰는데, 그건 나와 비슷하거나 아랫사람인 낯선 사람에게만 써요. In English, 택 as 'you' is only for a stranger of similar or lower standing — it sounds cold, even confrontational, so never call your boss, teacher, or an elder 택.



Word	Meaning	Example
말씀이 있으세요 malsseum-i isseu-se-yo	has something to say (hon.)	핵심은 이거예요. 그분의 말씀을 높일 때는 '말씀이 있으세요'처럼 있다에 -시-를 붙여요. 계시다는 그분 자신에게만 써요. In English, honor the person's WORDS with 있으시다, and save 계시다 for the person themselves.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 나이 → 연세

나이 → 연세 — age → age (honorific)

Some everyday nouns have a special elevated form for a respected person.

### 간접 높임

간접 높임 — indirect honorification

Honor the person by elevating their words, age, home, name.

### 높임 명사 + -(으)시-

높임 명사 + -(으)시- — honorific noun + -si-

The verb agrees with the honored noun.

### 말씀이 있으십니다

말씀 + 이 + 있으십니다 — He/she has something to say (hon.)

예를 들어, 회의 전에 이렇게 말해요. 사장님께서 '말씀이 있으십니다.'

### 말 → 말씀

말 → 말씀 — words → words (honorific)

말씀은 '말'의 높임말이에요. 그래서 있다가 있으시다가 돼요. In English, 말씀 is the elevated word for 'words,' so 있다 becomes 있으시다.

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
말씀이 있으세요?	malsseum-i isseu-se-yo
연세가 어떻게 되세요?	yeonse-ga eotteoke doe-se-yo
성함이 어떻게 되세요?	seongham-i / yeonse-ga / daeg-i

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 간접 높임 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
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 <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-SUB-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-SUB-001</a>
-(으)시- Adding the Honorific Infix to Any Verb	B1 Honorifics: compare -(으)시- with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-002</a>
Korean Honorifics 세요 and 께서	A2 Honorifics: compare Korean Honorifics with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-SUB-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-HON-SUB-001</a>
계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 Special Honorific Words	B1 Honorifics: compare 계시다 / 드시다 / 주무시다 / 연세 / 진지 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-HON-SUB-001</a>

## My Notes

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