



Korean Ladder Study Note

# 커피 나오셨습니다

사물에 잘못 붙이는 과잉 높임 바로잡기

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Honorifics Subject Honorifics	커피 나오셨습니다 사물에 잘못 붙이는 과잉 높임 바로잡기

## Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-SUB-003>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1ETBM9wcyY>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

## Core Idea

카페에서 이런 말 자주 들죠. '주문하신 커피 나오셨습니다.' In English, that's almost 'Your ordered coffee has honorably come out.'

Wait — 나오셨습니다? That's the honorific -시-... on the coffee? So 커피가 나오셨어요 is bowing to the drink?

네. 그게 바로 과잉 높임이에요. In English, over-honorification — putting the respect on an object instead of a person.

높임의 -시-는 원래 주어를 높여요. The subject-honorific -시- raises the person doing the action — but only if that person deserves the respect.

## Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	아이스 아메리카노 한 잔 주세요. —	One iced americano, please.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	네, 주문하신 아메리카노 나왔습니다. —	Here's the americano you ordered.
Junho	사이즈 업 될까요? —	Can I size up?
Hana	죄송하지만 라지 사이즈는 없습니다. —	Sorry, we don't have the large size.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
과잉 높임 gwaing nopim	over-honorification	네. 그게 바로 과잉 높임이에요. In English, over-honorification — putting the respect on an object instead of a person.
-(으)시- -(eu)si-	subject honorific: raises the doer	높임의 -시-는 원래 주어를 높여요. The subject-honorific -시- raises the person doing the action — but only if that person deserves the respect.
손님이 오셨습니다 sonnimi osyeotseumnida	The customer has come. (honorific)	사람 주어일 때는 완벽해요. 손님이 오셨습니다 — the customer has come. 손님 is a person, so 오셨 with -시- is exactly right.
커피 나오셨습니다 keopi naosyeotseumnida	The coffee has come out. (wrongly honorific)	이제 사물이에요. 커피 나오셨습니다 — 나오다의 주어가 커피죠. The subject of 나오다 here is the coffee, not a person.
커피 = 사물 keopi = samul	coffee = an object, not a person	So the coffee can't be honored... because coffee isn't a respected person. It's just a drink.
커피 나왔습니다 keopi nawatseumnida	Your coffee is ready. (correct)	맞아요. 그럼 어떻게 고칠까요. How do we fix it? 그냥 나왔습니다. Just 나왔습니다 — 'it came out,' plain and polite.
주문하신 커피 나왔습니다 jumunhasin keopi nawatseumnida	The coffee you ordered is ready.	Oh — and the respect for the customer is already in 주문하신, right? 주문하신 커피 나왔습니다.
사람은 높이고, 사물은 그대로 sarameun nopigo, samureun geudaero	raise the person, leave the object as-is	정확해요. 손님은 주문하신으로 높이고, 커피는 그냥 나왔습니다. Honor the customer with 주문하신; leave the coffee plain.



## Grammar / Structure Notes

### 과잉 높임

과잉 높임 — over-honorification

-시- lands on the wrong thing

### -(으)시-

-(으)시- — subject honorific: raises the doer

the doer must be a person you respect

### 손님이 오셨습니다

손님이 + 오 + 셧 + 습니다 — The customer has come. (honorific)

사람 주어일 때는 완벽해요. 손님이 오셨습니다 — the customer has come. 손님 is a person, so 오셧 with -시- is exactly right.

### 커피 나오셨습니다

커피 + 나오 + 셧 + 습니다 — The coffee has come out. (wrongly honorific)

이제 사물이에요. 커피 나오셨습니다 — 나오다의 주어가 커피죠. The subject of 나오다 here is the coffee, not a person.

### 커피 = 사물

커피 = 사물 — coffee = an object, not a person

So the coffee can't be honored... because coffee isn't a respected person. It's just a drink.

## Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
주문하신 커피 나왔습니다	jumunhasin keopi nawatseumnida

## Self-Check

- 1 Say 커피 나오셨습니다 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
간접 높임 말씀·연세·택에 높임 붙이기	C1 Honorifics: compare 간접 높임 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-SUB-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-SUB-002</a>



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>

## My Notes

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