

Korean Extended Family 결혼 후 호칭

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Siblings' spouses and in-laws — what to call them, and which dictionary terms you'll rarely hear. Tap ↗ to read more.

Your siblings' spouses · 형제자매의 배우자 ↗

Who	What you call them	Note
Older sister's husband	형부	if you're female
Younger sister's husband	제부	if you're female
Older brother's wife	새언니 · 올케	if you're female
Younger brother's wife	올케	if you're female
Older sister's husband	매형	if you're male
Younger sister's husband	매제	if you're male
Older brother's wife	형수(님)	if you're male
Younger brother's wife	제수(씨)	if you're male

A wife's in-laws · 시댁 (husband's family) ↗

Who	What you call them	Note
Husband's parents	아버님 · 어머니	talking about them: 시아버지 · 시어머니
Husband's older brother	아주버님	
his wife	형님	
Husband's younger brother	도련님 · 서방님	rare in real life (unmarried · married)
his wife	동서	
Husband's older sister	형님	
her husband	아주버님	
Husband's younger sister	아가씨	
her husband	서방님	rare in real life — see the note below

A husband's in-laws · 처가 (wife's family) ↗

Who	What you call them	Note
Wife's parents	아버님 · 어머니	talking about them: 장인어른 · 장모님
Wife's older brother	형님 · 처남	형님 if he's older than you, 처남 if younger
his wife	처남댁	
Wife's younger brother	처남	
his wife	처남댁	
Wife's older sister	처형	
her husband	동서 · 형님	
Wife's younger sister	처제	
her husband	동서	

Why so many titles? ↗

Koreans rarely call family — or seniors — by their first name. You use a relationship title (or a job title) instead, even when you know the name. So every relationship needs its own word, and even Koreans find the full set complicated.

Through the child's eyes ↗

Once there are children, many families simply use the title the child would use: a husband's younger brother becomes 삼촌, a husband's sister's husband becomes 고모부. That's why 도련님 and 서방님 are rarely heard today.