

-아/어 주세요

please do it for me

Turns an instruction into a favour. Where -(으)세요 tells someone to act, this asks them to act on your behalf — which is what most English "please" sentences actually mean.

How it attaches

Stem type	Form	Example
Last vowel ㅏ or ㅑ	-아 주세요	찾다 → 찾아 주세요
Any other vowel	-어 주세요	열다 → 열어 주세요
하다 verbs	해 주세요	설명해 주세요
Merging	as in -아요/어요	돕다 → 도와 주세요
More polite	-아/어 주시겠어요?	열어 주시겠어요?
You doing the favour	-아/어 드리다	도와 드릴게요

Notes

The vowel follows the same rule as -아요/어요, merges included: 열어 주세요, 도와 주세요, 해 주세요. Then 주다 carries the sense of benefit — the action is done for someone.

This is usually the form you want. 문을 여세요 is an instruction, appropriate from a teacher to a class. 문을 열어 주세요 is a request, appropriate almost everywhere else.

Two variations extend it. For extra politeness, turn it into a question: 열어 주시겠어요? And when you are the one doing the favour for someone senior, 주다 becomes 드리다: 제가 도와 드릴게요.

Examples

- 1 조금만 기다려 주세요.
Please wait just a moment.
- 2 다시 한번 말해 주세요.
Please say that once more.
- 3 사진 좀 찍어 주세요.
Could you take a photo for me?
- 4 천천히 말씀해 주시겠어요?
Could you speak slowly, please?
- 5 제가 안내해 드릴게요.
I'll show you the way.
- 6 이것 좀 봐 주세요.
Please take a look at this.

Compared with

-(으)세요

-(으)세요 directs; -아/어 주세요 asks a favour. If you benefit from the action, the second is the courteous choice.

여기 앉으세요. (please sit — for your comfort) / 자리 좀 바꿔 주세요. (please swap seats — for mine)

-아/어 주시겠어요?

A question form is softer than an imperative in Korean as in English. Use it with strangers and in service situations.

열어 주세요. / 열어 주시겠어요?

-아/어 드리다

The humble counterpart, used when you offer to do something for someone above you. Pair it with -(으)드릴게요 to offer help.

도와 주세요. (please help me) / 도와 드릴게요. (let me help you)

Watch out

✗ 다시 설명하어 주세요.

○ 다시 설명해 주세요.

하다 becomes 해 before 주세요, exactly as it does in the present tense. Every 하다 compound follows.

✗ 제가 도와 주세요.

○ 제가 도와 드릴게요.

주세요 asks someone else to act. To offer your own help, use 드리다 with -(으)드릴게요.

✗ 사진 좀 찍으세요. — asking a stranger to photograph you

○ 사진 좀 찍어 주시겠어요?

찍으세요 tells them to take a photo for their own purposes. Since the favour is yours, the request needs 주다.