

# Introduction to Hangeul

Korean uses its own unique alphabet called Hangeul. It is considered to be one of the most efficient alphabets in the world and has garnered unanimous praise from language experts for its scientific design and excellence.

Hangeul was created under King Sejong during the Joseon Dynasty (1393 -1910). In 1446, the first Korean alphabet was proclaimed under the original name Hun-min-jeong-eum, which literally meant 'the correct sounds for the instruction of the people.'

Hangeul consists of 14 consonants and 10 vowels, totaling 24 basic characters. The shapes of Hangeul's consonants were formed after voice organs (such as lip, tongue, throat, etc.) while those of the vowels were formed after what one might say symbolizes heaven, earth, and human beings.

All words in Korean are composed of syllables, which go by the following basic rules:

1. A syllable begins with a consonant.
2. A syllable has at least one consonant and one vowel.
3. Each syllable gets written in a square box.

A syllable that consists of a consonant and a 'vertical vowel' is written with the consonant on the left and the vowel on the right.

ㄴ [n] + ㅣ [a] = ㄴㅏ [na]

A syllable that consists of a consonant and a 'horizontal vowel' is written with the consonant on top and the vowel underneath.

ㄴ [n] + ㅓ [o] = ㄴㅓ [no]

If a syllable shows a consonant-vowel-consonant combination, in other words, if a syllable ends with a consonant, called batchim (meaning 'supporting floor' in Korean), the final consonant goes to the bottom – or floor – of that syllable.

ㅁ [m] + ㅣ [a] + ㄴ [n] = ㅁㅏ [man]

ㅁ [m] + ㅓ [o] + ㅋ [k] = ㅁㅓ [mok]

All symbols of Hangeul are written from top to bottom and from left to right. Strokes are never interrupted, not even when they change directions halfway.

# Consonants and Vowels

## Consonants

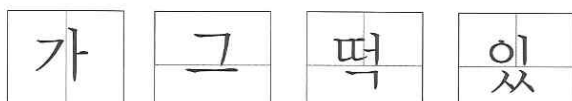
Letter	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅎ
Sound Value	[k/g]	[n]	[t/d]	[r/l]	[m]	[p/b]	[s]	[ø/ŋ]	[tʃ/j]	[h]
Letter	ㅋ		ㅌ			ㅍ			ㅊ	
Sound Value	[k <sup>h</sup> ]		[t <sup>h</sup> ]			[p <sup>h</sup> ]			[tʃ <sup>h</sup> ]	
Letter	ㆁ		ㆁ			ㆁ	ㆁ		ㆁ	
Sound Value	[kʰ]		[tʰ]			[pʰ]	[sʰ]		[tʃʰ]	

## Vowels

Letter	ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅛ	ㅜ
Sound Value	[a]	[ə]	[o]	[u]	[ɨ]	[i]	[e]	[ɛ]	[ö/we]	[ü/wi]
Letter	ㅙ	ㅚ	ㅜ	ㅠ			ㅞ	ㅟ		
Sound Value	[ya]	[yə]	[yo]	[yu]			[ye]	[yɛ]		
Letter	ㅘ	ㅙ			ㅚ		ㅞ	ㅟ		
Sound Value	[wa]	[wə]			[ɨy]		[we]	[wɛ]		

## Hangeul (5)

A Hangeul syllable is made of a consonant and a vowel, and also can be made by adding one more consonant below the vowel. The added consonant is called 'batchim.' How to write a letter with a 'batchim' and without a 'batchim' are shown below.



Korean consonants are pronounced in 7 representative sounds when they are located at the end of a syllable as a 'batchim.' For example, in syllables such as '박', '밭', '밖' which have 'ㄱ', 'ㅋ', 'ㆁ' as their 'batchims,' respectively all the 'batchims' will be pronounced as the representative sound 'ㄱ' and, therefore, the three syllables will be pronounced as the same sound [박]. And 'ㅇ', which has no sound value as the initial sound, is pronounced as [ŋ] as a 'batchim.' The respective batchims are pronounced as shown in the following table:

Batchim	Sound Value
ㄱ ㅋ ㆁ	[ㄱ]
ㄴ	[ㄴ]
ㄷ ㅌ ㅊ ㅍ ㅈ ㅊ ㅍ ㅆ	[ㄷ]
ㄹ	[ㄹ]
ㅁ	[ㅁ]
ㅂ ㅃ	[ㅂ]
ㅇ	[ㅇ]



### Pronunciation Tips <1>

1. 'ㄷ' and 'ㅌ' are supposed to be distinguishable in pronunciation, but in many cases they are not distinguished these days.
2. 'ㄴ', 'ㄷ' and 'ㄹ' also tend to be pronounced the same as [wɛ] or [we].
3. 'ㄷ' is pronounced as [ㄷ] in '예' and '례', but in all other cases it can be pronounced as [기].  
예 → [예]      실례 → [실례]  
시계 → [시계/시게]

### Pronunciation Tips <2>

1. The final consonants that are compounds are pronounced with their representative sound only when it is positioned as the final syllable or when the first sound of the following syllable is a consonant.

뭉 [뭉]	흙 [흙]
값 [갑]	일다 [익따]
앉다 [안따]	점다 [점따]
여덟 [여덜]	

2. The final consonant of a syllable is pronounced as the initial sound of the following syllable when the latter begins with the consonant 'ㅇ'.

저것은 [저거슨]	있어요 [이씨요]
젊어요 [절머요]	읽어요 [일거요]

Read the following and write a paragraph introducing yourself.

안녕하세요? 저는 잉그리드예요.  
저는 영국 사람이에요.  
저는 연구원이에요.  
만나서 반가워요.

# Introducing yourself TRACK 07

- A** 안녕하세요?  
저는 김재민이에요.
- B** 안녕하세요, 재민 씨?  
저는 애니예요.



- A** How do you do?  
I'm Jaemin Kim.
- B** How do you do, Jaemin?  
I'm Annie.

## Grammar Points

### N은/는

'은/는' follows a noun, indicating that it is the topic under discussion.

nouns ending with a vowel  
+ 는 : 저 → 저는

nouns ending with a consonant  
+ 은 : 이분 → 이분은

▶ Grammar Reference p.142

## Grammar Points

### N-이에요/예요

'-이에요/예요' are sentence endings expressing identification and are attached to nouns.

nouns ending with a vowel +  
-예요 : 애니 → 애니예요

nouns ending with a consonant +  
-이에요 : 학생 → 학생이  
예요

▶ Grammar Reference p.142

## Practice

### 1 Circle the correct particle.

- 저(은 / 는) 애니예요.
- 마이클(은 / 는) 미국 사람이예요.
- 여기(은 / 는) 토니 씨예요.
- 이분(은 / 는) 선생님이에요.

### 2 Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct form between '-이에요/예요'.

- 저는 학생 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 웨이 씨는 중국 사람 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 저는 쿠마르 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 다니엘은 의사 \_\_\_\_\_.

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 정답 (1) 1) (2) 2) (3) 3) 4) 4)  
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 정답 (1) 1) (2) 2) (3) 3) 4) 4)  
 정답 (1) 1) (2) 2) (3) 3) 4) 4)

## Notes

'씨' is a term of address that can be added at the end of someone's name. It can be used with either the first name or full name, regardless of gender. It is rather impolite to use '씨' with the last name only.

재민 씨 (O)   김재민 씨 (O)  
김 씨 (X)

# Introducing another person



TRACK 07



- A** 여기는 크리스 씨예요.  
여기는 김재민 씨예요.
- B** 안녕하세요? 김재민이에요.
- C** 안녕하세요? 크리스예요.  
만나서 반가워요.

- A** This is Chris.  
This is Jaemin Kim.
- B** How do you do?  
I'm Jaemin Kim.
- C** How do you do? I'm Chris.  
Nice to meet you.

## Notes

The speaker can use '여기', referring to those who are younger than or at the same level as himself, but when referring to those who are older or higher in position than himself, he must use '이분'.



## Notes

When it is obvious to the other person what the topic is, the topic is generally omitted.

(저는) 아니예요.

However, when it is necessary to make the topic clear, the topic is not omitted.

이름이 뭐예요?

첸웨이예요.

한국 사람이에요?

아니요, 중국 사람이에요.

## 2. Group work

Ask the following questions to each other while exchanging business cards.



1. 이름이 뭐예요?			
2. 한국 사람이에요?			
3. 선생님이에요?			



# Occupations



사업가 businessman



소방관 fire fighter



경찰 police



배우 actor / actress



우체부 mail carrier



미용사 hairdresser



과학자 scientist



기술자 technician



교수 professor



변호사 lawyer



모델 model



회계사 accountant