

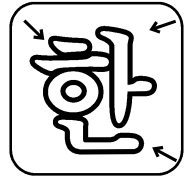
Basics

**A**

Level ①

**Creating Simple Hangul**

Korean building blocks

**A Why Learn Hangul?**

Hangul is the main writing system of Korea. It's famous for being easy to learn and in many linguistic circles is considered genius. Prior to its invention in the 15th century, Korean used the same Chinese characters as China and Japan. Japanese and Chinese children spend a significant part of the school years devoted to learning the often complicated Chinese characters, but hangul can be learned in a few days for an average adult.

漢字

**Hanja**

Over 5000 characters for Chinese and 2000 for Japanese are used commonly.

한글

**Korean Hangul**

Just 24 unique symbols combine to make 12,000+ Hangul combinations.

If you aren't convinced yet as to how cool hangul is, here are the top five reasons you should learn hangul:

**1. It's easy. WAY easier than you imagine!**

Some people say you can learn it in just two hours.

**2. It's cool. Seriously... none of your friends can write it!**

Unless your friends are all studying Korean or ARE Korean you will be the coolest person around when you say, and show them, that you can read and write Korean!

**3. Your accent improves.**

You have spent much of your life reading Roman letters (ABC) in a certain way. If you learn Korean with those letters you will often still read them the same way and not have a great Korean accent. If you learn hangul, you won't have to fight your English speaking habits!

4. **Korean Romanization can be a bit confusing. It's just easier to learn hangul.**  
With combinations like "SEO" and "SAE" and "SEU" it's pretty easy to screw up the Romanization of Korean. Hangul fixes this problem. Besides... imagine if a Korean person decided to learn English only using hangul characters!

5. **There is no choice!**

Because hangul is so easy, It's rare that a book teaching Korean teaches using Roman letters. Even this book teaches 100% in hangul after the hangul lesson section.

## A Hangul Consonants and Vowels

Hangul characters are "built" using consonant and vowel parts. Using these individual parts over 12,000 characters can be constructed.

Don't worry about memorizing the chart on this page, it is mainly to be used as a reference. The next few lessons will gradually teach you how to read and write hangul. You will be pleasantly surprised as to how easily you learn it.

In the "Korean From Zero!" series, hangul is taught using the most common input interface in the modern world, the keyboard. In the last writing lesson you will learn the basics of typing in Korean. **NOTE:** It's helpful if you know what each of the symbols are called in Korean. Check the "Hangul Character Name Chart" in the back of this book.

**Consonants:** single key on keyboard

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
G	N	D	R/L	M	B	S	null/NG	J	CH	K	T	P	H

**Consonants:** double key on keyboard (shift + consonant)

ㅃ	ㅆ	ㄸ	ㄺ	ㅆ
PP	JJ	DD	KK	SS

**Vowels:** single key on keyboard

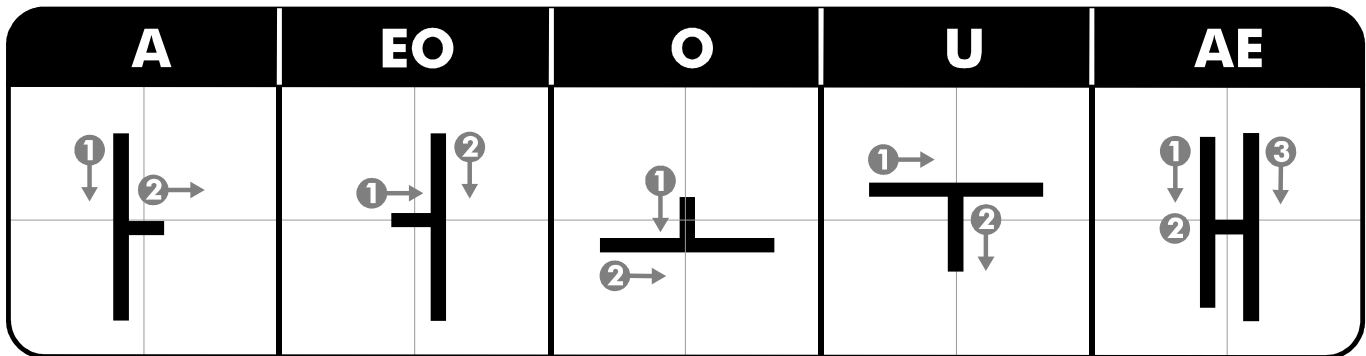
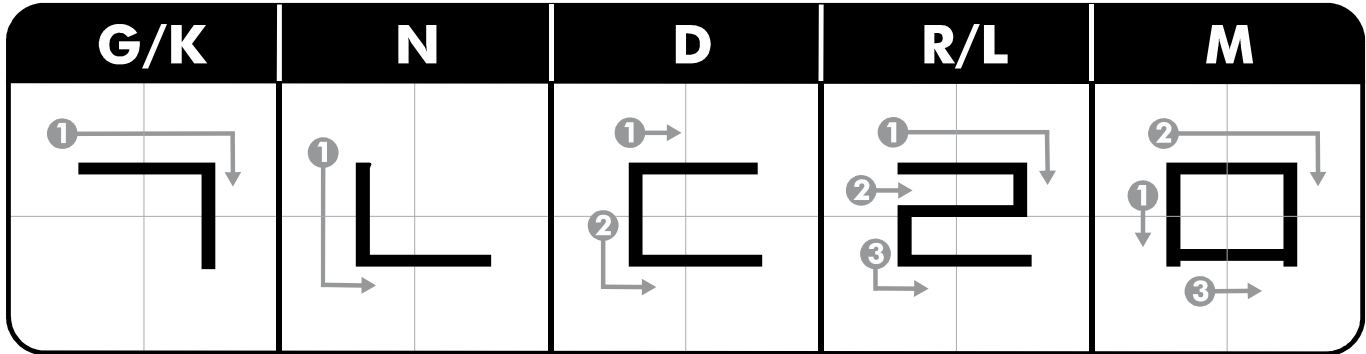
ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅞ	ㅟ
a	ya	eo	yeo	o	yo	u	yu	eu	i	ae	e

**Vowels:** double key on keyboard (shift OR vowel + vowel)

ㅙ	ㅚ	ㅜㅏ	ㅜㅑ	ㅛㅓ	ㅛㅕ	ㅠㅓ	ㅠㅕ	ㅡㅣ
yae	ye	wa	wae	woe	wo	we	wi	ui

## A New Hangul

In this lesson we will focus on the first five consonants and five vowels only to get used to creating the characters. Writing with the correct stroke order will make your writing neater.



as in father

as in awe

as in boat

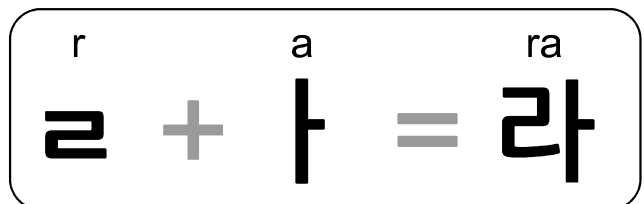
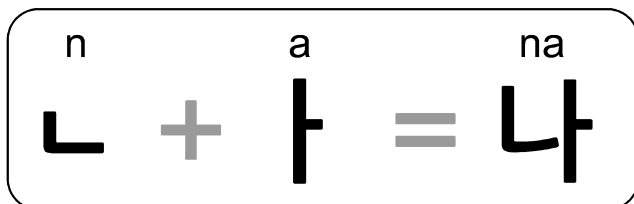
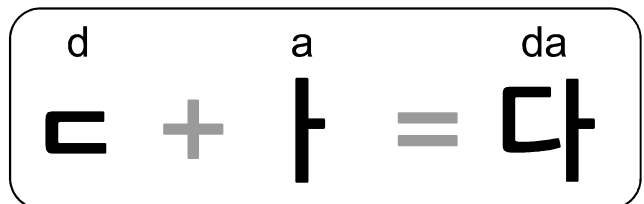
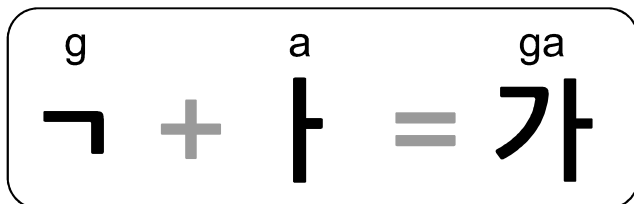
as in zoo

as in men

## A Hangul Points

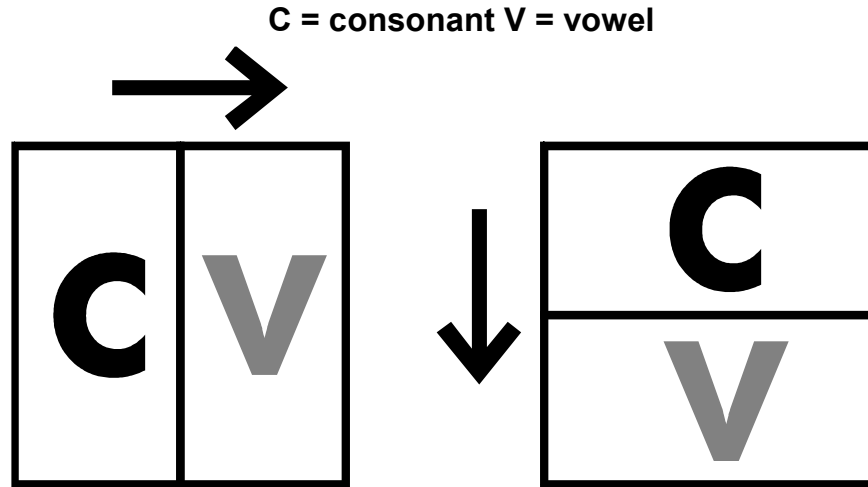
### □ A-1. Using consonants and vowels to create simple hangul

When creating a hangul character you will always start with a consonant, and then follow it with a vowel. Let's look at some simple consonant + vowel combinations:



## □ A-2. Writing order and orientation

There are standing (vertical) and laying (horizontal) vowels. Standing vowels always “stand” to the right of the consonant. Laying vowels always “lay” below the consonant.



left / right combinations

ga	ge	na	ne	da	de	ra	re	ma	me
가	개	나	내	다	대	라	래	마	매

top / bottom combinations

go	gu	no	nu	do	du	ro	ru	mo	mu
고	구	노	누	도	두	로	루	모	무

## □ A-3. The different sounds of ㄱ, ㄹ

ㄱ can be pronounced like a G or a K. Typically at the beginning of a sentence or word you will hear ㄱ like a K, and if it is in the middle of a word it's closer to a G.

고구마 koguma  
 (sweet potato)

ㄹ can be pronounced like an R or an L. Typically at the beginning of a sentence you will hear ㄹ like a R and in the middle more like L.

레벨 rebel  
 (level)

As you learn Korean you will find that, depending on the word, the sound of ㄱ and ㄹ will shift. In many cases you just have to learn how that particular word is pronounced.

### □ A-4. The sound difference between ㅏ and ㅑ

The sound for ㅏ doesn't really exist in English so it might be hard to master. It is certainly one of the sounds that Korean people will ALWAYS correct you on. One technique to getting closer to the right sound is this trick:

1. Shape your mouth as if you are going to say "AH"
2. Now say the sound "OH". It should feel as if the sound is coming from the back of your throat.

## A Writing Practice

With the first five consonants and vowels it's possible to create 25 different hangul characters. To practice correct stroke order, first trace the light gray characters, then write each character six times. We will practice with 11 of the possible 25 characters.

ga	가	가						
na	나	나						
no	노	노						
da	다	다						
do	도	도						
reo	러	러						
ru	루	루						
mae	매	매						



모래  
sand

모	래										
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매너  
manners

매	너										
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

모두  
everyone

모	두										
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누나  
older sister (when said by males)

누	나										
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고구마  
sweet potato

고	구	마									
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**A Hangul Matching**

Connect the dots between each hangul and the correct Romanization. You can check your answers in the Answer Key at the back of the book.

매 .	• reo
다 .	• do
도 .	• gu
루 .	• ma
마 .	• mae
내 .	• ru
러 .	• da
고 .	• go
구 .	• nae

