

Basics
B
 Level ①

Pure Vowel Sounds
 Korean building blocks



B New Hangul

In this lesson we learn five more consonants and five more vowels.

B	S	null/NG	J	CH

EU	I	E	YO	YU

as in cook

as in week

as in men

as in yoyo

as in you

B Hangul Points

□ **B-1. Creating pure vowels with ㅇ**

In this lesson we introduce the hangul character ㅇ. In order to say a pure vowel, meaning a vowel all by itself, you must use ㅇ in the consonant spot. Here are some examples:

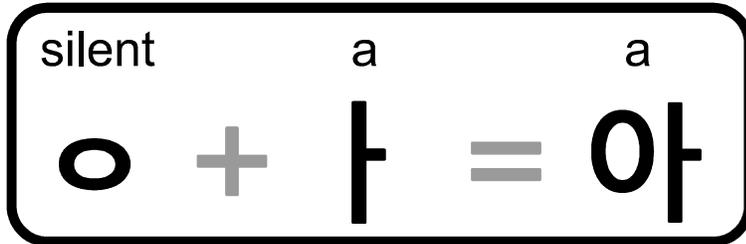
ㅏ (a)

ㅓ (i)

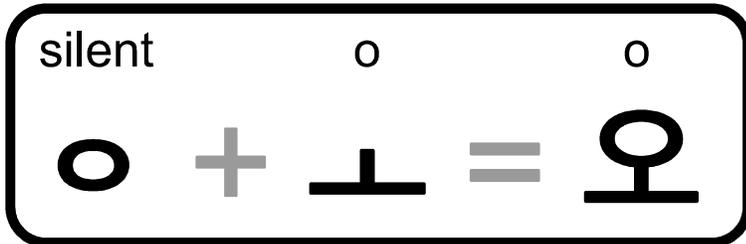
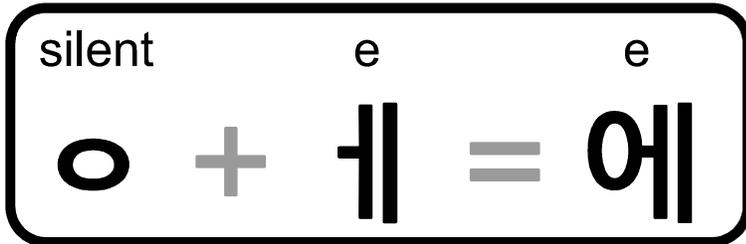
ㅗ (o)

ㅘ (ae)

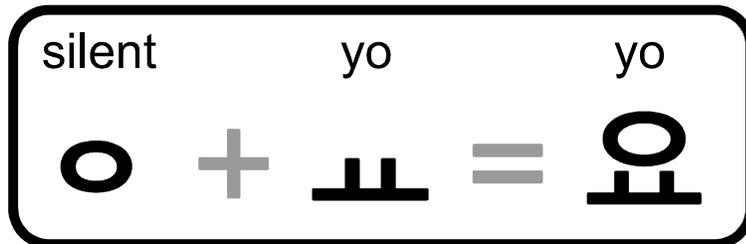
You MUST start a pure vowel hangul with ㅇ. In other words, you can never have a vowel by itself. When ㅇ is the first character then it is silent and makes no sound. Notice how the orientation of the ㅇ changes depending on the vowel it's used with. The shape of the ㅇ doesn't have to change, but many Korean fonts change the shape for balance reasons.



The first 2 examples are both side-by-side because the vowel is vertical.



If the vowel is horizontal, so is the consonant, like these 2 examples.



Here are some example words using the hangul you have already learned. See if you can read them.

Example words

아이 child
우유 milk
이유 reason
오다 to come

요리 cooking
어디 where
아기 baby
이 teeth

□ B-2. Written versions versus font versions of hangul

When you first learn hangul you might be confused as to how some characters change when written versus when typed. Let's look at how ㅈ and ㅊ change when written.

	font	font	written
J	ㅈ	ㅈ	ㅈ
CH	ㅊ	ㅊ	ㅊ

□ B-3. The different sounds of ㅅ

ㅅ normally sounds like an “S” sound, however when combined with certain hangul it will sound like an “SH” sound. We cover this rule in Lesson G in more depth.

NOTE: When ㅅ (yo) and ㅅ (yu) are combined the “y” is discarded in the Romanization.

said as “S”	ㅅ (sa)	ㅅ (seo)	ㅅ (so)
ㅅ (sae)	ㅅ (se)	ㅅ (su)	ㅅ (seu)
said as “SH”	ㅅ (shi)	ㅅ (sho)	ㅅ (shu)
ㅅ (sheo)	ㅅ (sha)		

ㅅ and ㅅ vowels are introduced in the next lesson.

□ B-4. The difference between ㅈ and ㅊ

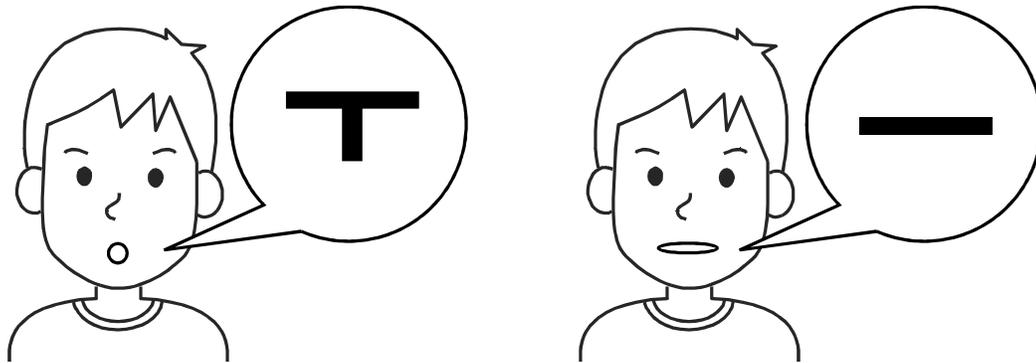
In modern Korea, there is no sound difference between ㅈ and ㅊ. Some words will use one or the other based on the roots of the word. You simply just need to learn how to “spell” some words in Korean, just like in English.

□ B-5. The difference between ㅏ and ㅑ

To the untrained ear these will both sound the same. But the mouth makes a different shape for ㅏ and ㅑ.

ㅏ is said with the lips pushed out like you're trying to kiss someone and saying "oo" as in "moon".

ㅑ is said by pulling the lips back almost as far as you can and saying the same "oo" sound.



B Writing Practice

With just the new consonants and vowels it's possible to create another 25 different hangul characters. To practice correct stroke order, first trace the light gray characters, then write each character six times.

beu	브	브						
bi	비	비						
se	세	세						
ji	지	지						

B Hangul Matching

Connect the dots between each hangul and the correct Romanization.

시 ·	· jeo
슈 ·	· shi
오 ·	· che
체 ·	· ja
브 ·	· se
요 ·	· shu
자 ·	· beu
저 ·	· o
세 ·	· yo

