

Hangul chart and sound guide

Level: Absolute beginner · before TOPIK I · King Sejong "Korean Fundamentals" · Time: Read Hangul in about a week at 30 minutes a day; add about 2 weeks for sound rules and typing

All 40 letters with their names, romanization, a sound hint and an example word, plus the 7 final sounds. Keep it next to you while you read.

Hangul chart and sound guide

Hangul has 19 consonants (14 basic + 5 double) and 21 vowels (10 basic + 11 compound). Letters are grouped into syllable blocks: consonant + vowel, or consonant + vowel + final consonant.

Basic consonants (14)

Letter	Name	Sound hint	Example	Meaning
ㄱ g / k	기역 giyeok	between g and k	가구 gagu	furniture
ㄴ n	니은 nieun	n	나무 namu	tree
ㄷ d / t	디귄 digeut	between d and t	다리 dari	leg; bridge
ㄹ r / l	리을 rieul	r (tap) before a vowel, l at the end	라디오 radio	radio
ㅁ m	미음 mieum	m	모자 moja	hat
ㅂ b / p	비읍 bieup	between b and p	바다 bada	sea
ㅅ s	시옷 siot	s; 'sh' before ㅣ	사자 saja	lion
ㅇ - / ng	이응 ieung	silent at the start, 'ng' at the end	영화 yeonghwa	movie
ㅈ j	지읒 jieut	soft 'j'	자두 jadu	plum
ㅊ ch	치읓 chieut	'ch' with a puff of air	치마 chima	skirt
ㅋ k	키읔 kieuk	'k' with a puff of air	코 ko	nose

Letter	Name	Sound hint	Example	Meaning
ㅌ t	티을 tieut	't' with a puff of air	토마토 tomato	tomato
ㅍ p	피을 pieup	'p' with a puff of air	포도 podo	grapes
ㅎ h	히을 hieut	h	하마 hama	hippo

Double (tense) consonants (5)

Letter	Name	Sound hint	Example	Meaning
ㄱ kk	쌍기역 ssanggiyeok	tight k, no air	꼬리 kkori	tail
ㄷ tt	쌍디글 ssangdigeut	tight t, no air	딸기 ttalgi	strawberry
ㅂ pp	쌍비읍 ssangbieup	tight p, no air	빵 ppang	bread
ㅅ ss	쌍시옷 ssangsiot	strong, sharp s	쌀 ssal	rice (uncooked)
ㅈ jj	쌍지읒 ssangjieut	tight j, no air	짜다 jjada	to be salty

Plain, aspirated, tense: hold a sheet of paper in front of your mouth. It moves a lot for ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ ㅊ, a little for ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㅅ, and not at all for ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㅆ.

Basic vowels (10)

Letter	Name	Sound hint	Example	Meaning
 a	아 a	'a' in 'father'	아이 ai	child
 ya	야 ya	'ya' in 'yard'	야구 yagu	baseball
 eo	어 eo	'u' in 'cup', mouth a little rounder	어머니 eomeoni	mother
 yeo	여 yeo	'y' + ㅏ	여우 yeou	fox
 o	오 o	'o' in 'go', lips rounded	오이 oi	cucumber
 yo	요 yo	'yo' in 'yoga'	요리 yori	cooking
 u	우 u	'oo' in 'moon'	우유 uyu	milk
 yu	유 yu	'you'	유리 yuri	glass
 eu	으 eu	'oo' with lips spread flat	크다 keuda	to be big
 i	이 i	'ee' in 'see'	기차 gicha	train

Compound vowels (11)

Letter	Name	Sound hint	Example	Meaning
 ae	애 ae	'e' in 'bed'	개 gae	dog
 yae	얘 yae	'ye' in 'yes'	얘기 yaegi	talk, story
 e	에 e	same as ㅐ for most speakers	게 ge	crab

Letter	Name	Sound hint	Example	Meaning
예 ye	예 ye	'ye' in 'yes'	시계 sigye	clock, watch
와 wa	와 wa	'wa' in 'want'	사과 sagwa	apple
왜 wae	왜 wae	'we' in 'wet'	왜 wae	why
외 oe	외 oe	usually 'we' in 'wet'	회사 hoesa	company
워 wo	워 wo	'wo' in 'wonder'	뭐 mwo	what
웨 we	웨 we	'we' in 'wet'	웨이터 weiteo	waiter
위 wi	위 wi	'wee' in 'week'	귀 gwi	ear
의 ui	의 ui	— sliding into ㅣ	의자 uija	chair

— is said like ㅣ after a consonant (희망 → [히망]) and usually like ㅈ when it is the particle 의 ("of").

Final consonants (batchim): only 7 sounds

Final sound	Written with	Example	Said as	Meaning
ㄱ k	ㄱ ㅋ ㆁ	부엌 bueok	[부억]	kitchen
ㄴ n	ㄴ	산 san	[산]	mountain
ㄷ t	ㄷ ㅌ ㅈ ㅊ ㅌ ㅎ	꽃 kkot	[꼇]	flower
ㄹ l	ㄹ	물 mul	[물]	water
ㅁ m	ㅁ	밤 bam	[밤]	night

Final sound	Written with	Example	Said as	Meaning
ㅃ p	ㅃ ㅍ	앞 ap	[압]	front
ㅇ ng	ㅇ	방 bang	[방]	room

Final consonants are not released: close your mouth on the sound and stop. Do not add a vowel after it.