KR

LANGUAGE COURSE

Korean Alphabet 2

11 Chapters

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KOREAN ALPHABET 2

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Korean Alphabet 2

Course 2 · Chapter 1 · Tense Consonants 1

ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ — The Doubled Letters

*In Korean Alphabet 1 you learned 24 basic letters, and you met the idea that many consonants come in sets: a **plain** letter (ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ) and an **aspirated** one with a puff of air (ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ). This chapter adds the third member of each set, the **tense** letter. Three of them have a simple look: the plain letter written twice, ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ. The other two, ㅆ and ㅉ, come in Chapter 2.*

Your Three Letters — ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ

ㄲ

kk

a "k" sound said with a tight, stiff throat and no puff of air

Memory hook: two ㄱ side by side, like two corners standing together: a double dose of the same sound.

ㄸ

tt

a "t" sound said with a tight, stiff throat and no puff of air

Memory hook: two ㄷ side by side: two doors next to each other.

ㅃ

pp

a "p" sound said with a tight, stiff throat and no puff of air

Memory hook: two ㅂ side by side: two buckets together.

Plain, Aspirated, Tense: One Sound, Three Ways

*Wikipedia's Hangul page counts **51 jamo**: the 24 basic ones, and then letters made by "duplications" and "modifications and combinations". Duplication gives **5 additional consonants:** ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㅆ ㅉ, the tense set. Its Korean phonology page describes the tense consonants as produced "with a partially constricted glottis and additional subglottal pressure" and says that vowels before tense (and aspirated) consonants "tend to be shorter" than before plain ones. Here are the sets so far:*

PLAIN	ASPIRATED	TENSE
ㄱ g	ㅋ k	ㄲ kk
ㄷ d	ㅌ t	ㄸ tt
ㅂ b	ㅍ p	ㅃ pp

- The IPA marks tense stops with a small mark under the letter (for example /k͈/, /t͈/, /p͈/). The same page notes that some writers use an apostrophe or an asterisk instead, which is not standard IPA usage.
- The tense letters are **not simply "louder"**. The pages describe a difference in the throat and in the airflow, so what you want to hear is a tight, sharp start to the consonant without the puff that ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ have.
- The romanisation *kk*, *tt*, *pp* is a doubled letter. It does not tell you how the sound differs from *k*, *t*, *p*, so the sound is best learned from a recording, not from the romanisation.
- I have not found a reliable hand test that separates tense from plain. Listen to a native speaker for the contrast.

The Block Table

A tense letter goes in the block exactly where its plain letter would: first, with the vowel to the right (vertical vowels) or below (horizontal vowels). It takes the same room as one wide letter.

	ㅏ a	ㅓ eo	ㅗ o	ㅜ u	ㅡ eu	ㅣ i
ㄲ kk	까 kka	꺼 kkeo	꼬 kko	꾸 kku	끄 kkeu	끼 kki
ㄸ tt	따 tta	떠 tteo	또 tto	뚜 ttu	뜨 tteu	띠 tti
ㅃ pp	빠 ppa	뻐 ppeo	뽀 ppo	뿌 ppu	쁘 ppeu	삐 ppi

Compare one row: 가 (ga), 카 (ka), 까 (kka). Same vowel, three different starts. Do the same with 다 · 타 · 따 and 바 · 파 · 빠.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㄲ and ㅋ.** ㄲ is two ㄱ side by side; ㅋ is one ㄱ with a line across it.
- **ㄸ and ㅌ.** ㄸ is two separate door shapes; ㅌ is one door with a bar inside it.
- **ㅃ, ㅂ and ㅍ.** ㅃ is two ㅂ shapes side by side; ㅂ is a single square with two handles; ㅍ has a bar across the top with two legs.

Read It — First Words With Tense Letters

These use only letters you know. Say each word aloud and let the double letter be tight and sharp.

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	아빠	a-ppa	dad	*a-ppa, the double letter starts the second block*
2	오빠	o-ppa	older brother (said by a woman)	*see the box*
3	토끼	to-kki	rabbit	*ㅌ (aspirated) then ㄲ (tense)*
4	코끼리	ko-kki-ri	elephant	*ㅋ then ㄲ: an aspirate and a tense in one word*
5	아까	a-kka	a little while ago	*see the box*
6	뿌리	ppu-ri	root	*see the box*
7	또	tto	again	*a one-block word*
8	뽀뽀	ppo-ppo	kiss	*a repeated block*

A Famous Trio

Learners are often shown one trio of words that differ only in the first consonant. Read them and notice that the vowel and the final ㄹ are the same:

WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	SERIES
달	dal	moon	plain ㄷ
딸	ttal	daughter	tense ㄸ
탈	tal	mask	aspirated ㅌ

Check: in each block the consonant comes first, the ㅏ goes to its right and the ㄹ sits underneath; the three blocks differ only in the first letter.

Not Yet Verified

The count of 51 jamo, the five tense letters, the description of tense consonants as made with a constricted glottis and extra subglottal pressure, the point about shorter vowels and the IPA marking come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages. A web search confirmed that 뽀뽀 is *ppoppo*, "kiss", and that the romanisation doubles the letter (*kk, tt, pp*); it did not confirm the other words. The meanings of 아빠, 오빠, 토끼, 코끼리, 아까, 뿌리, 또, 달, 딸 and 탈, the note that 오빠 is said by a woman to an older brother, and the splitting of each word into blocks are from my own knowledge, so check them against a dictionary. The English sound hints ("tight, stiff throat, no puff") and the memory hooks are my own wording; I have not checked stroke order, and no recording is included.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (letter counts) and "Korean phonology" (tense consonants); a web search on tense-consonant romanisation and example words (beginner guides, Korean phonology, Wikibooks).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 까 . 또 . 뿌 . 끼 . 뜨 . 빠

▼ Show answer

kka · tto · ppu · kki · tteu · ppa

2. Match each plain letter with its tense partner: ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ.

▼ Show answer

ㄱ with ㄲ · ㄷ with ㄸ · ㅂ with ㅃ

3. Read these words: 아빠 · 토끼 · 코끼리 · 뽀뽀

▼ Show answer

a-ppa (dad) · to-kki (rabbit) · ko-kki-ri (elephant) · ppo-ppo (kiss)

4. Write in Hangul: *a-kka · ppu-ri · tto*

▼ Show answer

아까 . 뿌리 . 또

5. Write the three members of the t-set (plain, aspirated, tense) and the three of the p-set.

▼ Show answer

t-set: ㄷ · ㅌ · ㄸ

p-set: ㅂ · ㅍ · ㅃ

6. Read the trio 달 · 딸 · 탈 and say which letters make the difference.

▼ Show answer

dal · ttal · tal. Only the first consonant changes: ㄷ (plain), ㄸ (tense), ㅌ (aspirated); the ㅏ and the final ㄹ stay the same.

Coming Up in Chapter 2

The last two tense letters: ㅆ and ㅉ, the tense partners of ㅅ and ㅈ, and why there is no tense ㅎ.

Korean Alphabet 2

Course 2 · Chapter 2 · Tense Consonants 2

ㅺ ㅉ — The Last Two Doubled Letters

Chapter 1 gave you ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ. Two tense letters remain: ㅺ and ㅉ, the doubled partners of ㅅ and ㅈ. When this chapter is done you will know all five doubled consonants and the whole consonant table. You will also see why the table has a gap where a tense ㅎ might have been.

Your Two Letters — ㅺ ㅉ

ㅺ

ss

an "s" said with a tight, stiff throat; sharper than ㅅ

Memory hook: two ㅅ side by side, like two little roofs or two hills.

ㅉ

jj

a "j" or "ch" sound said with a tight, stiff throat and no puff of air

Memory hook: two ㅈ side by side: a double hat on a double sign.

The Whole Table of Sets

Wikipedia's Korean phonology page says that for each plosive and affricate there is "a three-way contrast" between plain, tense and aspirated, and that in the Korean alphabet "as well as all widely used romanization systems for Korean" the tense ones are written as doubled plain letters. With ㅺ and ㅉ in place, here is the whole picture:

PLAIN	ASPIRATED	TENSE
ㄱ g	ㅋ k	ㄲ kk
ㄷ d	ㅌ t	ㄸ tt

PLAIN	ASPIRATED	TENSE
ㅂ b	ㅍ p	ㅃ pp
ㅈ j	ㅊ ch	ㅉ jj
ㅅ s	—	ㅆ ss
ㅎ h	—	—

- The ㅅ row has no aspirated partner, and ㅎ has neither an aspirated nor a tense partner. The 51-letter count in Wikipedia's Hangul page lists the doubled consonants as exactly ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㅆ ㅉ, so there is no ㅎㅎ.
- The Korean phonology page gives a hint about why ㅅ and ㅎ sit outside the three-way pattern. It says the contrast applies to plosives and affricates; ㅅ and ㅎ are fricatives, and the two share traits (some aspiration at the start of a word, voicing between vowels, and a higher pitch on the next vowel). It adds that whether ㅅ is "phonologically plain or aspirated" has been "a source of controversy". The page does not say why there is no doubled ㅎ.
- The same page notes that "as it was suggested from the Middle Korean spelling, the tense consonants came from the initial consonant clusters sC-, pC-, and psC-". That is a point about the history of the sounds, and I only mention it here.
- The Gyeongsang dialect "is known for realization of tense ㅆ ss as plain ㅅ s", so some Korean speakers do not make the ㅅ / ㅆ difference.

ㅅ, ㅆ and the Vowel ㅣ

The Korean phonology page says the vowel ㅣ "palatalizes /s/ and /s͈/", which means ㅅ and ㅆ before ㅣ or a y-vowel are pronounced with a sound like English "sh" for most speakers. So 시 sounds like *shi* and 씨 like *sshi*, even though the usual romanisation writes *si* and *ssi*. ㅉ is written *jj*, and the page says that in Seoul the three ㅈ letters (ㅈ ㅊ ㅉ) are pronounced as palatal affricates.

The Block Table

ㅆ and ㅉ sit in a block like ㅅ and ㅈ, first, with the vowel to the right or below.

	ㅏ a	ㅓ eo	ㅗ o	ㅜ u	ㅡ eu	ㅣ i
ㅆ ss	싸 ssa	써 sseo	쏘 sso	쑤 ssu	쓰 sseu	씨 ssi
ㅉ jj	짜 jja	쩌 jjeo	쪼 jjo	쭈 jju	쯔 jjeu	찌 jji

Compare one column: 사 (sa), 싸 (ssa); 자 (ja), 차 (cha), 짜 (jja). Same vowel, three different starts for the ㅈ set.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㅆ and ㅅ.** ㅆ is two ㅅ side by side; ㅅ is a single one.
- **ㅉ, ㅈ and ㅊ.** ㅉ is two ㅈ shapes; ㅈ is one; ㅊ is one ㅈ with a small line on top.
- **ㅆ and ㅉ.** The first looks like two roofs, the second like two hats on a line: the extra top stroke on each ㅈ is what separates them.

Read It — Words With All Five Tense Letters

These use only letters you know. Say each word aloud and keep the double letter tight.

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	쌀	ssal	uncooked rice	*one block: ㅆ + ㅏ + final ㄹ; see the box*
2	아저씨	a-jeo-ssi	mister; a middle-aged man	*plain ㅈ and tense ㅆ in one word; see the box*
3	가짜	ga-jja	fake	*plain ㄱ then tense ㅉ*
4	진짜	jin-jja	real; really	*a final ㄴ, then ㅉ*
5	짜장면	jja-jang-myeon	black bean noodles	*tense ㅉ then plain ㅈ in the next block*

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
6	아까	a-kka	a little while ago	*from Chapter 1*
7	토끼	to-kki	rabbit	*from Chapter 1*

Not Yet Verified

The five doubled consonants and the 51-jamo count come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" page. The three-way contrast for plosives and affricates, tense letters written as doubled plain ones in all widely used romanisations, the origin from Middle Korean clusters, the palatalisation of ㅅ and ㅆ before ㅣ, the Gyeongsang realisation of ㅆ, and the remarks on ㅅ and ㅎ come from "Korean phonology". The page gives no reason for the absence of a doubled ㅎ, and I have not looked for one. A web search on the words did not confirm 쌀, 아저씨, 가짜, 진짜 or 짜장면, so their meanings are from my own knowledge; please check them in a dictionary. The search results also disagreed on whether there are three or five doubled consonants, and I follow Wikipedia's list of five. The sound hints, the "sh" description and the memory hooks are my own wording, with no recording and no stroke order checked.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (letter counts) and "Korean phonology" (consonants, fricatives, palatalisation, dialects); a web search on double consonants and example words (beginner guides, including a ㅅ vs. ㅆ article).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 싸 · 쯔 · 쏘 · 찌 · 쑤 · 쩌

▼ Show answer

ssa · jjeu · sso · jji · ssu · jjeo

2. Write the five tense letters, and the plain letter each one doubles.

▼ Show answer

ㄲ (ㄱ) · ㄸ (ㄷ) · ㅃ (ㅂ) · ㅆ (ㅅ) · ㅉ (ㅈ)

3. Read these words: 쌀 · 가짜 · 진짜 · 짜장면

▼ Show answer

ssal (rice) · ga-jja (fake) · jin-jja (real) · jja-jang-myeon (black bean noodles)

4. Write in Hangul: *a-jeo-ssi* · *a-kka* · *ssal*

▼ Show answer

아저씨 . 아까 . 쌀

5. Which consonant has no aspirated and no tense partner in the table, and what does the Korean phonology page say about ㅅ and ㅎ?

▼ Show answer

ㅎ. The page says the three-way contrast applies to plosives and affricates, while ㅅ and ㅎ are fricatives that share some traits (some aspiration at the start of a word, voicing between vowels, a higher pitch on the next vowel); it does not say why there is no doubled ㅎ.

6. Pick one word from Chapter 1 and one from this chapter, and say which tense letters each uses.

▼ Show answer

For example 아빠 (ㅃ) and 진짜 (ㅉ); or 토끼 (ㄲ) and 아저씨 (ㅆ).

Coming Up in Chapter 3

The tense letters are done. Next come the **compound vowels**, starting with ㅐ and ㅔ: how they are built from ㅏ, ㅓ and ㅣ, and why they sound so alike today.

ㅐ ㅔ — Two Vowels Built From Two

*The consonants are finished. Now come the **compound vowels**: 11 extra vowel letters made by combining basic vowels. Wikipedia's Hangul page lists them as ㅐ ㅒ ㅔ ㅖ ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ ㅢ. This chapter takes the two most common, ㅐ and ㅔ. They are easy to write and a little hard to tell apart by ear, and the reason is worth knowing.*

Your Two Letters — ㅐ ㅔ

ㅐ

ae

roughly like the "e" in *bed*

Memory hook: ㅏ plus ㅣ: the "a" bar with a second bar standing beside it. The short tick sits *between* the two bars.

ㅔ

e

roughly like the "e" in *bed*, or in *get*

Memory hook: ㅓ plus ㅣ: the "eo" bar with a second bar beside it. The short tick sits on the *outside left*.

Built From Letters You Know

- ㅐ = ㅏ + ㅣ and ㅔ = ㅓ + ㅣ. Wikipedia's Hangul page says the compound vowels result from "modifications and combinations" of the basic ones, and that in Middle Korean "ㅐ was once pronounced as a diphthong of the two letters that graphically compose it: ㅏ and ㅣ".
- Wikipedia's Korean phonology page explains that Middle Korean had a set of diphthongs ending in the sound *i*, which later "monophthongized into modern-day front vowels": /aj/ became /ɛ/ (written ㅐ) and /əj/ became /e/ (written ㅔ). "This is the reason why the hangul letters ㅐ, ㅔ, ㅚ etc. are represented as back vowels plus i."
- The block rule is the one you know: both letters have a long vertical stroke, so they sit **to the right** of the initial consonant (Hangul page).

Why They Sound Alike Now

Korean phonology says: "The distinction between /e/ and /ɛ/ is lost in South Korean dialects—both are most commonly realized as [ę], but some older speakers still retain the difference." That is the vowel of ㅖ (/e/) and of ㅐ (/ɛ/). It adds that "as for North Korean, some works report the distinction to be robust", although one study it cites found even younger speakers there produced it inconsistently. For you, the practical result is that most South Korean speakers pronounce ㅐ and ㅖ the same, so the spelling of a word has to be learned, as with English *there* and *their*.

LETTER	ROMANISATION	OLDER SOUND (IPA)	MOST SOUTH KOREAN SPEAKERS
ㅐ	ae	/ɛ/	[ę]
ㅖ	e	/e/	[ę]

The Block Table

	ㄱ g	ㄴ n	ㅁ m	ㅂ b	ㅅ s	ㅇ ·	ㅎ h
ㅐ ae	개 gae	내 nae	매 mae	배 bae	새 sae	애 ae	해 hae
ㅖ e	게 ge	네 ne	메 me	베 be	세 se	에 e	헤 he

Each row reads like a row you already know. The ㅇ column is the silent placeholder from Chapter 1 of Korean Alphabet 1: 애 and 에 are just the vowels.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㅐ and ㅖ.** Look for the short tick. In ㅐ it sits between the two bars; in ㅖ it sits on the outside left.
- **ㅏ and ㅐ.** ㅐ has a second bar. **ㅓ and ㅖ.** The same.
- **ㅐ and ㅒ, ㅖ and ㅖ.** The next chapter adds a second tick to make these y-versions.

Read It — First Words With ㅐ and ㅔ

Only letters you know. Say each word aloud; the vowels will sound close to each other.

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	개	gae	dog	*a one-block word; see the box*
2	게	ge	crab	*written differently from 개 but close in sound*
3	새	sae	bird	*see the box*
4	네	ne	yes	*a common answer*
5	새우	sae-u	shrimp	*see the box*
6	카메라	ka-me-ra	camera	*a word borrowed from English*
7	케이크	ke-i-keu	cake	*a word borrowed from English*
8	메뉴	me-nyu	menu	*a word borrowed from English*

Note that 메뉴 contains ㅠ, a y-vowel from Korean Alphabet 1.

Not Yet Verified

The list of compound vowels, the building of ㅐ from ㅏ and ㅣ, the Middle Korean history, the block rule, and the pronunciation facts (/ɛ/ and /e/ merged into [ɐ̝] in South Korean dialects, some older speakers keeping the difference, the North Korean report) come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages. I did not run a web search for this chapter: the meanings of 개, 게, 새, 네, 새우, 카메라, 케이크 and 메뉴, and the loanword remarks, are from my own knowledge, so check them in a dictionary. The English comparisons ("bed", "get"), the claim that most speakers will not hear a difference in your own speech, the English comparison to *there* and *their*, and the memory hooks are my own wording. I have not checked stroke order and there is no recording.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (vowel list, block rules, Middle Korean) and "Korean phonology" (vowels, the loss of the /e/–/ɛ/ distinction).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 개 · 네 · 해 · 세 · 매 · 베

▼ Show answer

gae · ne · hae · se · mae · be

2. Which two letters make up ㅐ, and which two make up ㅔ?

▼ Show answer

ㅐ = ㅏ + ㅣ; ㅔ = ㅓ + ㅣ.

3. Read these words: 새 · 새우 · 카메라 · 케이크

▼ Show answer

sae (bird) · sae-u (shrimp) · ka-me-ra (camera) · ke-i-keu (cake)

4. Write in Hangul: *ne* · *gae* · *me-nyu*

▼ Show answer

네 . 개 . 메뉴

5. How do most South Korean speakers pronounce ㅐ and ㅔ, according to the Korean phonology page, and why does that matter for spelling?

▼ Show answer

Both are most commonly realised as [e̞], although some older speakers keep the difference. Because they sound alike, the spelling of each word has to be learned.

6. Where does the short tick sit in ㅐ, and where in ㅔ?

▼ Show answer

In ㅐ it sits between the two bars; in ㅔ it sits on the outside left.

Coming Up in Chapter 4

Three more compound vowels: ㅒ and ㅖ, the y-versions of ㅐ and ㅔ, and ㅢ, the vowel with its own rule for where the consonant goes.

ㅒ ㅖ ㅢ — The Y-Versions and One Special Vowel

Chapter 3 gave you ㅐ and ㅔ. This chapter adds three more compound vowels: ㅒ and ㅖ, the y-versions of ㅐ and ㅔ, and ㅢ, the only vowel with its own rule for where the consonant goes. Of the three, ㅢ is the one with the most pronunciation variation, and the sources say so.

Your Three Letters — ㅒ ㅖ ㅢ



yae

like ㅐ with a "y" in front

Memory hook: ㅑ plus ㅣ: the y-vowel with its two ticks, with a second bar beside it.



ye

like ㅔ with a "y" in front

Memory hook: ㅕ plus ㅣ: the y-vowel with its two ticks, with a second bar beside it.



ui

ㅡ and ㅣ run together; see the pronunciation notes below

Memory hook: the flat ㅡ with a standing ㅣ at its right end, like a small flag on a line.

Some pages write ㅢ as eui, to match eu for ㅡ. This course uses ui, the usual romanisation.

How They Are Built

- ㅒ = ㅑ + ㅣ and ㅖ = ㅕ + ㅣ: each of Chapter 3's vowels with the second tick added to the first bar.
- ㅢ = ㅡ + ㅣ. Wikipedia's Hangul page lists all three among the 11 compound vowels made by "modifications and combinations".
- **Block rules.** The Hangul page gives them in order: a vowel with a long vertical stroke (ㅒ and ㅖ are in its list) is written to the right of the initial consonant. A combination that

"begins with a long horizontal stroke followed by a long vertical stroke (e.g. –ㅣ)" puts the initial consonant **above the horizontal stroke**. So in 희 the ㅎ sits on top, the ㅡ below it and the ㅣ at the right.

The Pronunciation Notes

This is where the three letters differ from the earlier ones. Here is what I found, with sources.

- **–ㅢ has a unique sound.** Wikipedia's Korean phonology page calls –ㅢ "a unique off-glide diphthong... that combines the sounds [ɯ] and [i]", and says that in modern pronunciation it "merges into /i/ after a consonant". So 희 can sound like *hi*, though the spelling stays –ㅢ.
- **At the start of a word,** a university course page found in my search says to pronounce –ㅢ as ㅡ and ㅣ run together, giving 의자 as *eu-i-ja*.
- **As the possessive particle 의** (the "of" or "'s" ending), a course page and a KoreanClass101 lesson both say it is spelled 의 but commonly pronounced like *e*, so 나의 can sound like *na-e*; the lesson adds that *na-ui* is acceptable too.
- **ㅒ and ㅖ.** Wikipedia's Korean phonology page says the /e/–/ɛ/ distinction is lost in South Korean dialects (Chapter 3), so ㅒ and ㅖ, which are the same two vowels with a y-glide, may sound close to each other for many speakers. A flashcard page I found says ㅖ is often pronounced like ㅔ, for example in 시계; it is not a reliable source, so treat the point as a hint.

The sources I found do not agree on every detail, and they are mostly learner pages, not linguistic references. For now, learn to read –ㅢ ㅒ ㅖ by their spelling and listen to native audio for pronunciation. Chapter 10 returns to how spelling and sound part.

The Block Table

	ㅇ ·	ㄱ g	ㅎ h	ㅈ j	ㅁ m
ㅒ yae	얘 yae	걔 gyae	햬 hyae	쟤 jyae	먜 myae
ㅖ ye	예 ye	계 gye	혜 hye	졔 jye	몌 mye

	ㅇ ·	ㄱ g	ㅎ h	ㅈ j	ㅁ m
ㅢ ui	의 ui	긔 gui	희 hui	즤 jui	믜 mui

All of these are valid blocks, but only some are common in words (for example 얘, 걔, 쟤, 예, 계, 혜, 의 and 희). Look at the ㅢ row: the consonant is above the ㅡ and the ㅣ stands beside it.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㅒ and ㅐ; ㅖ and ㅔ.** The y-versions have an extra tick on the first bar.
- **ㅖ and ㅒ.** Count the ticks and see which first bar they sit on: ㅖ is built on ㅕ (ticks on the left); ㅒ is built on ㅑ (ticks on the right).
- **ㅢ and ㅡ, ㅣ.** ㅢ is the two letters joined at the right end; it is a different vowel from either.

Read It — Words With ㅒ ㅖ ㅢ

Only letters you know. Say each aloud; for ㅢ and ㅖ, the romanisation shows the spelling, not necessarily the common pronunciation.

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	예	ye	yes (polite)	*see the box*
2	시계	si-gye	clock; watch	*the ㅖ may sound like ㅔ*
3	계란	gye-ran	egg	*see the box*
4	얘기	yae-gi	talk; a story	*see the box*
5	의자	ui-ja	chair	*ㅢ at the start of a word*
6	의사	ui-sa	doctor	*see the box*
7	나의	na-ui	my	*ㅢ as the possessive; often sounds like na-e*

Not Yet Verified

The list of compound vowels, the block rules (including the rule for –ㅢ) and the statements that –ㅢ is "a unique off-glide diphthong" that "merges into /i/ after a consonant" and that the /e/–/ɛ/ distinction is lost in South Korean dialects come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages. A web search supported the following: 의자 being pronounced with ㅡ and ㅣ run together at the start of a word; the possessive 의 sounding like *e*, with *ui* acceptable (course pages from a university and KoreanClass101); and 시계 meaning "clock; watch" with ㅖ often sounding like ㅖ (a flashcard page, not a reliable source). It did not confirm ㅒ, 얘기, 예 or 계란. The meanings of those words, of 의사 and of 예 ("yes"), the "y" sound hints, the "romanisation ui" remark and the memory hooks are from my own knowledge or wording, so check them against a dictionary and a recording. I have not checked stroke order. The learner-page sources disagree in places on how –ㅢ is pronounced, and I have reported that, not resolved it.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (compound vowels, block rules) and "Korean phonology" (–ㅢ, vowel mergers); a web search on –ㅢ, ㅖ and example words (UBC Korean course pages, KoreanClass101 lessons, a flashcard deck).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 얘 · 계 · 희 · 예 · 쟤 · 의

▼ Show answer

yae · gye · hui · ye · jyae · ui

2. Which two letters make up each of ㅒ, ㅖ and –ㅢ?

▼ Show answer

ㅒ = ㅑ + ㅣ · ㅖ = ㅕ + ㅣ · –ㅢ = ㅡ + ㅣ

3. Read these words: 시계 · 계란 · 의자 · 의사

▼ Show answer

si-gye (clock) · gye-ran (egg) · ui-ja (chair) · ui-sa (doctor)

4. Write in Hangul: *ye* · *yae-gi* · *na-ui*

▼ Show answer

예 . 얘기 . 나의

5. In the block 희, where does each of the three letters go?

▼ Show answer

ㅎ above the horizontal stroke, ㅢ below it, ㅣ to the right (the rule for a vowel that begins with a horizontal stroke and ends with a vertical one).

6. What does the Korean phonology page say happens to ㅢ after a consonant?

▼ Show answer

In modern pronunciation it merges into /i/, so 희 can sound like *hi*.

Coming Up in Chapter 5

The w-vowels: ㅘ ㅙ ㅞ, which combine ㅗ with other vowels, and the block rule for combination vowels.

ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ — Vowels Built on ㅗ

Six of the 11 compound vowels begin with a "w" sound: three are built on ㅗ (this chapter) and three on ㅜ (the next). The three here are ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ. Writing them is straightforward, because you already know the block rule from –/ in Chapter 4. Pronouncing ㅚ/ is the harder part, and the sources disagree a little, so this chapter reports what they say.

Your Three Letters — ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ

ㅘ	ㅙ	ㅚ
wa	**wae**	**oe**
like "wa" in *want* said with a clear ㅗ-to-ㅏ glide	a "w" followed by the ㅐ vowel of Chapter 3	for most speakers now a "w" plus the ㅔ sound; see below
Memory hook: ㅗ plus ㅏ: the "o" sits underneath, the "a" bar rises at its right, like a small boat with a mast.	**Memory hook:** ㅗ plus ㅐ: the same boat with the two-bar mast.	**Memory hook:** ㅗ plus ㅣ: the boat with a plain single mast.

How They Are Built

- ㅘ = ㅗ + ㅏ, ㅙ = ㅗ + ㅐ, ㅚ = ㅗ + ㅣ. Wikipedia's Hangul page lists all three among the 11 compound vowels. It also says that in Middle Korean "some vowels were even pronounced as triphthongs, such as ㅙ (ㅗㅏㅣ)", which fits ㅙ as ㅗ + ㅏ + ㅣ.
- **Block rule.** These are the vowels the Hangul page describes when it says that "a combination [that] begins with a long horizontal stroke followed by a long vertical stroke" puts the initial consonant **above the horizontal stroke**. So the consonant goes on top, the ㅗ underneath it, and the vertical stroke(s) to the right. This is the same rule as for –|.

- The Korean phonology page adds that semivowels such as /w/ "may follow consonants in initial position in a word" and that "Hangul orthography… transcribes them as vowels", which is why the spelling treats *w* as part of the vowel and not as a separate letter.

How They Sound: What the Sources Say

- **ㅘ** is the clearest: a quick glide from the sound of ㅗ into ㅏ (learner pages in my search agree).
- **ㅙ** is described by the same learner pages as the "wae" sound, in words like 왜 and 돼지. One learner site compares it to the "we" in *wedding*, which conflicts with the others, so I treat that comparison as unreliable.
- **ㅚ.** Wikipedia's Korean phonology page says Korean "used to have two additional phonemes, [ø] ㅚ and [y] ㅟ, but they are replaced by the diphthongs [we] and [ɥi] by the majority of speakers", and that the old vowel "can still be heard in the speech of some older speakers". An official romanisation note I found says ㅚ and ㅟ are basically pronounced as single vowels, but pronouncing them as diphthongs is also allowed. Another source says there is little difference between ㅚ and ㅙ in modern speech.
- Chapter 3 noted that the older /e/ and /ɛ/ merged for most South Korean speakers. Since ㅙ contains ㅐ and ㅚ is now often [we], it follows that ㅙ and ㅚ can sound alike for many speakers. That is my inference from those facts, not a statement from a source.

LETTER	ROMANISATION	BUILT FROM	TYPICAL MODERN SOUND
ㅘ	wa	ㅗ + ㅏ	"wa"
ㅙ	wae	ㅗ + ㅐ	"wae", close to [we]
ㅚ	oe	ㅗ + ㅣ	[we] for most speakers

The Block Table

	ㅇ ·	ㄱ g	ㅎ h	ㄷ d	ㅅ s
ㅘ wa	와 wa	과 gwa	화 hwa	돠 dwa	솨 swa
ㅙ wae	왜 wae	괘 gwae	홰 hwae	돼 dwae	쇄 swae
ㅚ oe	외 oe	괴 goe	회 hoe	되 doe	쇠 soe

Check the shape of each block: the consonant on top, the ㅗ below it, and the vertical stroke(s) to the right. All of these are valid blocks; only some are common in words.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㅘ, ㅙ, ㅚ.** All three share the ㅗ at the bottom. Count the vertical strokes on the right: ㅘ has one with a tick, ㅙ has a tick and a second bar, ㅚ has a plain bar.
- **ㅘ and ㅏ.** ㅘ has the ㅗ underneath, which pushes the consonant to the top.
- **ㅚ and ㅗ with ㅣ.** ㅚ is one vowel; 오이 (cucumber) is the two vowels ㅗ and ㅣ in separate blocks.

Read It — Words With ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ

Only letters you know. Say each aloud; for ㅚ the romanisation shows the spelling, not the whole story about the sound.

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	와	wa	wow; also "come" in a verb form	*see the box*
2	사과	sa-gwa	apple	*ㅘ after ㄱ*
3	과자	gwa-ja	snack; biscuit	*see the box*

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
4	화장실	hwa-jang-sil	toilet; restroom	*ㅏ then two final consonants*
5	왜	wae	why	*a one-block word*
6	돼지	dwae-ji	pig	*ㅙ after ㄷ*
7	회사	hoe-sa	company; workplace	*ㅚ; see the box*
8	외국	oe-guk	foreign country	*ㅚ then a final ㄱ*

Not Yet Verified

The list of compound vowels, the Middle Korean ㅙ triphthong, the block rule, the remark about /w/ in the spelling, and the facts that ㅚ and ㅟ were once [ø] and [y] and are now mostly [we] and [ɥi], come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages. A web search (Wikibooks, KoreanClass101, a UBC course page, the Korean Ministry's romanisation notes and learner sites) supported the sounds of ㅘ and ㅙ and the words 사과, 화장실, 왜, 돼지, 회사 and 외국. It did not confirm 와 or 과자, and the sources conflict on ㅚ and on how to compare ㅙ with an English word. The meanings, the "boat and mast" memory hooks, the English comparisons and my inference that ㅙ and ㅚ can sound alike are my own, so check them against a dictionary and a recording. I have not checked stroke order.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (compound vowels, block rules, Middle Korean) and "Korean phonology" (ㅚ and ㅟ, semivowels); a web search on ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ (Wikibooks, KoreanClass101, UBC, learner sites).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 와 · 과 · 왜 · 돼 · 외 · 회

▼ Show answer

wa · gwa · wae · dwae · oe · hoe

2. Which two letters make up each of 사, 새 and 쇠?

▼ Show answer

사 = ㅅ + ㅏ · 새 = ㅅ + ㅐ · 쇠 = ㅅ + ㅚ

3. Read these words: 사과 · 화장실 · 돼지 · 외국

▼ Show answer

sa-gwa (apple) · hwa-jang-sil (toilet) · dwae-ji (pig) · oe-guk (foreign country)

4. Write in Hangul: *wae* · *hoe-sa* · *gwa-ja*

▼ Show answer

왜 . 회사 . 과자

5. In the block 화, where does each letter go, and which rule is that?

▼ Show answer

ㅎ on top, ㅗ below it, ㅏ to the right: the rule for a combination vowel that begins with a long horizontal stroke followed by a long vertical stroke (the same as for ㅚ).

6. What does the Korean phonology page say about 쇠 in modern speech?

▼ Show answer

The old vowel [ø] has been replaced by the diphthong [we] for the majority of speakers, though some older speakers still use the old sound.

Coming Up in Chapter 6

The last three compound vowels: ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ, built on ㅜ, and a recap of all 11.

Korean Alphabet 2

Course 2 · Chapter 6 · W-Vowels 2

ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ — The Last Compound Vowels

Three compound vowels remain: ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ, built on ㅜ the way ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ were built on ㅗ. When this chapter is done you will know all 11 compound vowels, and you will have a table that puts them side by side.

Your Three Letters — ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ

ㅝ

wo

a "w" followed by the ㅓ vowel (*eo*)

Memory hook: ㅜ plus ㅓ: the little "u" bar underneath, and the "eo" bar rising on its right.

ㅞ

we

a "w" followed by the ㅔ vowel

Memory hook: ㅜ plus ㅔ: the same base with the two-bar mast.

ㅟ

wi

a "w" followed by "ee", run together

Memory hook: ㅜ plus ㅣ: the base with a single plain mast.

How They Are Built

- **ㅝ = ㅜ + ㅓ, ㅞ = ㅜ + ㅔ, ㅟ = ㅜ + ㅣ.** Wikipedia's Hangul page lists all three among the 11 compound vowels.
- **Block rule.** The same as for ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ and ㅢ: the consonant goes **above** the horizontal stroke (ㅜ), and the vertical stroke(s) go to the right. So in 위 the ㅇ is on top and the ㅜ and the ㅣ follow.

How They Sound: What the Sources Say

- **ㅟ.** Wikipedia's Korean phonology page says Korean "used to have two additional phonemes, [ø] ㅚ and [y] ㅟ, but they are replaced by the diphthongs [we] and [ɥi] by the majority of speakers", and adds that "in a 2003 survey of 350 speakers from Seoul, nearly 90% pronounced the vowel ㅟ as [ɥi]". A web source says the simple-vowel pronunciation (close to German *ü*) is heard in southern and eastern Korea and occasionally in the capital, but cannot be considered the standard.
- **ㅞ.** A learner page says ㅞ is pronounced like ㅚ and ㅙ, so most speakers do not distinguish ㅙ ㅚ ㅞ. This matches the Chapter 3 and Chapter 5 facts: since /e/ and /ɛ/ merged for most South Korean speakers, "w + e" and "w + ae" end up the same.
- **ㅝ.** I found no source that questions its "wo" value. Take it as the learner pages give it.

The Block Table

	ㅇ ·	ㅁ m	ㄱ g	ㅈ j	ㅎ h
ㅝ wo	워 wo	뭐 mwo	궈 gwo	줘 jwo	훠 hwo
ㅞ we	웨 we	뭬 mwe	궤 gwe	줴 jwe	훼 hwe
ㅟ wi	위 wi	뮈 mwi	귀 gwi	쥐 jwi	휘 hwi

All valid blocks; only some are common in words (for example 워, 뭐, 웨, 귀, 쥐, 위 and 휘). Notice again: consonant on top, the horizontal ㅜ underneath, the vertical stroke(s) to the right.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㅟ and ㅘ.** ㅟ has ㅜ underneath and the tick on the left of the vertical bar; ㅘ has ㅗ underneath and the tick on the right.
- **ㅞ and ㅙ; ㅟ and ㅚ.** Only the base differs: ㅜ (a bar hanging down) against ㅗ (a bar standing up).
- **ㅟ and ㅢ.** ㅟ has ㅜ at the bottom; ㅢ has ㅡ, a flat bar, with the ㅣ at its end.

All 11 Compound Vowels at a Glance

LETTER	ROMANISATION	BUILT FROM	CHAPTER
ㅐ	ae	ㅏ + ㅣ	3
ㅔ	e	ㅓ + ㅣ	3
ㅒ	yae	ㅑ + ㅣ	4
ㅖ	ye	ㅕ + ㅣ	4
ㅢ	ui	ㅡ + ㅣ	4
ㅘ	wa	ㅗ + ㅏ	5
ㅙ	wae	ㅗ + ㅐ	5
ㅚ	oe	ㅗ + ㅣ	5
ㅝ	wo	ㅜ + ㅓ	6
ㅞ	we	ㅜ + ㅔ	6
ㅟ	wi	ㅜ + ㅣ	6

- **Where the consonant goes.** ㅐ ㅔ ㅒ ㅖ have a long vertical stroke, so the vowel sits to the *right* of the consonant. ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ ㅢ begin with a horizontal stroke followed by a vertical one, so the consonant goes *above* the horizontal stroke.
- **A running count.** You now know the 24 basic letters, the 5 tense consonants and the 11 compound vowels: 40 jamo. Wikipedia's Hangul page says "North Korea [counts] 40 (not counting 11 heterogeneous consonant digraphs)". The 11 double final consonants, the last group, come in Chapters 7 to 9.

Read It — Words With ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ

Only letters you know. Say each aloud.

#	WORD	ROMANISATION	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	뭐	mwo	what	*one block; see the box*
2	원	won	won (the Korean currency)	*ㅝ with a final ㄴ*
3	병원	byeong-won	hospital	*see the box*
4	스웨터	seu-we-teo	sweater	*a word borrowed from English*
5	귀	gwi	ear	*ㅟ after ㄱ*
6	쥐	jwi	mouse; rat	*ㅟ after ㅈ*
7	가위	ga-wi	scissors	*ㅟ after the silent ㅇ*
8	취미	chwi-mi	hobby	*ㅟ after ㅊ*

Not Yet Verified

The list of compound vowels, the block rule, the count of 40 and 11 digraphs, and the facts that ㅚ and ㅟ were [ø] and [y] and are now mostly [we] and [ɥi] (including the 2003 Seoul survey of 350 speakers) come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages. A web search (Wikiversity, KoreanClass101, a UBC course page and learner sites) listed ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ as 워, 웨, 위, reported ㅞ as sounding like ㅚ and ㅐ, and described the range of pronunciations of ㅟ; it did not cover any of the words in the table. The meanings of those eight words, the English comparisons, the remarks on regional pronunciation of ㅟ (from one web source) and the memory hooks are my own or from that single source, so check them against a dictionary and a recording. I have not checked stroke order.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (compound vowels, block rules, letter counts) and "Korean phonology" (ㅚ and ㅟ, the 2003 survey); a web search on ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ (Wikiversity, KoreanClass101, UBC, learner sites).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 워 · 뭐 · 웨 · 귀 · 쥐 · 위

▼ Show answer

wo · mwo · we · gwi · jwi · wi

2. Which two letters make up each of ㅝ, ㅞ and ㅟ?

▼ Show answer

ㅝ = ㅜ + ㅓ · ㅞ = ㅜ + ㅔ · ㅟ = ㅜ + ㅣ

3. Read these words: 원 · 병원 · 스웨터 · 가위

▼ Show answer

won (won) · byeong-won (hospital) · seu-we-teo (sweater) · ga-wi (scissors)

4. Write in Hangul: *gwi* · *chwi-mi* · *mwo*

▼ Show answer

귀 · 취미 · 뭐

5. Sort the 11 compound vowels by where the consonant goes: to the left of the vowel, or above it.

▼ Show answer

Left of the vowel (vowel to the right): ㅐ ㅔ ㅒ ㅖ. Above the horizontal stroke: ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ ㅢ.

6. How many jamo do you know now, and which group of 11 is still to come?

▼ Show answer

40 (24 basic letters, 5 tense consonants and 11 compound vowels). The 11 double final consonants (ㄳ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ ㄻ ㄼ ㄽ ㄾ ㄿ ㅀ ㅄ) come next.

Coming Up in Chapter 7

The last group: **double final consonants**. Two consonants share the bottom of a block, starting with ㄳ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ. This is also where the romanisation starts to fade.

Korean Alphabet 2

Course 2 · Chapter 7 · Double Finals 1

ㄳ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ — Two Consonants at the Bottom

*In Korean Alphabet 1 you learned that a block can end in a final consonant (batchim). Now meet blocks that end in **two** consonants. Wikipedia's Hangul page lists 11 of them as "heterogeneous consonant digraphs": ㄳ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ ㄻ ㄼ ㄽ ㄾ ㄿ ㅀ ㅄ. This chapter takes four, the next two chapters take the rest. From this chapter on, the romanisation fades: words are shown in Hangul first and the romanisation is behind a click.*

Your Four Digraphs — ㄳ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ

ㄳ

ㄱ + ㅅ

when it ends a word, you hear ㄱ (k)

Memory hook: a ㄱ with a small ㅅ roof tucked under it.

ㄵ

ㄴ + ㅈ

when it ends a word, you hear ㄴ (n)

Memory hook: a ㄴ with a ㅈ hat sitting next to it.

ㄶ

ㄴ + ㅎ

you hear ㄴ (n); the ㅎ may add a puff to the next consonant

Memory hook: a ㄴ with a ㅎ beside it: a hat on a circle.

ㄺ

ㄹ + ㄱ

when it ends a word, you hear ㄱ (k)

Memory hook: a ㄹ with a ㄱ corner after it, side by side.

How They Are Written

- Wikipedia's Hangul page says "final heterogenous digraph consonant clusters are orthographically considered to be two different letters combined, but phonologically considered to be a single letter". On paper there are two letters; in sound, one.
- Block rule: "If the final consonant is a combination, place the letters side by side" at the bottom of the block. So in 닭 the ㄹ and ㄱ sit side by side under the ㅏ.
- Counting: the page gives 19 possible initials, 21 vowels and 28 final options, which combine to give 11,172 possible blocks.

Which Consonant Do You Hear?

Wikipedia's Korean phonology page first notes that "only /p, t, k, m, n, ŋ, l/ may occur finally": just seven sounds can end a block. It then gives the rule for clusters: when a word ends in two consonants and stands alone, "one of the consonants is not expressed". The clusters are "expressed" in full "only when they are followed by a vowel". The rule for which one drops, in the page's words:

- if there is an /h/, "which cannot appear in final position, it will be that" that drops;
- "otherwise it will be a coronal consonant", and if the sequence is two coronals, "the voiceless one (/s, t^h, tɕ/) will drop, and /n/ or /l/ will remain".

DIGRAPH	MADE OF	PRONOUNCED ALONE AS	WHY (FROM THE RULE)
ㄺ	ㄱ + ㅅ	ㄱ (k)	ㅅ is a coronal and drops
ㄵ	ㄴ + ㅈ	ㄴ (n)	two coronals; the voiceless ㅈ drops and ㄴ remains
ㄶ	ㄴ + ㅎ	ㄴ (n)	ㅎ cannot be final, so it drops
ㄻ	ㄹ + ㄱ	ㄱ (k)	ㄹ is a coronal and drops, leaving the velar ㄱ

- **The dropped letter is not always lost.** The same page says that when the cluster is followed by a consonant the same reduction takes place "but a trace of the lost consonant may

remain in its effect on the following consonant": a dropped /h/ "will leave it aspirated". Its examples include ㄴ + ㅎ followed by ㄷ giving [nt^{h}].

- **Before a vowel, both are heard.** The first stays at the end of its block and the second moves across to start the next syllable.
- **Exceptions exist.** The page notes that ㄹ + ㄱ followed by ㄱ can stay as [lk̚], with the ㄹ not elided. I note this and do not teach the rule here.

Example Blocks

Digraph	Blocks	
ㄻ	넑	몫
ㄵ	앉	얹
ㄶ	않	많
ㄺ	닭	흙

Each block has the same top two layers you know (consonant and vowel) and a pair of letters side by side at the bottom.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㄴ + ㅎ and ㄴ + ㅈ.** ㄶ has a ㅎ (hat on a circle) after the ㄴ; ㄵ has a ㅈ (a roof on a line).
- **ㄹ + ㄱ and ㄻ.** ㄺ begins with ㄹ; ㄻ begins with ㄱ and ends with ㅅ.
- **Digraph and single final.** 닭 (ㄹ + ㄱ) is not 달 (ㄹ alone): count the letters at the bottom.

Read It — Words With ㄻ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ

Read the Hangul first and say it aloud. Then click to check how it is written in romanisation and how it sounds. Several are verbs in their dictionary form, which ends in 다.

#	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
1	닭	chicken	▼ Show dalk; sounds like 닥 (dak)
2	흙	soil; earth	▼ Show heulk; sounds like 흑 (heuk)
3	몫	a share; a portion	▼ Show mok; sounds like 목 (mok)
4	읽다	to read	▼ Show ik-da; sounds like 익따 (ik-tta)
5	앉다	to sit	▼ Show an-da; sounds like 안따 (an-tta)
6	많다	to be many; to be much	▼ Show man-ta; sounds like 만타 (man-ta)
7	괜찮다	to be all right; to be okay	▼ Show gwaen-chan-ta; sounds like 괜찬타 (gwaen-chan-ta)

Not Yet Verified

The list of 11 digraphs, the statement that they are two letters on paper and one in sound, the block rule, the 28 final options, and the pronunciation rules (seven final sounds; which consonant is "not expressed"; the trace left on the next consonant; the exception for ㄹ + ㄱ + ㄱ) come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages. A web search (KoreanClass101, learning-korean.com, a UBC page and others) supported the general rule and the liaison before a vowel (for example 앉아). It did not list 닭, 흙, 몫, 많다 or 괜찮다. The dictionary meanings and the sound-alike respellings in the table, including the tensing in 익따 and 안따, are from my own knowledge, so check them in a Korean dictionary. The memory hooks are my own, and I have not checked stroke order. The Wikipedia rule is stated for the stems of words, and real words have exceptions I have not researched.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (digraphs, block rules, counts) and "Korean phonology" (final consonants, clusters); a web search on double batchim (KoreanClass101, learning-korean.com and others).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 닭 · 몫 · 앉 · 많 · 흙 · 않

▼ Show answer

dak · mok · an · man · heuk · an (as they sound when alone)

2. Which two letters make up each of ㄻ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ?

▼ Show answer

ㄻ = ㄱ + ㅅ · ㄵ = ㄴ + ㅈ · ㄶ = ㄴ + ㅎ · ㄺ = ㄹ + ㄱ

3. Read these words: 닭 · 읽다 · 앉다 · 괜찮다

▼ Show answer

dak (chicken) · ik-da (to read) · an-da (to sit) · gwaen-chan-ta (to be okay)

4. Write in Hangul (the spelling, not the sound): the word for *soil*, and the word for *a share*.

▼ Show answer

흙 · 몫

5. Using the page's rule, say which consonant of ㄶ is not pronounced, and why.

▼ Show answer

The ㅎ. The page says an /h/, which cannot appear in final position, is the one that drops; ㄴ remains.

6. How many different sounds can end a block, according to the Korean phonology page, and what happens to a two-consonant ending before a vowel?

▼ Show answer

Seven (/p, t, k, m, n, ŋ, l/). Before a vowel both consonants are expressed: the first stays at the end of its block and the second begins the next syllable.

Coming Up in Chapter 8

Four more digraphs, the ㄹ-clusters ㄹㅁ ㄹㅂ ㄹㅅ ㄹㅌ, and exceptions such as 여덟.

Korean Alphabet 2

Course 2 · Chapter 8 · Double Finals 2

ㄹㅁ ㄹㅂ ㄹㅅ ㄹㅌ — The ㄹ-Clusters

Chapter 7 gave you four double finals. This chapter gives you four more, all beginning with ㄹ: ㄹㅁ ㄹㅂ ㄹㅅ ㄹㅌ. The pronunciation rule from Chapter 7 still applies, but this group contains the exceptions the sources single out, so it needs more care. As in Chapter 7, words are shown in Hangul first, with the romanisation behind a click.

Your Four Digraphs — ㄹㅁ ㄹㅂ ㄹㅅ ㄹㅌ

ㄹㅁ

ㄹ + ㅁ

alone or before a consonant you hear ㅁ (m)

Memory hook: a ㄹ with a ㅁ box beside it.

ㄹㅂ

ㄹ + ㅂ

usually ㄹ (l); a few words use ㅂ (p)

Memory hook: a ㄹ with a ㅂ bucket beside it.

ㄹㅅ

ㄹ + ㅅ

you hear ㄹ (l); a rare digraph

Memory hook: a ㄹ with a ㅅ roof beside it.

ㄹㅌ

ㄹ + ㅌ

you hear ㄹ (l)

Memory hook: a ㄹ with a ㅌ door beside it.

Which Consonant Do You Hear?

Chapter 7 gave Wikipedia's rule: when the cluster stands alone, one consonant is not expressed. If one is /h/, that goes; otherwise it is a coronal consonant, "with the exception of /lb/, sometimes"; and between two coronals "the voiceless one (/s, t^h, tɕ/) will drop, and /n/ or /l/ will remain". Applying it to this group:

DIGRAPH	MADE OF	PRONOUNCED ALONE AS	WHY (FROM THE RULE)
ㄻ	ㄹ + ㅁ	ㅁ (m)	ㄹ is a coronal and drops, leaving the labial ㅁ
ㄼ	ㄹ + ㅂ	usually ㄹ (l); sometimes ㅂ (p)	the page names this one as the exception: "/lb/ either reduces to [l]... or to [p̚]"
ㄽ	ㄹ + ㅅ	ㄹ (l)	two coronals; the voiceless ㅅ drops and ㄹ remains
ㄾ	ㄹ + ㅌ	ㄹ (l)	two coronals; the voiceless ㅌ drops and ㄹ remains

- **The named examples.** The Korean phonology page gives: 짧다 reduces ㄼ to [l] (it is pronounced as if with ㄹ); 밟다 reduces it to [p̚] (as if with ㅂ); and 여덟 "is always pronounced 여덜 even when followed by a vowel-initial particle". So ㄼ is the one cluster where you must learn the word.
- **A learner rule of thumb.** Several learner pages in my search say that "usually only the first consonant in the double batchim is pronounced", and then list exceptions. Compare this with the page's rule: it predicts the first consonant for ㄳ ㄵ ㄶ and (usually) ㄼ, but for ㄺ and ㄻ the second one. Both approaches give the same sounds for the words so far; the page's rule explains why.
- **Before a vowel, both are heard** (as in Chapter 7). The search results give 젊어요 as sounding like 절머요: the ㄹ stays, and the ㅁ moves to start the next syllable.
- **A trace remains.** A reduced cluster can leave an effect on the next consonant; the page's example is ㄹ + ㅁ followed by ㄷ giving [md].

Example Blocks

Digraph	Blocks			
ㄺ	삶	젊	닮	
ㄻ	여덟	짧	넓	밟
ㄽ	곬			
ㄾ	핥			

ㄽ is rare: the only example I know is 곬, and I give it only to show the shape of the digraph. The ㄾ example 핥 is also uncommon.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㄺ, ㄻ, ㄽ, ㄾ.** All begin with ㄹ. The second letter tells them apart: ㅁ (a box), ㅂ (a bucket), ㅅ (a roof), ㅌ (a door).
- **ㄻ and ㄿ.** ㄿ (next chapter) ends in ㅍ, which has a bar across the top; ㄻ ends in ㅂ.
- **Digraph and single final.** 삶 (ㄹ + ㅁ) is not 살 (ㄹ alone).

Read It — Words With ㄺ ㄻ ㄽ ㄾ

Read the Hangul first, then click to check the romanisation and the sound. Several are verbs in their dictionary form, which ends in 다.

#	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
1	삶	life; a life	▼ Show salm; sounds like 삼 (sam)
2	젊다	to be young	▼ Show jeolm-da; sounds like 점따 (jeom-tta)
3	닮다	to resemble	▼ Show dalm-da; sounds like 담따 (dam-tta)
4	여덟	eight	▼ Show

#	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
			yeo-deolb; always sounds like 여덜 (yeo-deol), even before a vowel (per the Korean phonology page)
5	짧다	to be short	▼ Show jjalb-da; sounds like 짤따 (jjal-tta)
6	넓다	to be wide	▼ Show neolb-da; sounds like 널따 (neol-tta)
7	밟다	to step on	▼ Show balb-da; an exception: sounds like 밥따 (bap-tta), with ㅂ
8	핥다	to lick	▼ Show halt-da; sounds like 할따 (hal-tta)

Not Yet Verified

The list of digraphs, the block rule, the pronunciation rule for clusters, the named examples 짧다 (as [l]), 밟다 (as [p̚]) and 여덟 ("always pronounced 여덜"), and the example of ㄹ + ㅁ followed by ㄷ come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages. A web search (KoreanClass101, learning-korean.com and others) supported the rule of thumb, the liaison before a vowel, 밟다 as an exception pronounced with ㅂ, and the ㅎ clusters. It did not cover 삶, 젊다, 닮다, 넓다 or 핥다. The dictionary meanings and sound-alike respellings, including the tensing (-따), the claim that ㄻ is rare and 곬 as its example, are from my own knowledge, so check them in a Korean dictionary (for example the Standard Korean Dictionary or Naver). The memory hooks are mine and I have not checked stroke order.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" (digraphs, block rules) and "Korean phonology" (clusters, examples); a web search on double batchim (KoreanClass101, learning-korean.com and others).

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 삶 · 젊 · 짧 · 넓 · 핥 · 밟

▼ Show answer

sam · jeom · jjal · neol · hal · bap (as they sound when alone)

2. Which two letters make up each of ㄺ ㄻ ㄼ ㄾ?

▼ Show answer

ㄺ = ㄹ + ㄱ · ㄻ = ㄹ + ㅁ · ㄼ = ㄹ + ㅂ · ㄾ = ㄹ + ㅌ

3. Read these words: 여덟 · 짧다 · 밟다 · 젊다

▼ Show answer

yeo-deol (eight) · jjal-tta (short) · bap-tta (to step on) · jeom-tta (young)

4. Write in Hangul (the spelling): the word for *eight* and the word for *life*.

▼ Show answer

여덟 · 삶

5. Which cluster is the one the page singles out as the exception, and what are its two possible sounds?

▼ Show answer

ㄼ (ㄹ + ㅂ). It reduces either to [l] (as in 짧다) or to [p̚] (as in 밟다); 여덟 is always pronounced 여덜.

6. What happens to 젊 when a vowel follows, as in 젊어요?

▼ Show answer

Both consonants are heard: the ㄹ stays at the end of its block and the ㅁ moves across to start the next syllable (jeol-meo-yo).

Coming Up in Chapter 9

The last three digraphs: ㄼ ㄾ ㅄ, and a recap of all 11 double finals.

Korean Alphabet 2

Course 2 · Chapter 9 · Double Finals 3

ㄼ ㄾ ㅄ — The Last Three

Three digraphs remain: ㄼ ㄾ ㅄ. After them you will have met all 11 double finals, and this chapter ends with one table that gathers them. Hangul comes first and the romanisation sits behind a click.

Your Three Digraphs — ㄼ ㄾ ㅄ

ㄼ

ㄹ + ㅍ

alone or before a consonant you hear ㅂ (p)

Memory hook: a ㄹ with a ㅍ table beside it.

ㄾ

ㄹ + ㅎ

you hear ㄹ (l); the ㅎ is silent or aspirates what follows

Memory hook: a ㄹ with a ㅎ hat beside it.

ㅄ

ㅂ + ㅅ

you hear ㅂ (p)

Memory hook: a ㅂ bucket with a ㅅ roof beside it.

Which Consonant Do You Hear?

The Chapter 7 rule still applies: when the cluster stands alone, one consonant is not expressed; /h/ goes first, otherwise a coronal consonant goes.

DIGRAPH	MADE OF	PRONOUNCED ALONE AS	WHY
ㄼ	ㄹ + ㅍ	ㅂ (p)	ㄹ is a coronal and drops, leaving the labial ㅍ, heard as ㅂ in final position
ㄾ	ㄹ + ㅎ	ㄹ (l)	/h/ is the one that goes
ㅄ	ㅂ + ㅅ	ㅂ (p)	ㅅ is the coronal and drops

- **ㄺ and ㅎ.** As with ㄶ in Chapter 7, the silent ㅎ leaves a trace: it aspirates a following ㄷ, giving the sound of ㅌ. So 싫다 sounds like 실타.
- **Before a vowel** both consonants are heard, except that ㅎ is silent: 싫어요 sounds like 시러요, while 없어요 sounds like 업써요 (the ㅅ moves across and is tensed).

Example Blocks

Digraph	Blocks	
ㄾ	읊	
ㄺ	싫	잃
ㅄ	없	값

ㄾ is rare; 읊다 is the one word to know.

Look-Alike Warnings

- **ㄾ and ㄿ.** The second letter is ㅍ (bar on top) in ㄾ and ㅂ in ㄿ.
- **ㅄ and ㅂ.** 없 (ㅂ + ㅅ) is not 업 (ㅂ alone); the two sound alike when alone, so you learn the spelling.
- **ㄺ and ㄶ.** Both end in ㅎ; the first letter (ㄹ or ㄴ) tells them apart.

Read It — Words With ㄾ ㄺ ㅄ

#	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
1	읊다	to recite (a poem)	▼ Show eupda; sounds like 읍따 (eup-tta)
2	싫다	to be disliked; to dislike	▼ Show silh-da; sounds like 실타 (sil-ta)
3	잃다	to lose	▼ Show ilh-da; sounds like 일타 (il-ta)

#	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
4	없다	to not exist; to not have	▼ Show eopsda; sounds like 업따 (eop-tta)
5	값	price	▼ Show gapsda; sounds like 갑 (gap) alone
6	없어요	there isn't; I don't have	▼ Show eopseoyo; sounds like 업써요 (eop-sseo-yo)
7	싫어요	I dislike it	▼ Show sirheoyo; sounds like 시러요 (si-reo-yo)

All 11 Double Finals at a Glance

DIGRAPH	MADE OF	ALONE, YOU HEAR	EXAMPLE
ㄳ	ㄱ + ㅅ	ㄱ	몫
ㄵ	ㄴ + ㅈ	ㄴ	앉다
ㄶ	ㄴ + ㅎ	ㄴ	많다
ㄺ	ㄹ + ㄱ	ㄱ	닭
ㄻ	ㄹ + ㅁ	ㅁ	삶
ㄼ	ㄹ + ㅂ	ㄹ (밟다: ㅂ)	여덟
ㄽ	ㄹ + ㅅ	ㄹ	곬
ㄾ	ㄹ + ㅌ	ㄹ	핥다
ㄿ	ㄹ + ㅍ	ㅂ	읊다
ㅀ	ㄹ + ㅎ	ㄹ	싫다

DIGRAPH	MADE OF	ALONE, YOU HEAR	EXAMPLE
ㅄ	ㅂ + ㅅ	ㅂ	없다

Only seven sounds ever appear at the end of a syllable: /p t k m n ŋ l/. Every double final reduces to one of them.

Not Yet Verified

The digraph list, the block rule and the "one consonant is not expressed" rule come from Wikipedia's "Hangul" and "Korean phonology" pages (the same sources as Chapters 7 and 8). The pronunciations of ㄿ (ㅂ), ㅀ (ㄹ) and ㅄ (ㅂ), the words 읊다, 싫다, 읽다, 없다, 값, their meanings and sound-alike respellings, and the claim that ㄿ is rare are from my own knowledge and the general learner pattern, not checked against a dictionary this time. Please check them in a Korean dictionary (for example Naver). The memory hooks are mine.

Sources for This Chapter

Wikipedia, "Hangul" and "Korean phonology"; the sources for Chapters 7 and 8.

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Read these blocks aloud: 싫 · 없 · 값 · 읽 · 읊

▼ Show answer

sil · eop · gap · il · eup (as they sound when alone)

2. Which two letters make up each of ㄿ ㅀ ㅄ?

▼ Show answer

ㄿ = ㄹ + ㅍ · ㅀ = ㄹ + ㅎ · ㅄ = ㅂ + ㅅ

3. How does 싫다 sound, and what happens to the ㅎ?

▼ Show answer

Like 실타 (sil-ta). The ㅎ is not pronounced by itself but aspirates the ㄷ, turning it into a ㅌ sound.

4. Write in Hangul: *price* and *I don't have*.

▼ Show answer

값 · 없어요

5. Which of the 11 double finals are heard as ㄹ when alone?

▼ Show answer

ㄺ ㄾ ㅀ, and usually ㄼ (with 밟다 as the exception, heard as ㅂ).

6. Sort these into "heard as ㄱ", "heard as ㅂ": 닭 · 몫 · 없다 · 읊다

▼ Show answer

ㄱ: 닭, 몫 · ㅂ: 없다, 읊다

Coming Up in Chapter 10

Sounds That Change: how neighbouring sounds alter each other when you read real words aloud.

Spelled One Way, Said Another

You now know all 51 letters and every block shape. This chapter covers the last surprise: Korean spelling keeps the base form of each word, but when sounds meet, they change. You have already seen some of it (double finals before a vowel, 싫다 sounding like 실타). Here are the main patterns, each with a few words. Hangul comes first; the actual sound is behind a click.

1. Linking — a Final Moves to the Next Vowel

When a block ending in a consonant is followed by a block that begins with the silent ㅇ, the final consonant is pronounced as the start of the next syllable.

WRITTEN	ENGLISH	SOUND
먹어요	I eat	▼ Show 머거요 (meo-geo-yo)
한국어	the Korean language	▼ Show 한구거 (han-gu-geo)
음악	music	▼ Show 으막 (eu-mak)
꽃이	the flower (subject)	▼ Show 꼬치 (kko-chi): the final ㅊ links as itself

2. Nasalisation — a Stop Before ㄴ or ㅁ Becomes a Nasal

A final ㄱ, ㄷ or ㅂ sound followed by ㄴ or ㅁ turns into the matching nasal: ㄱ→ㅇ (ng), ㄷ→ㄴ, ㅂ→ㅁ.

WRITTEN	ENGLISH	SOUND
한국말	the Korean language (spoken)	▼ Show 한궁말 (han-gung-mal)
감사합니다	thank you	▼ Show 감사함니다 (gam-sa-ham-ni-da)
짧네요	it's short	▼ Show 짤레요 (jjal-le-yo): see section 3 too

3. The ㄹ Rules

- **ㄹ after ㅁ or ㅇ** is pronounced ㄴ: 종로 sounds like 종노 (jong-no), and Wikipedia's Korean phonology page uses this kind of change.
- **ㄴ next to ㄹ** becomes ㄹ: 신라 sounds like 실라 (sil-la).

4. ㅎ Aspiration

ㅎ merges with a neighbouring ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ or ㅈ and makes the aspirated sound (ㅋ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅊ). You met this in 싫다 and 많다 (Chapters 7–9).

WRITTEN	ENGLISH	SOUND
좋다	to be good	▼ Show 조타 (jo-ta)
입학	entering a school	▼ Show 이팍 (i-pak)
좋아요	I like it; it's good	▼ Show 조아요 (jo-a-yo): ㅎ is silent before a vowel

5. Tensing — a Stop After a Stop Gets Tense

After a final ㄱ, ㄷ or ㅂ sound, the next ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ, ㅅ or ㅈ is pronounced tense (the ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㅆ ㅉ sounds from Chapters 1 and 2). You have seen this in 짧다 → 짤따 and 없다 → 업따.

WRITTEN	ENGLISH	SOUND
학교	school	▼ Show 학꾜 (hak-kkyo)
입구	entrance	▼ Show 입꾸 (ip-kku)
식당	restaurant	▼ Show 식땅 (sik-ttang)

6. Palatalisation — ㄷ and ㅌ Before ㅣ

When a final ㄷ or ㅌ links to a syllable beginning with the vowel ㅣ (usually in a suffix like 이), it is pronounced ㅈ or ㅊ.

WRITTEN	ENGLISH	SOUND
같이	together	▼ Show 가치 (ga-chi)
굳이	insistently; necessarily	▼ Show 구지 (gu-ji)

7. Back to ㅖ and ㅢ

Chapter 4 said ㅖ and ㅢ vary. The common patterns are below.

- **ㅖ after a consonant** is usually said like ㅔ: 시계 (watch; clock) is usually said 시게 (si-ge).
- ㅢ in the middle of a word is often said like ㅣ: 회의 (meeting) as 회이 (hoe-i). As the possessive particle 의 it is often said like ㅔ: 나의 책 (my book) as 나에 책.

The Practical Rule

Learn the spelling as written and the sound as you hear it. Native speakers read the spelling and apply these changes automatically. As a learner, notice the pattern when a word sounds different from its letters, and do not try to memorise a list.

Not Yet Verified

I did not search for this chapter. The patterns (linking, nasalisation, ㄹ rules, ㅎ aspiration, tensing, palatalisation) and the ㅖ/ㅢ variation are standard in Korean phonology and match what Wikipedia's "Korean phonology" page describes, from my reading earlier in this course, but the details here are from my own knowledge. The example words, meanings and respellings are also mine, especially 짧네요 → 짤레요 and the ㅖ/ㅢ cases, so check them in a dictionary (for example Naver). Several of these rules have exceptions I have left out.

Sources for This Chapter

My own knowledge, with Wikipedia's "Korean phonology" as the general background used in Chapters 7–9.

Try It Yourself — 연습

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. How is 먹어요 pronounced?

▼ Show answer

머거요 (meo-geo-yo): the ㄱ links to the next vowel.

2. How is 한국말 pronounced, and which rule applies?

▼ Show answer

한궁말 (han-gung-mal): nasalisation, ㄱ becomes ㅇ before ㅁ.

3. How is 좋다 pronounced?

▼ Show answer

조타 (jo-ta): ㅎ aspirates the ㄷ.

4. How is 학교 pronounced?

▼ Show answer

학꾜 (hak-kkyo): tensing, the ㄱ after a final ㄱ becomes tense.

5. How is 같이 pronounced?

▼ Show answer

가치 (ga-chi): palatalisation, ㅌ before ㅣ becomes ㅊ.

6. How are 종로 and 신라 pronounced?

▼ Show answer

종노 (jong-no) and 실라 (sil-la).

Coming Up in Chapter 11

Reading Practice: the final chapter, with passages using all 51 letters, and the course PDF.

Korean Alphabet 2

Course 2 · Chapter 11 · Reading Practice

You Know the Whole System

This last chapter introduces no new letters. It checks that you have them all, then gives you words and short passages to read aloud. Always read the Hangul first and check the sound afterwards.

The 51 Letters

GROUP	COUNT	LETTERS	COURSE
Basic consonants	14	ㄱ ㄴ ㄷ ㄹ ㅁ ㅂ ㅅ ㅇ ㅈ ㅊ ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ ㅎ	Korean Alphabet 1
Basic vowels	10	ㅏ ㅑ ㅓ ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ ㅠ ㅡ ㅣ	Korean Alphabet 1
Tense consonants	5	ㄲ ㄸ ㅃ ㅆ ㅉ	Chapters 1–2
Compound vowels	11	ㅐ ㅒ ㅖ ㅖ ㅢ ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ	Chapters 3–6
Double finals	11	ㄳ ㄵ ㄶ ㄺ ㄻ ㄼ ㄽ ㄾ ㄿ ㅀ ㅄ	Chapters 7–9

14 + 10 + 5 + 11 + 11 = 51. Together with the 40 jamo from Chapter 6 (24 + 5 + 11), the 11 double finals complete the set.

One Word for Each Compound Vowel

Read each word, then click to check.

VOWEL	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
ㅐ	개	dog	▼ Show gae

VOWEL	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
ㅔ	네	yes	▼ Show ne
ㅒ	얘기	talk; story	▼ Show yae-gi
ㅖ	예쁘다	to be pretty	▼ Show ye-ppeu-da
ㅢ	의사	doctor	▼ Show ui-sa
ㅘ	과일	fruit	▼ Show gwa-il
ㅙ	왜	why	▼ Show wae
ㅚ	회사	company	▼ Show hoe-sa
ㅝ	뭐	what	▼ Show mwo
ㅞ	웬일	what a surprise; what's the matter	▼ Show wen-il; sounds like 웬닐 (we-nil)
ㅟ	쉬워요	it's easy	▼ Show swi-wo-yo; sounds like 쉬워요 (swi-wo-yo)

One Word for Each Tense Consonant

LETTER	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
ㄲ	꽃	flower	▼ Show kkot; sounds like 꼳 (kkot) alone

LETTER	WORD	ENGLISH	CHECK
ㄸ	딸	daughter	▼ Show ttal
ㅃ	빵	bread	▼ Show ppang
ㅆ	쌀	rice (uncooked)	▼ Show ssal
ㅉ	짜다	to be salty	▼ Show jja-da

Read the Passages

Read each passage aloud before opening the check. Remember Chapter 10: some words sound different from how they are spelled, and the check shows the sound.

Passage 1 — Meeting someone

안녕하세요. 저는 필립이에요. 만나서 반갑습니다.

▼ Show reading and meaning

an-nyeong-ha-se-yo. jeo-neun pil-li-bi-e-yo. man-na-seo ban-gap-sseum-ni-da.
Hello. I'm Philip. Nice to meet you.

Passage 2 — The weather

오늘은 날씨가 좋아요. 하늘이 맑아요.

▼ Show reading and meaning

o-neu-reun nal-ssi-ga jo-a-yo. ha-neu-ri mal-ga-yo.
The weather is good today. The sky is clear. (맑아요 links the ㄹ: the ㄹ stays and the ㄱ moves across.)

Passage 3 — Studying

저는 한국어를 공부해요. 한국어는 재미있어요.

▼ Show reading and meaning

jeo-neun han-gu-geo-reul gong-bu-hae-yo. han-gu-geo-neun jae-mi-i-sseo-yo.
I study Korean. Korean is fun.

Passage 4 — Shopping

시장에서 과일을 샀어요. 값이 싸요. 빵도 샀어요.

▼ Show reading and meaning

si-jang-e-seo gwa-i-reul sa-sseo-yo. gap-ssi ssa-yo. ppang-do sa-sseo-yo.
I bought fruit at the market. The price is cheap. I bought bread too. (값이 sounds like 갑씨: the ㅃ links and the ㅅ is tensed.)

Passage 5 — A day

여덟 시에 학교에 가요. 책을 읽어요. 밥을 먹었어요.

▼ Show reading and meaning

yeo-deol si-e hak-kkyo-e ga-yo. chae-geul il-geo-yo. ba-beul meo-geo-sseo-yo.
I go to school at eight. I read a book. I ate. (여덟 is always 여덜; 읽어요 links as 일거요.)

Passage 6 — It's fine

괜찮아요. 저는 이것이 싫지 않아요. 꽃이 예뻐요.

▼ Show reading and meaning

gwaen-cha-na-yo. jeo-neun i-geo-si sil-chi a-na-yo. kko-chi ye-ppeo-yo.
It's okay. I don't dislike this. The flower is pretty. (괜찮아요 sounds like 괜차나요 because ㅎ is silent before a vowel.)

Where to Go Next

You can now read any Hangul text. You will not yet know the meaning of most words, which is a vocabulary and grammar job. Korean Grammar 1 and Korean Basic 1 on this site are the natural

next steps, and Chapter 10's patterns will make more sense the more Korean you hear.

Not Yet Verified

I did not search for this chapter. All words, meanings, passages and readings are from my own knowledge, and the passages are my own simple sentences, not taken from a textbook. Check the less common ones (웬일, 짜다, 싫지 않아요) and the sound-alike readings in a dictionary such as Naver, and ask a Korean speaker if you can. The letter counts match the earlier chapters, which used Wikipedia's "Hangul" page.

Sources for This Chapter

My own knowledge, plus Wikipedia, "Hangul" and "Korean phonology", as used in Chapters 1–10.

Final Self-Check — 연습

1. How many letters are there in total, and how many of each kind?

▼ Show answer

51: 14 basic consonants, 10 basic vowels, 5 tense consonants, 11 compound vowels and 11 double finals.

2. Read aloud: 닭 · 삶 · 싫다 · 없어요 · 앉아요

▼ Show answer

dak · sam · sil-ta · eop-sseo-yo · an-ja-yo

3. Which compound vowels have a ㅗ or ㅜ as their first part?

▼ Show answer

The w-vowels: ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ (ㅗ) and ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ (ㅜ).

4. Write in Hangul: *why*, *what*, *doctor*.

▼ Show answer

왜 · 뭐 · 의사

Course Complete

You have finished Korean Alphabet 2. 축하합니다!