

# Korean Romanization/Phonetics Chart

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\*For consonants, "first" signifies how the consonant is Romanized before the verb, and "second" signifies how the consonant is Romanized after the verb.

## Consonants

Korean Character	Romanized as	Closest Sound in English	As in...	Be careful in...
ㄱ	g (first) k (second)	g (G <u>ate</u> )	미국 mi <u>G</u> u <u>K</u> ("America")	Never like "G <u>iraffe</u> "
ㄴ	n	n	남자 <u>N</u> amja ("man")	
ㄷ	d (first) t (second)	d	달걀 <u>D</u> algyal ("egg") 닫다 da <u>T</u> da ("to close")	
ㄹ	r (first) l (second)	l	사람 sa <u>R</u> am ("person") 길 gi <u>L</u> ("road")	Sound is between "l" and "r"
ㅁ	m	m	미국 <u>M</u> iguk	
ㅂ	b (first) p (second)	b	밥 <u>B</u> a <u>P</u> ("meal", "steamed rice")	
ㅅ	S (first) t (second)	s (S <u>nake</u> )	사람 <u>S</u> aram ("person") 짓다 ji <u>T</u> da ("to build")	Weak "S" in first position. (not as in " <u>S</u> oon" or " <u>S</u> in") Same pronunciation as ㄷ in the second position.
ㅇ	omitted (first) ng (second)	ng (so <u>NG</u> )	영광 <u>_</u> yeo <u>NG</u> gua <u>NG</u> ("glory", "honor")	Silent in first position.
ㅈ	j (first) t (second)	j (J <u>am</u> )	지구 <u>J</u> igu ("earth") 맞다 ma <u>T</u> da ("to be correct")	Same pronunciation as ㄷ in the second position.
ㅊ	ch (first) t (second)	ch (C <u>H</u> art)	충분 <u>C</u> Hungbun ("enough") 꽃 kko <u>T</u> ("flower")	Same pronunciation as ㄷ in the second position.
ㅋ	k	k (K <u>ing</u> )	크다 <u>K</u> euda ("big") 부엌 bu' <u>e</u> o <u>K</u> ("kitchen")	Same pronunciation as ㄱ in the second position.
ㅌ	t	t (T <u>ank</u> )	태양 <u>T</u> aeyang ("sun") 같다 ga <u>T</u> da ("same")	Same pronunciation as ㄷ in the second position.
ㅍ	p	p (P <u>ea</u> )	피 <u>P</u> i ("blood") 갚다 ga <u>P</u> da ("to repay")	Same pronunciation as ㅂ in the second position.

## Consonants (continued)

Korean Character	Romanized as	Closest Sound in English	As in...	Be careful in...
ㅎ	t h (House)	하다 Hada ("to do")	달다 daTda ("to reach")	Same pronunciation as ㅈ in the second position.
ㄱ	kk (first) k (second)	no example	까다 kKada ("to peel") 꺾다 kkaKda ("to lower")	Same pronunciation as "c" in Spanish. (e.g. Cada – "each" in Spanish) Same pronunciation as ㄱ in the second position.
ㄷ	tt	no example	떼 TTe ("herd", "pack")	Same pronunciation as "t" in Spanish. (e.g. Tener – "to have" in Spanish)
ㅍ	pp	no example	빼다 PPaeda ("to subtract")	Same pronunciation as "p" in Spanish. (e.g. Poner – "to put" in Spanish)
ㅅ	ss t	s (Soon)	씨앗 SSi'at ("seed") 했다 haeTda ("did")	Contrast with ㅆ, the weak "s" Same pronunciation as ㅈ in the second position.
ㅈ	jj	no example	짜다 JJada ("to be salty")	Same pronunciation as "j" in Romanized Chinese. In other words, good luck.

## Vowels

Korean Character	Romanized as	Closest Sound in English	As in...	Be careful in...
ㅏ	a	ah (Avocado)	사람 sArAm (“person”)	Never like “c <u>At</u> ” or “m <u>A</u> ke”
ㅑ	ya	yah (YArD)	달걀 dalgYAl (“egg”)	Like “ia” said quickly
ㅓ	eo	o or u (s <u>On</u> , s <u>Un</u> , t <u>OU</u> gh)	덮다 dEOpda (“to cover”)	
ㅕ	yeo	no example	안녕 annYEOnG (“hello”)	Add an “i” sound in front of “eo” sound, and read it quickly.
ㅗ	o	o (av <u>O</u> cado)	보다 b <u>O</u> da (“see”)	Not “ou” like “b <u>O</u> th”
ㅛ	yo	yoh	교실 gYOsil (“classroom”)	Not “yo-u” like “ <u>YO</u> del”
ㅜ	u	oo (s <u>OO</u> n)	충분 chUngb <u>U</u> n (“enough”)	Not “yu” like “ <u>U</u> se”, or “eo” like “s <u>U</u> n”
ㅠ	yu	yoo (you)	우유 uYU (“milk”)	
ㅡ	eu	e (squeez <u>E</u> )	크다 k <u>E</u> Uda (“big”)	Not “yu” like “ <u>U</u> se”
ㅣ	i	i (s <u>l</u> ng)	미국 ml <u>g</u> uk	Never “ai” like “ <u>I</u> ce”.
ㅞ	ae	a (c <u>At</u> )	빼다 pp <u>A</u> E <u>da</u> (“to subtract”)	Not “ai” like “ <u>I</u> ce” or “ei” like “m <u>A</u> ke”
ㅙ	yae	“ <u>Y</u> Ang”, read like “sang”	얘기 Y <u>A</u> E <u>gi</u> (story)	Not “yai” or “yay”
ㅚ	e	e ( <u>E</u> xtra)	떼 t <u>E</u> (“herd”, “pack”)	Not “i”
ㅜㅝ	ye	ye (Y <u>E</u> s)	예절 Y <u>E</u> jeol (“manner”)	Distinguish from “yae”
ㅜㅗ	wa	wa ( <u>W</u> atch)	왕자 W <u>A</u> ngja (“prince”)	
ㅜㅛ	wo	wo ( <u>W</u> Orry)	원래 W <u>O</u> llae (“originally”)	
ㅡㅣ	ui		의복 U <u>I</u> bok (“clothes”)	Sound “eu” first, quickly followed by “i”
ㅜㅣ	wi	we (q <u>U</u> Iz)	귀신 g <u>W</u> Isin (“ghost”)	
ㅜㅝ	oe		괴물 g <u>O</u> E <u>mul</u> (“monster”)	
ㅜㅞ	ue	ue (q <u>U</u> E <u>s</u> t)	훼손 h <u>U</u> E <u>s</u> on (“damage”)	Not “yu” like “d <u>U</u> E”
ㅞㅝ	wae		왜? W <u>A</u> E? (“why?”)	Sound “o” first, quickly followed by “ae”