

Appendix G. More Information about Hangul¹ (klgp220_237h_AppendixG)

Section G.1 describes the Basic Rules on the Use of the Script.

G.1 The Basic Rules on the Use of the Script

How to Write Hangeul (Korean Alphabet)

Hangeul is the Korean alphabet.
Hangeul was created in 1443 by King Sejong and scholars at Jiphyeonjeon (Hall of the Assembled Sages). Prior to the creation of Hangeul, spoken Korean was transcribed using Chinese characters. However, because Chinese characters were difficult for the common people to use, access to the Chinese transcription system was limited only to the privileged classes. Hangeul was invented to enable ordinary people to express their ideas easily in writing.

Vowel	Name	Romanization	How to write	Consonant	Name	Romanization	How to write
ㅏ	아	a	ㅏ	ㄱ	기역	g	ㄱ
ㅓ	어	eo	ㅓ	ㅋ	쌍기역	kk	ㅋ
ㅗ	오	o	ㅗ	ㆁ	기음	ng	ㆁ
ㅜ	우	u	ㅜ	ㄷ	디귿	d	ㄷ
ㅡ	으	eu	ㅡ	ㄸ	쌍디귿	tt	ㄸ
ㅣ	이	i	ㅣ	ㅌ	티읕	t	ㅌ
ㅕ	예	ae	ㅕ	ㅍ	피읖	p	ㅍ
ㅑ	에	e	ㅑ	ㅂ	밤비읍	pp	ㅂ
ㅛ	외	oe	ㅛ	ㅅ	삿읃	p	ㅅ
ㅟ	위	wi	ㅟ	ㅈ	지읃	j	ㅈ
ㅙ	야	ya	ㅙ	ㅊ	쌍지읃	jj	ㅊ
ㅛ	여	y eo	ㅛ	ㅅ	지읃	ch	ㅅ
ㅟ	요	yo	ㅟ	ㅆ	쌍지읃	ss	ㅆ
ㅑ	유	yu	ㅑ	ㅎ	히읃	h	ㅎ
ㅓ	예	y ae	ㅓ	ㄴ	니은	n	ㄴ
ㅕ	와	wa	ㅕ	ㄹ	리을	r/l	ㄹ
ㅛ	왜	w ae	ㅛ				
ㅟ	워	wo	ㅟ				
ㅑ	웨	we	ㅑ				
ㅓ	의	ui	ㅓ				

Syllable Structure

The shapes of syllables vary, depending on the consonant-vowel combination. Korean syllables are written by combining the beginning, middle, and ending sound, not side by side.

EX) ㄱㅏㅇ (X) / ㄱㅇ (O)

C	V
C	

These vowels are written to the right of the consonants.

ㅏ, ㅓ, ㅗ, ㅜ, ㅡ, ㅣ, ㅕ, ㅑ, ㅛ, ㅟ, ㅙ

C
V
C

These vowels are written below the consonants.

ㅏ, ㅓ, ㅗ, ㅜ, ㅡ, ㅣ

C	V
C	

These vowels are written around the consonants.

ㅑ, ㅛ, ㅕ, ㅟ, ㅙ, ㅓ, ㅑ, ㅛ, ㅕ, ㅟ, ㅙ

Let's Make a Korean Word

Fill in the boxes to spell the word "Hangeul."

	ㅏ

HAN

	ㅓ
ㄴ	

GEUL

Korean letters are written from top to bottom and from left to right.

Source: Nuri Sejong Hakdang, retrieved from <http://www.sejonghakdang.org/>, Learning Materials (Grammar)

¹ This information was provided by National Institute of Korean Language, Republic of Korea