

Hangul and Basic Korean Grammar

Language Exchange Club



Korean Sessions - Every Friday at 2:40 in Room 2520
Japanese Sessions – Every Monday at 2:40 in Room 2520

We are interested in getting more languages accessible to our members.
If you have knowledge in any language and are willing to share the knowledge,
Contact us at chslangexchange@gmail.com

Visit us at <http://clements.tistory.com/>

Korean Alphabet - Hangul

Initial consonants

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
g	n	d	r	m	b	s	-	j	ch	k	t	p	h

Vowels

	Basic						+i				
Basic	ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅠ	ㅢ	ㅤ
	a	eo	o	u	eu	i	ae	e	oe	wi	ui
y+	ㅗ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ			ㅞ	ㅟ			
	ya	yeo	yo	yu			yae	ye			
w+	ㅗ	ㅑ					ㅞ	ㅟ			
	wa	wo					wae	we			

Final Consonants

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
g	n	d	l	m	b	s	ng	j	ch	k	t	p	h

Taken from Wikipedia

Basic Sentence Structure

I like the cat.

나는 그 고양이를 좋아한다.

Where Subject Verb Object

As you can see, the sentence structure is radically different from that of English, and similar to that of Japanese. Also, there are words that have no equivalent in English. Those are called the “postposition,” or words that get stuck to the end of a noun. It is similar to preposition, where words get stuck to the beginning of a noun(e.g. to hospital). Unlike English, these postpositions are universal. ALL nouns will have these postposition stuck to it, unless it’s a very simple sentence like “Fire burns.” (불 탄다.)

I gave that cat to him.

나는 그 고양이를 그에게 주었다.

Where Subject Verb I.O. D.O.

This sentence is almost identical to the first sentence. The only thing you have to add to specify the recipient is the verb give(주다 conjugated for past tense) and -에게 which gets tacked after the indirect object and before the verb.

Who did what?

In Korean language, indirect objects and direct objects are completely unnecessary. You only need to use some preposition (such as at,in,to,from) to say something that would have to use complex sentence structure(i.e. I gave him the Chemistry notes). The sentence is seemingly simple in native speakers' eyes, but there are a lot of things going on, such a changing he to him.

Korean uses postpositions instead of preposition, meaning the preposition goes after the object of the preposition.

철수가 공을 친다. (Cheolsu hit the ball).

공이 철수를 친다.(The ball hit Cheolsu).

Postpositions `가/이' come after nouns, pronouns, and numerals to make the subject form.

Postpositions `는' come after `나' (I) to make the subject form.

Proposition `을/를' come after nouns, pronouns, and numerals to make the object form. Other postpositions consist of `에' which signifies `direction' or `destination,'

You need not worry which postposition you choose. They sound similar, and sometimes almost same.

`에서' which signifies `location,' and `로/으로' which signifies `the means' or a `tool.'

서울에 가요. (I'm going to Seoul.)

학교에서 공부해요. (I study at school.)

택시로 가요. (I'm going by taxi.)

Because of this convenience, putting spaces in the right places is a wee bit important than in English.

철수가 방에 들어갔다. This is the correct way to spell. It means Cheolsu went into the room.

However, when you put the spaces in the wrong place....

철수 가방에 들어갔다. Now it means Cheolsu went into a BOOKBAG!

Going back to the Chemistry notes...

In English, you say "I give him the Chemistry notes."

In Korean, you only need to say "나는 그에게 화학공책을 준다."

에게 signifies the beneficiary or the recipient. The postposition would be covered in More

Postposition.

Portions taken from kbs.co.kr

More Postpositions

- 에게 ("to [a person]")
- 에서 ("from" or "at")
- 을/를 (direct object)
- 근처 nearby
- 멀다 be far from here
- 가깝다 be near/close
- 위 above/on
- 아래 below
- 앞 in front of
- 뒤 behind
- 옆 beside/by/next to
- 안 inside

Conjunction Junction What's Your Function

~지만 (but)

- 나는 영어를 낙제했지만 수학은 백점맞았어요. I failed English but I got a hundred in Math.
- 그 과목은 선생님은 재수없지만 과목 자체는 재미있어요. Even though the teacher is a ****, the subject itself is interesting.

와/과 (and) for nouns

This is used for combining 2 nouns. If the end of the first noun has no consonant, use '와'. If the noun has a consonant, use '과'.

- 나는 언제나 스테이크와 프렌치 후라이를 먹어요. I always eat steak and French fries.
- 철수와 영희는 같이 살아요.. Choulsu and Younghee live together.

(이)나 (or)

This is for choosing between 2 nouns, pronouns, or adverbs.

- 나는 파인애플맛이나 체리맛이 좋아요. I like pineapple flavor or cherry flavor.
- 이거나 저거나 괜찮아요. It's okay either this or that.

~고 (and) for verbs

Used to join two verbs. The preceding verb takes place(in timeline) first.

- 날마다 나는 학교에 가고 놀아요. I go to school every day and play.
- 그남자가 학교에 가고 나를 만나요. That man goes to school and meets me.

~거나 (or)

This form is used for choosing between 2 or more actions.

- 더우면, 수영하거나 PC 방에 가요. If it's hot, I swim or go to the PC room.
- 주말에 공부하거나 공부해요. On the weekend, I study or study.



Question words

무엇

The interrogative pronoun 무엇 means "what". In speech, it is often contracted 뭐.

이게 뭐예요? **What** is this?

뭐라고 했어요? **What** did [you] say?

뭐하니? **What** are [you] doing?

누구

The pronoun 누구 means "who". It contracts before 가 to make 누가.

누구 좋아해요? Who do [you] like?

누가 이것을 했어요? Who did this action?

어디

The pronoun 어디 means "where".

어디 가요? Where [are you] going?

언제

The pronoun 언제 means "when".

언제 먹어요? When are [we/you/I] eating?

왜

The pronoun 왜 means "why".

왜 그사람이랑 있었어요? Why were you with him/her?

Currently Happening – 현재진행형

The form is very common, too common in fact. It is very handy to know this form, since you wouldn't be puzzled as much while watching dramas/listening to music/reading books =)

To form 현재진행형

1. You just need to drop the -다(infinitive form, equivalent to "to")
2. And tack on -고 있다.

밥을 먹다 -> 밥을 먹고 있다. - I'm eating rice (as we speak)

우유를 마시다-> 우유를 마시고 있다. - I'm drinking milk (as we speak)

반바지를 입다 -> 반바지를 입고 있다. - I'm wearing shorts (as we speak).

Of course, you can conjugate it to make it more polite.

밥을 먹고 있다 -> 밥을 먹고 있습니다.

우유를 마시고 있다 -> 우유를 마시고 있습니다.

반바지를 입고 있다 -> 반바지를 입고 있습니다.

Being polite

You can be polite by ending your verb with...

'-습니다,' '-ㅂ니다' and '-아요,' '-어요.'

The unconjugated form is only used in text and not in real life. However, it is completely unnecessary when carrying your will through. Koreans are very understanding (if you don't look scary ;)) of foreigners and treat them accordingly, especially if you speak English/Chinese and some Korean. The bottom line.. don't be scary. Therefore, it's just for reference =)

ex)

읽다 to read	읽 + 습니다. 읽 + 어요.	읽습니다. 읽어요.
가다 to go	가 + ㅂ니다. 가 + 아요 (ㅏ + ㅏ = ㅑ)	갑니다. 가요.
살다 to live	살 + ㅂ니다. 살 + 아요.	삽니다. 살아요.
오다 to come	오 + ㅂ니다. 오 + 아요.	옵니다. 와요.

The difference between 습니다 and ㅂ니다 might be apparent once you study the example.

습니다 is used when the verb is full(has no room, such as 삶-to boil) and ㅂ니다 is used when the verb has a room left.

Examples taken from kbs.co.kr