

Let's learn Hangeul



Course book



By the end of the unit, you should be able to:

- recognise and identify Korean vowels and consonants
- read and write Korean syllables
- write your name in Korean
- type short words and useful expressions in Korean

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Illustrations: Ga Hee Lee & Joanne Lee-Jung

**Search for the information about King Sejong, the Great
and find out why he is famous!**

- How many letters does the English alphabet have?
- Find the Korean letters from the picture below. How many are they?
- How is this different from the English alphabet?





The Korean alphabet, Hangeul 한글



The Korean alphabet, called Hangeul (한글), was invented in 1444 by King Sejong the Great with a group of scholars. It is a phonetic system like the English alphabet, which means you write the words as they sound. It is simple and systematic. The original name of Hangeul (한글) was *Hunminjeongeum* (훈민정음) which literally means 'correct sounds for educating the general public'.

Back in those days, only Korean scholars and nobles were able to read and write and they used Chinese characters. For this reason, King Sejong the Great invented Hangeul (한글) so all people across the country could become literate.

Hangeul (한글) is also known as *Achimgeul* (아침글) which means you can learn Hangeul (한글) within a morning. Hangeul (한글) is very easy to learn, therefore it was once said that a wise man could learn Hangeul (한글) before morning was over.

How quickly do you think you will learn to write in Korean?



nsonants.

크림



Simple vowels

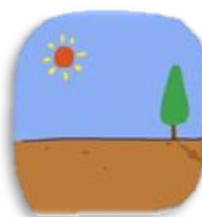
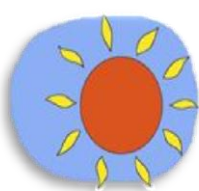
[a] <u>a</u> h	[eo] b <u>e</u> s	[o] <u>o</u> h	[u] d <u>u</u>	[eu] tak <u>e</u> n	[i] t <u>ee</u> th
[ya] <u>y</u> ard	[yeo] <u>y</u> awn	[yo] <u>Y</u> o-yo	[yu] <u>y</u> ou		

Explanation

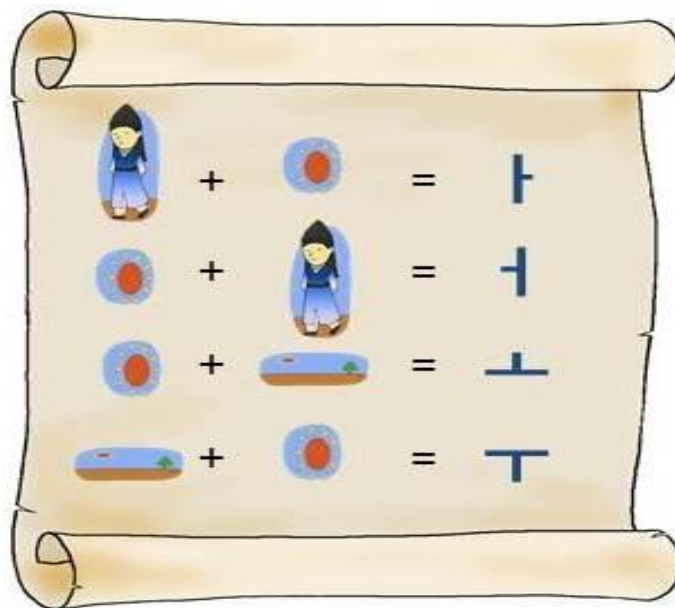
The vowels are made using a combination of three basic signs, ● — | representing the three essentials of the universe.



Did you know? According to the philosophy of Korean tradition, the universe consists of the sky (heaven), land (the earth and nature), and person (human being). It is called 천지인 *cheon-ji-in*.



ㅏ ㅑ ㅓ ㅕ : These four basic vowels are formed by combining those three signs.



Did you know? When you combine *cheon*-*ji*-*in* together, you will get the symbol for 'woman'.

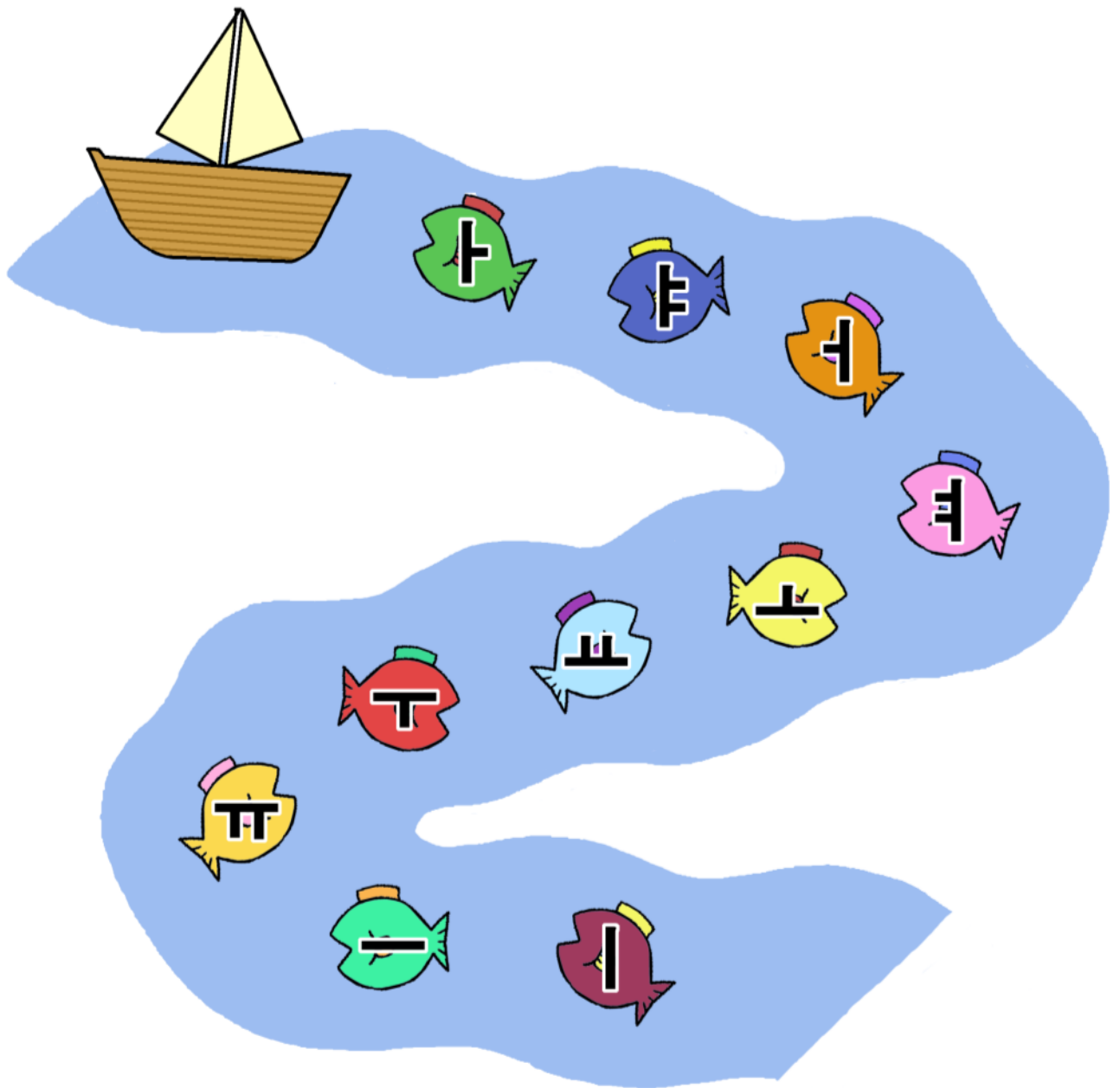
<i>cheon</i>	•	→	
<i>ji</i>	—		
<i>in</i>			

ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ ㅠ : With the addition of one extra line to these 4 vowels, 'ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ ㅠ' can be made. To pronounce these new vowels, simply add a 'y' sound to the original vowels.

ㅗ	[a]	→	ㅛ	[ya]
ㅜ	[eo]	→	ㅠ	[yeo]
ㅓ	[o]	→	ㅕ	[yo]
ㅕ	[u]	→	ㅠ	[yu]



Listen carefully and repeat **Track 2**





Let's write!

Trace over each letter above with your finger. Follow the correct order for writing it. Say it to yourself as you trace over it.



A vowel cannot be written by itself and must be preceded by a consonant when it is written.

So a silent consonant ◯ must be added with vowels. Just think of this silent ◯ as a place holder replacing the missing consonant.



Listen carefully and repeat Track 3

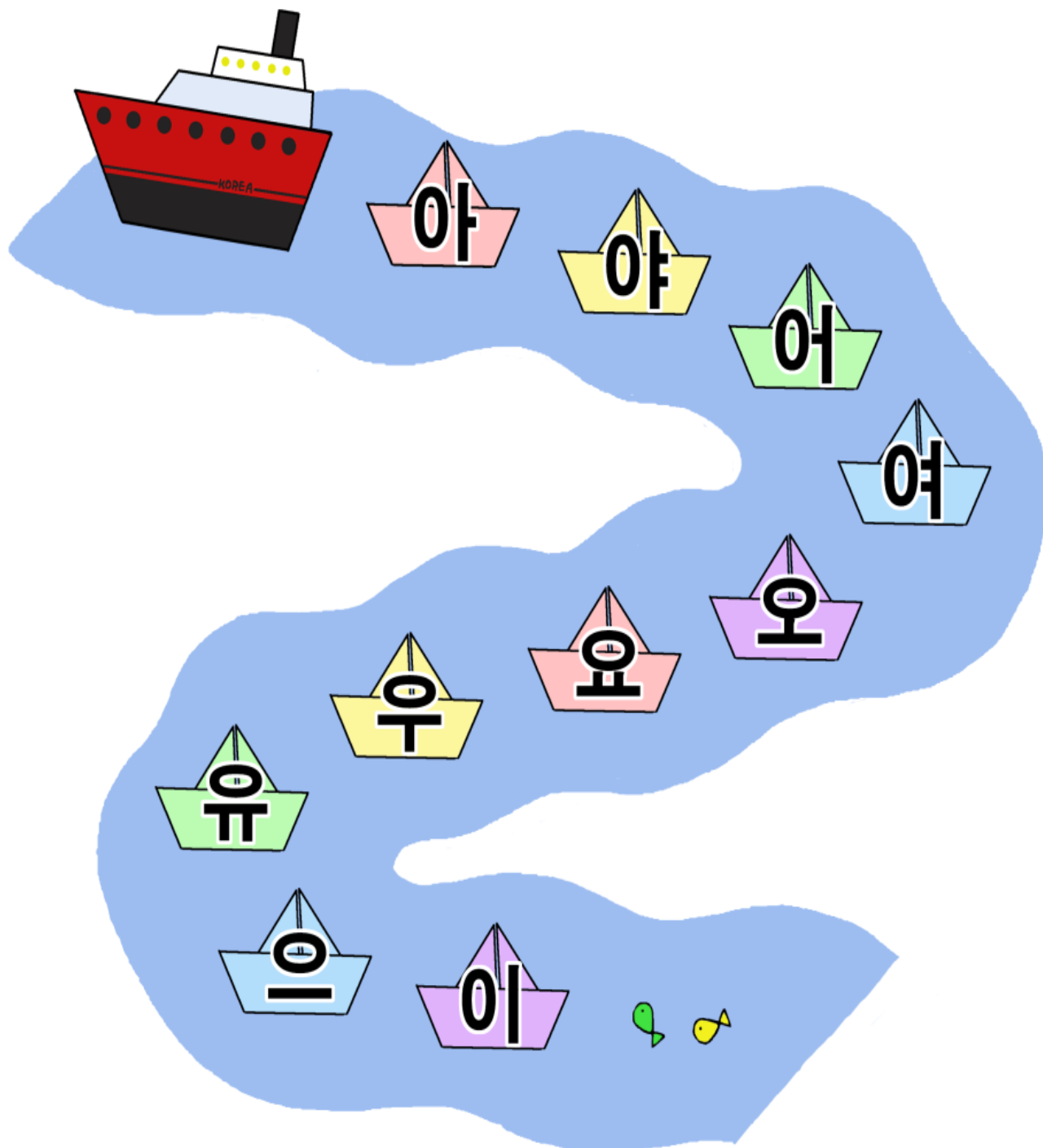
As consonant ◯ is silent, the following vowels have the same sound as vowels. Listen again and repeat.





Let's write!

Trace over each letter with your finger. Follow the correct order for writing it. Say it to yourself as you trace over it.





Let's read!

Look at the pictures below and read the words aloud.



Read aloud the letters below and make a word by joining them up.

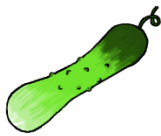
아	야	이	여	어	오	우	유
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

요	이	오	우	이	요	이	유
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Let's speak!

Ask your partner to pick some images randomly, and then follow the lines with your finger to find out the word. Say it aloud when your finger reaches each word. Take turns.



아우

오

이

우유

이

오이

여우

아이



Sing along! Track 4

Vowel song

여우야 여우야 뭐하니?

yeo-u-ya yeo-u-ya mwo-ha-ni

아야어여 오요우유 으이 [repeat 4 times]



여우야 여우야 뭐하 - - 니 아야어여오요우유 으 이

아야어여오요우유 으 이 아야어여오요우유

으 이 아야어여오요우유 으 이



Let's play a game!

Tongue twisters

Read the following letters as fast as you can.

a. 아오아오아오야	b. 우어우어우어유
c. 우유여우아이야	d. 오이아이오이유
e. 으이으이으이야	f. 아야어여아야어여
g. 오요우유오요우유	h. 아야어여오요우유으이

Form a group. Have one person from each group say the letters. The person who can say the letters fastest and most accurately is the winner.

Vowel combinations 1

met	yeah	air	yeah

Explanation

The vowel ㅔ is a combination of two single vowels, ㅏ and ㅓ.

The vowel ㅕ is a combination of ㅕ and ㅓ.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{ㅏ} & + & \text{ㅓ} & = & \text{ㅔ} \\ \text{ㅕ} & + & \text{ㅓ} & = & \text{ㅕ} \end{array}$$

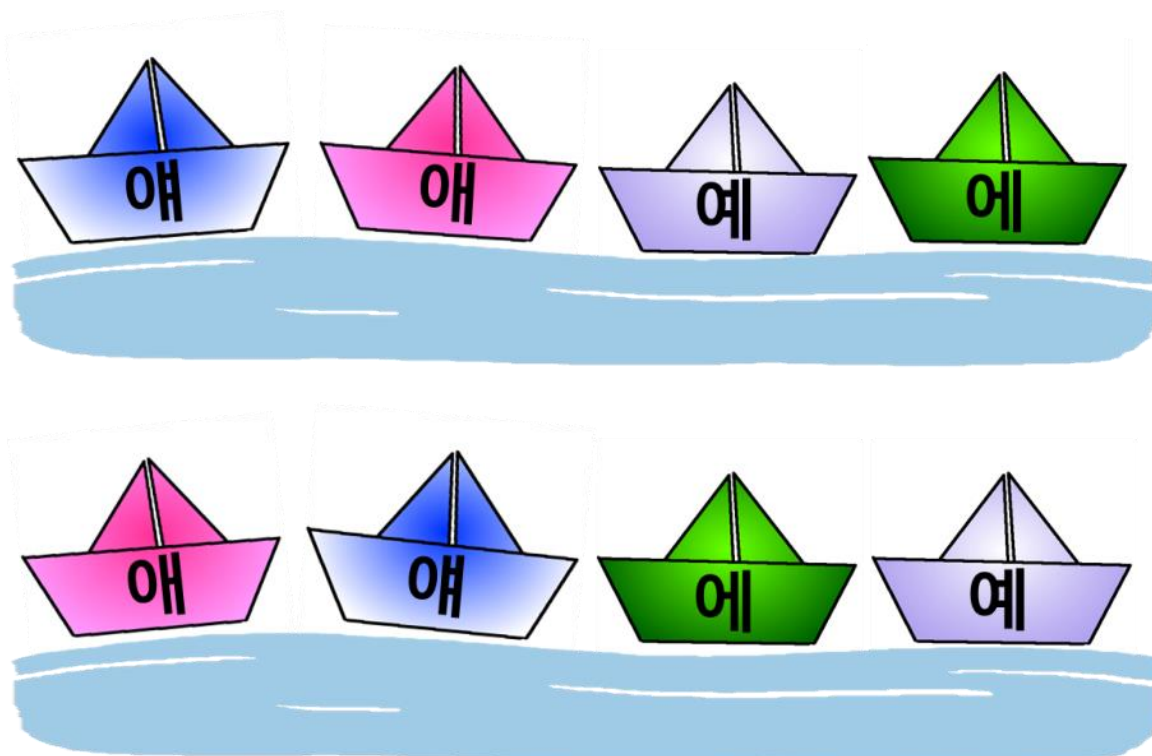
Again, with an additional line to ㅔ and ㅕ, the new vowels ㅖ and ㅗ can be formed. To pronounce these vowels, you can simply add a 'y' sound to the original vowels.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{ㅔ} \text{ [e]} & \rightarrow & \text{ㅖ} \text{ [ye]} \\ \text{ㅕ} \text{ [ae]} & \rightarrow & \text{ㅗ} \text{ [yae]} \end{array}$$

Although it is difficult to distinguish the difference between the pronunciation of ㅕ / ㅖ and ㅗ / ㅖ respectively you should be careful with the spellings because the meaning of a word can be changed. For practical purposes, you can consider the pronunciation the same: ㅖ = ㅗㅕ, ㅖ = ㅗㅕ



Listen carefully and repeat **Track 5**



Let's play a game!

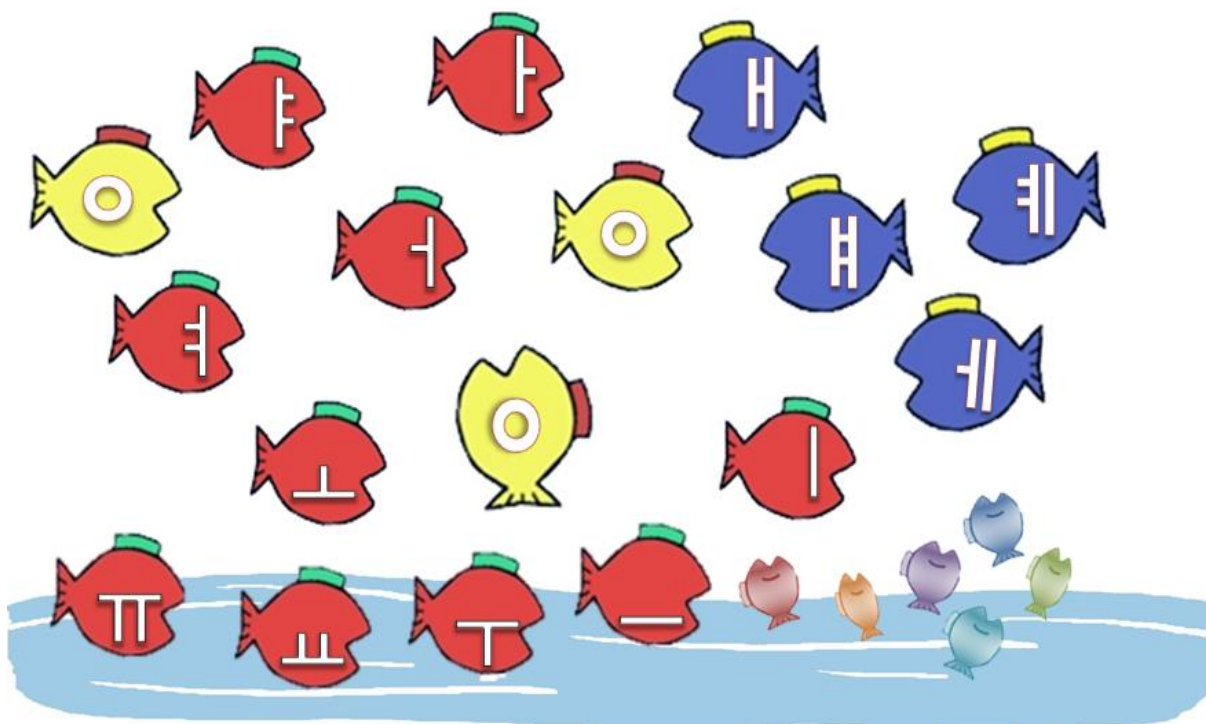
Tongue twister!

Read the following letters as fast as you can.

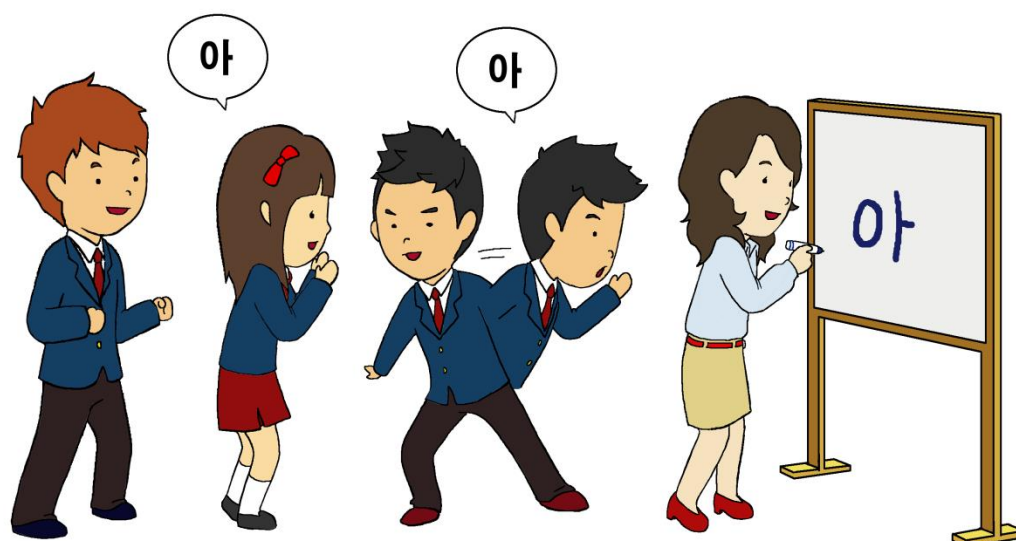
a. 우 애 우 애 우 어 어	b. 우 우 어 예 이 예 이 예
c. 오 예 오 예 오 오 예	d. 야 이 야 이 애 애 애
e. 애 애 애 애 아 이 야	f. 오 이 예 아 이 예 오 이 유

Let's have a rap battle

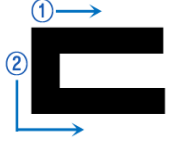
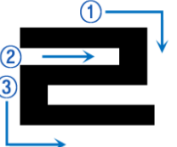
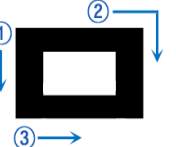
Create and perform a rap song using only Korean vowel sounds.

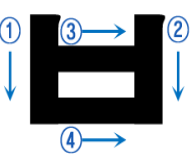
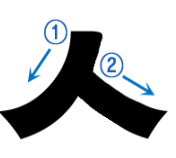
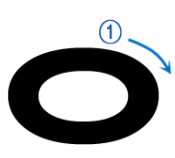
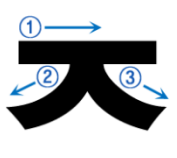
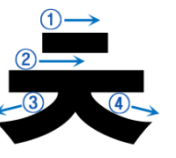


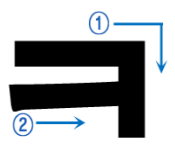
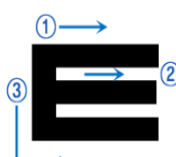
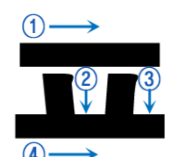
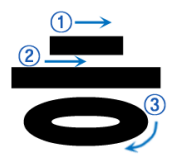
Sogon Sogon 소곤소곤 game



Consonants

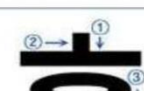
				
[g/k] <u>g</u> oose	[n] <u>n</u> acho	[d/t] <u>d</u> iving	[r/l] <u>r</u> ibbon	[m] <u>m</u> arshmallow

				
[b/p] <u>b</u> at	[s] <u>s</u> hark	[silence/ ng]* <u>sing</u>	[j] <u>j</u> aguar	[ch] <u>ch</u> impanzee

			
[k] <u>k</u> angaroo	[t] <u>t</u> elevision	[p] <u>p</u> uzzle	[h] <u>H</u> alloween



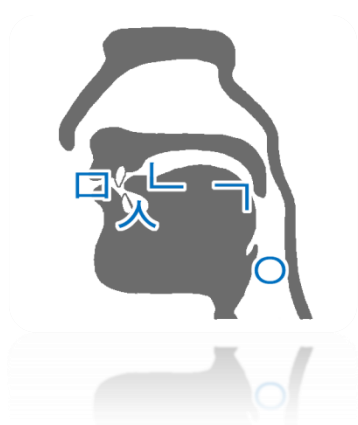
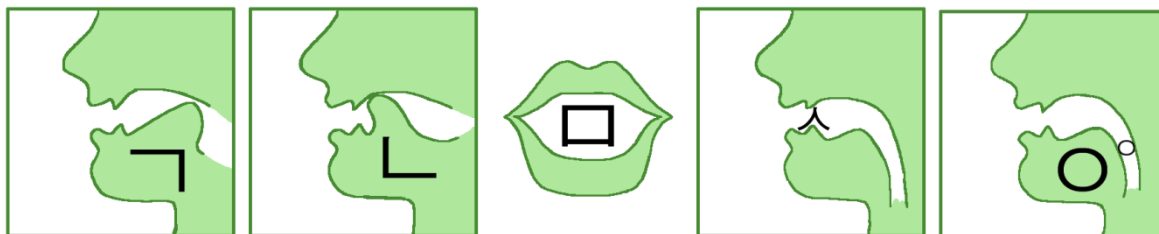
When it comes to handwriting, the following consonants, ㅈ, ㅊ and ㅎ can be written slightly differently from the print font above.

Print letter		Handwriting
	=	
	=	
	=	



Explanation

The shapes of basic consonants ㄱ ㄴ ㄹ ㅁ ㅇ represent the shapes of lips, tongue or throat when the consonant is pronounced.



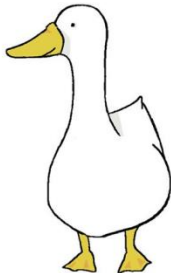
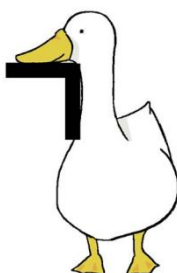
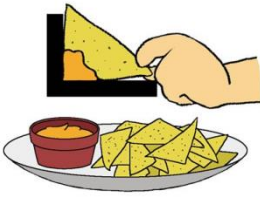
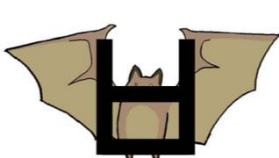
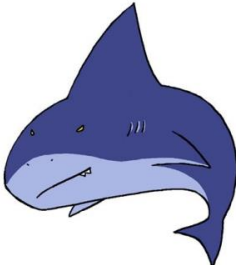
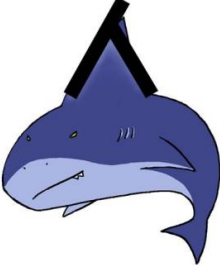
ㄱ	The shape of the tongue root
ㄴ	The shape of the tongue body
ㅁ	The shape of the lips
ㄹ	The shape of the tooth
ㅇ	The shape of the throat

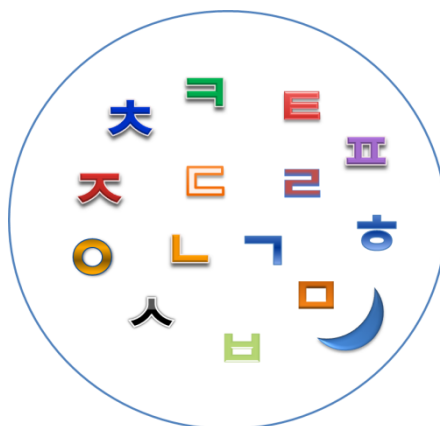
Some consonants get a stronger aspirated sound by adding extra lines.

ㄱ	[g]	→	ㅋ	[k]
ㄴ	[d]	→	ㄸ	[t]
ㄹ	[j]	→	ㄺ	[ch]
ㅁ	[b]	→	ㅃ	[p]
ㅇ		→	ㅎ	[h]



Listen carefully and repeat Track 6

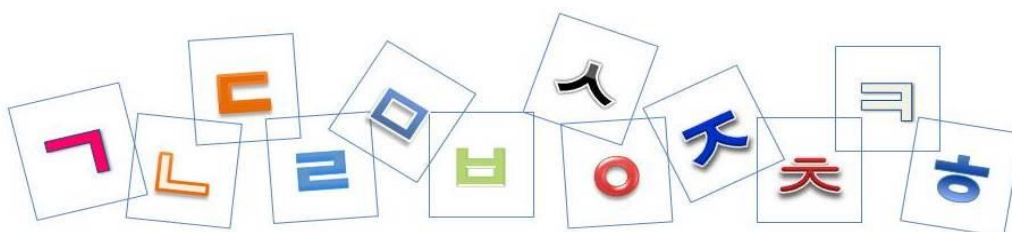
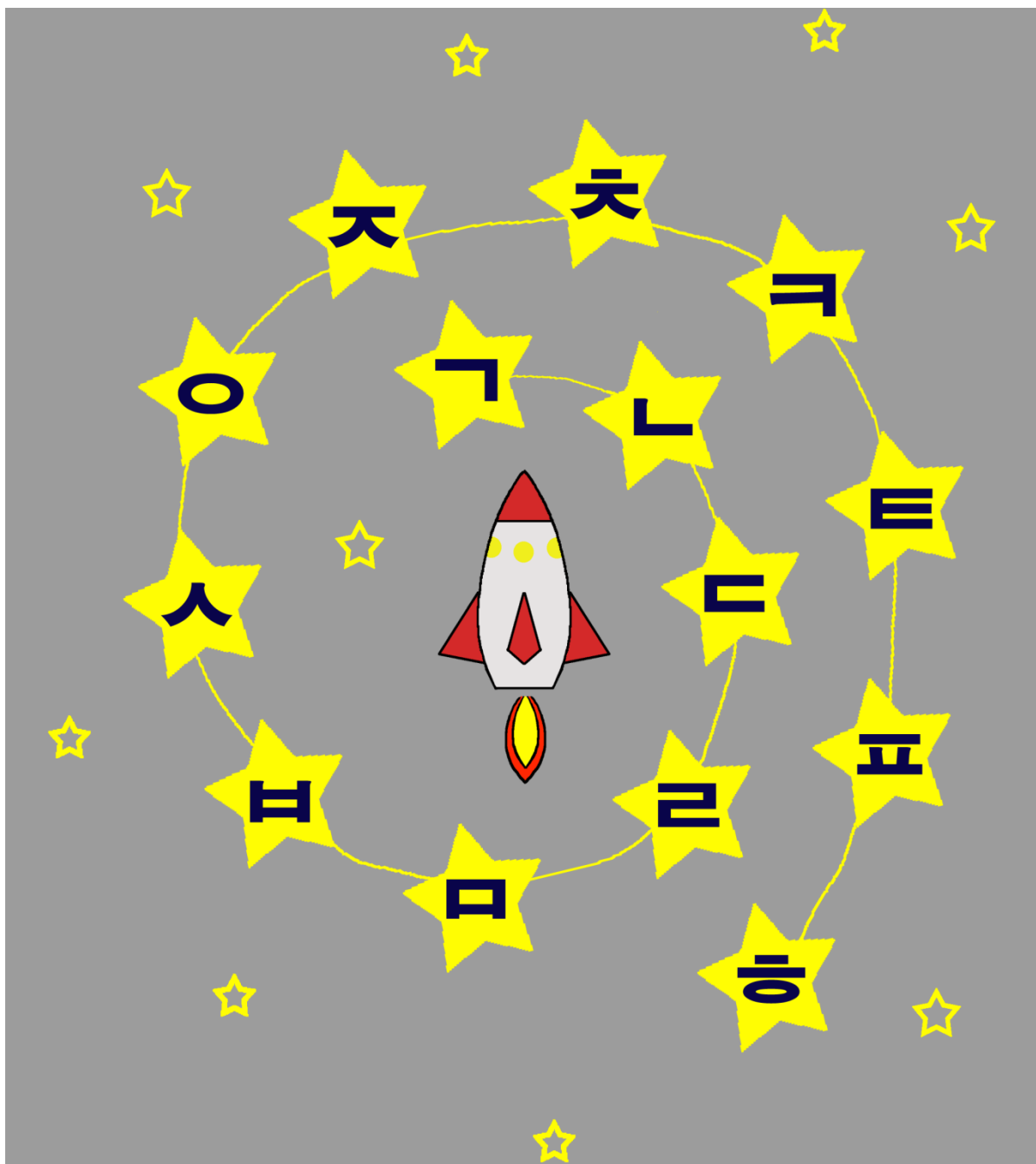
			
ㄱ	Goose 거위	ㄴ	Nacho 나초
			
ㄷ	Diving 다이빙	ㄹ	Ribbon 리본
			
ㅁ	Marshmallow 마시멜로	ㅂ	Bat 박쥐
			
ㅇ	Shark 상어	ㅇ	Sing





Let's write!

Trace over each Korean consonant with your finger. Follow the correct order for writing it. Say it to yourself as you trace over it.



The function of the consonant ㅇ

You have already learned that a consonant must be added to a vowel to be written as a letter. As ㅇ has no sound value, it is used as the first consonant in a syllable which has only the vowel sound.

When ㅇ falls at the end of a syllable, it makes an 'ng' sound as in 'sing'.



In Korean, the following sounds don't exist!

ㄲ ㅍ ㅅ ㅈ ㅊ

So ㅍ [p] is used for the ㄲ and ㅍ sounds. Actually 'fax' is pronounced as 'pax' and 'photo' is 'poto'.

Likewise, ㅂ [b] replaces the ㅅ sound as in 'biolin' for 'violin' and ㅈ [j] is used for ㅈ sound as in 'joo' for 'zoo'.

Lastly, ㅌ [t] is used for the ㅊ sound as in 'maraton' for 'marathon'!

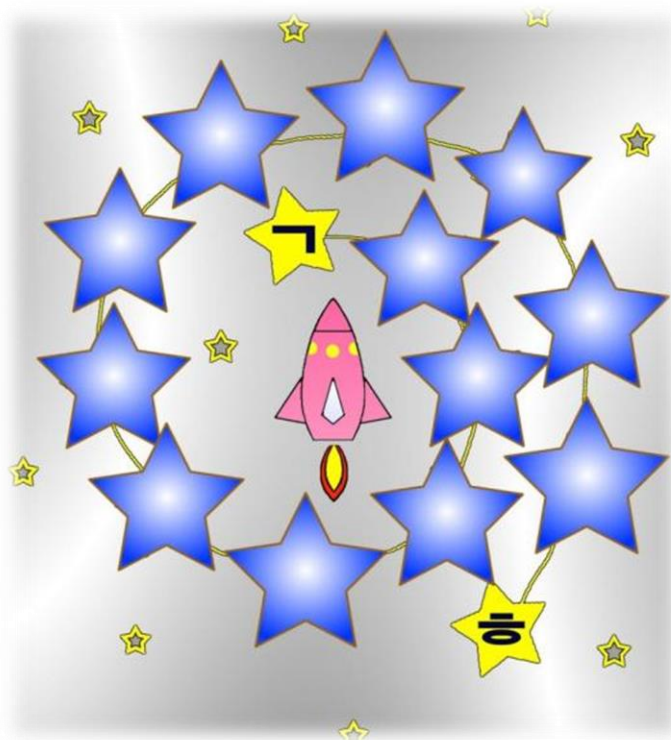
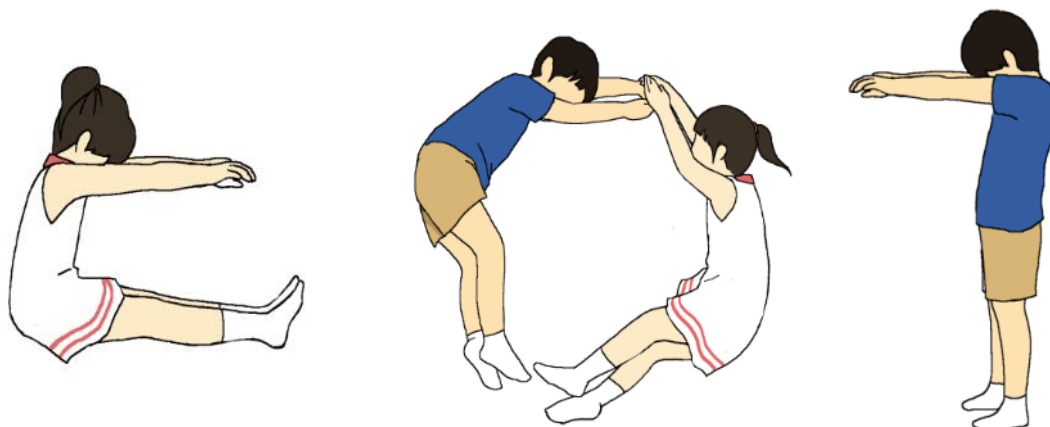




Let's play a game!

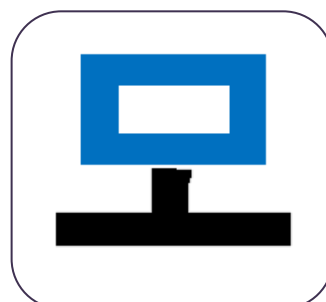
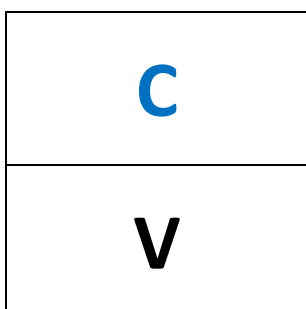
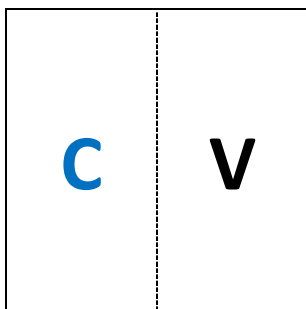
Form two teams. A Korean consonant letter will be given to you. As a group or by yourself, make the shape of the Korean letter with your body and let the other team guess the letter.

One person from each team guesses the letter that the other team is making. The team that guesses the most letters correctly within the given time wins



Syllabic construction 1

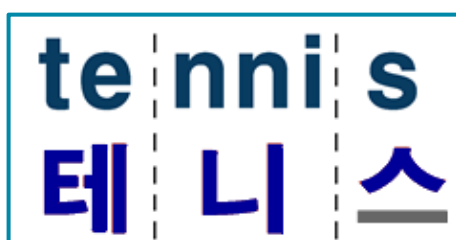
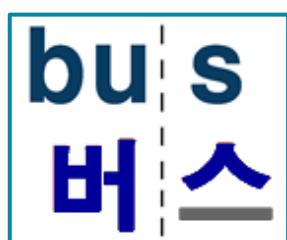
A syllable is formed when at least one consonant and one vowel are put together.



Note: **C** stands for **Consonants**, and **V** stands for **Vowels**.

Explanation

A Korean consonant always comes with a vowel to form a syllable. In other words, consonants need vowels and vice versa. For example, bus should be written as 버스 in Korean, not 버ㅅ.



For the following vertical vowels such as 'ㅏ ㅑ ㅓ ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ ㅠ ㅡ', consonants are located on the left hand side of the vowel.

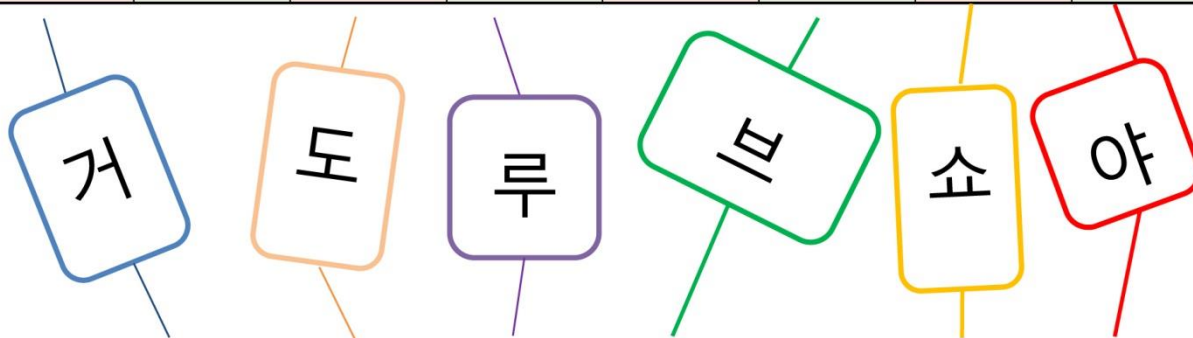
For the following horizontal vowels such as 'ㅓ ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ ㅠ ㅡ', consonants are located on top of the vowel.



Let's read!

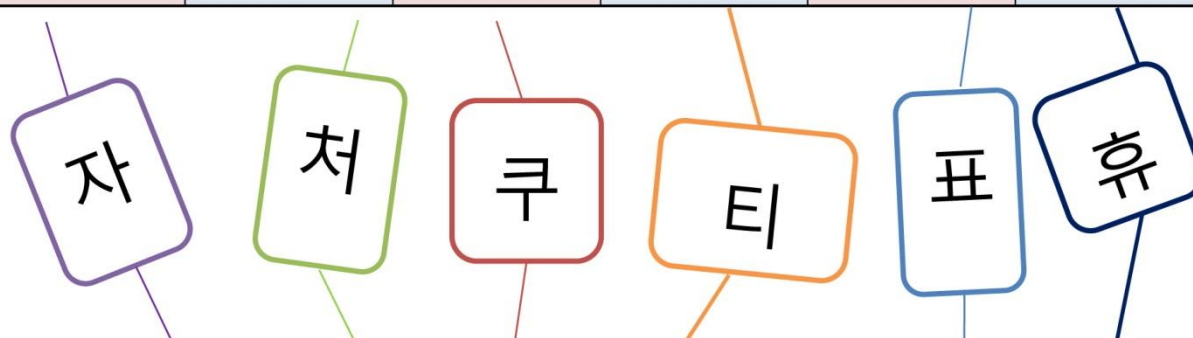
Now you can combine consonants and vowels to make more syllables. Just blend the sounds in order. Here are some examples.

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅕ	ㅖ
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅝ	ㅞ
---	---	---	---	---	---

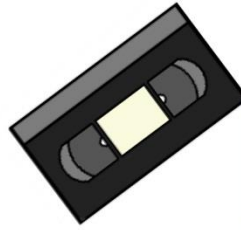


ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅕ	ㅖ
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Listen carefully and repeat Track 7

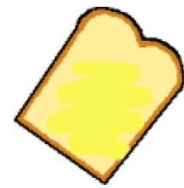
바나나



시드니



피아노



비디오



주스



토스트



테니스

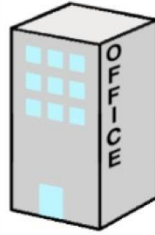


버스



토마토

라디오



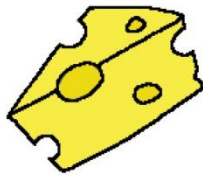
치즈



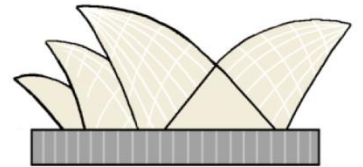
커피



스피커



카메라

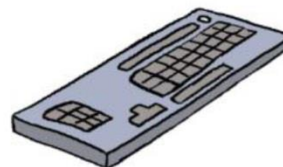


오피스



키보드

파라마타



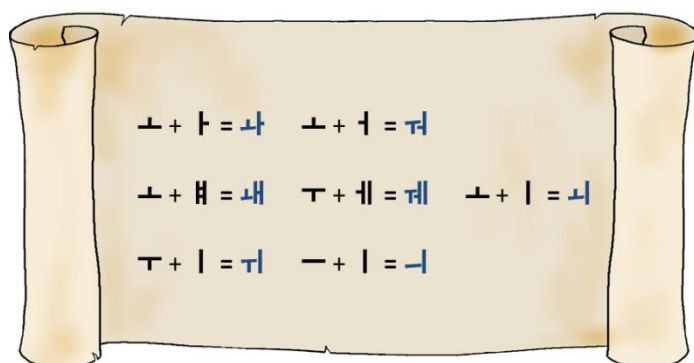
오페라하우스

Vowel combinations 2

<u>w</u> ah	<u>w</u> ant	<u>w</u> here	<u>w</u> est	<u>w</u> est
<u>w</u> ield	<u>w</u> in			

Explanation

Look carefully at the vowel combinations above.



The vowel sounds of 와, 웨, 위 have almost lost their distinction in Korean speech. They have the very similar pronunciation, although they are spelled differently to distinguish the meanings of different words in written texts.



Listen carefully and repeat **Track 8**

- a. 와 위 왜 웨 외 위 의
- b. 와요 타워 왜요
- c. 웨이터 외나무 가위
- d. 의사 귀 돼지



Let's read!

With your partner, read the following words. Guess the meanings of the words.

시드니타워



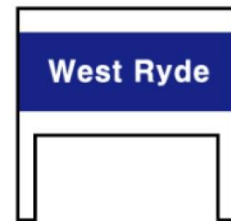
웨스트 라이드

와가와가

키위



쉐이크



와이파이

스위스



Double consonants

ㄱㄱ	ㄷㄷ	ㅂㅂ	ㅅㅅ	ㅈㅈ
[kk]	[tt]	[pp]	[ss]	[jj]

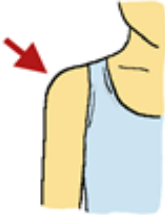
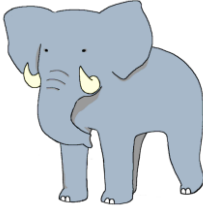
Explanation

There are five stressed consonants for which we use double symbols. Look at the words in the picture.



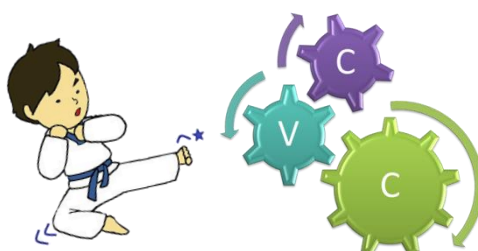
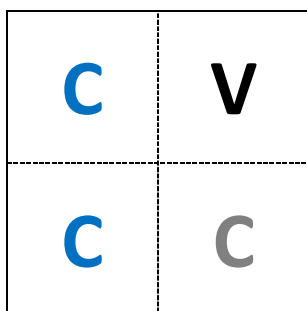
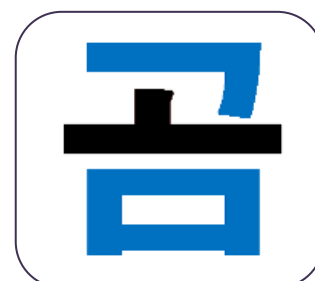
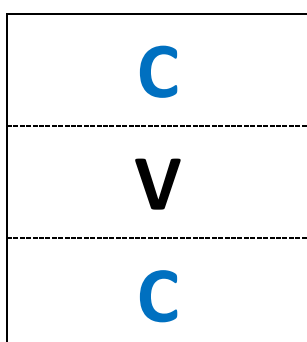
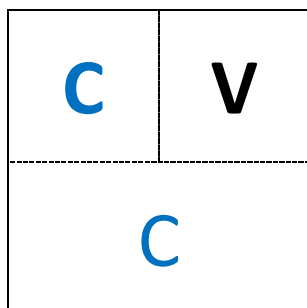


Listen carefully and repeat Track 9

어깨		아빠	
	토끼		찌개
머리띠		짜요	
	싸요		비싸요
코끼리		뽀뽀	
	뿌리		꼬마

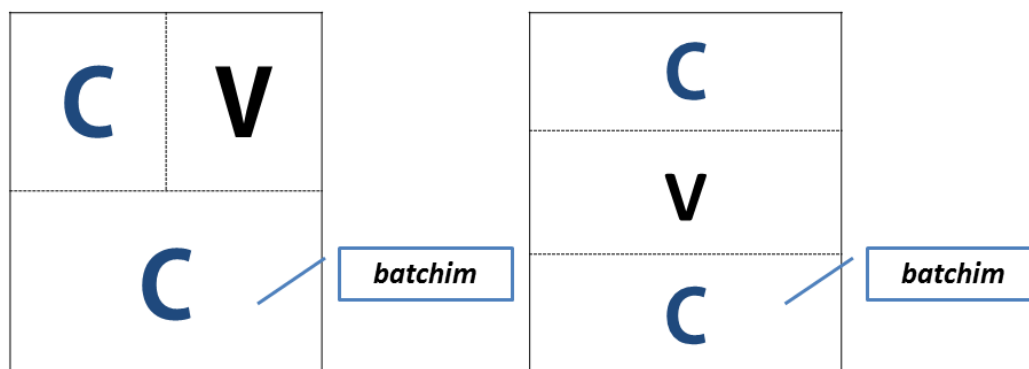
Syllabic construction 2

We have already learned that we need at least one consonant and one vowel to form a syllable. However, a second and third consonant can be used in the same letter.



Explanation

The final consonant, called *batchim*, only comes in seven sounds and in most cases, the sound of the final consonant is the same as when it is used as an initial consonant.



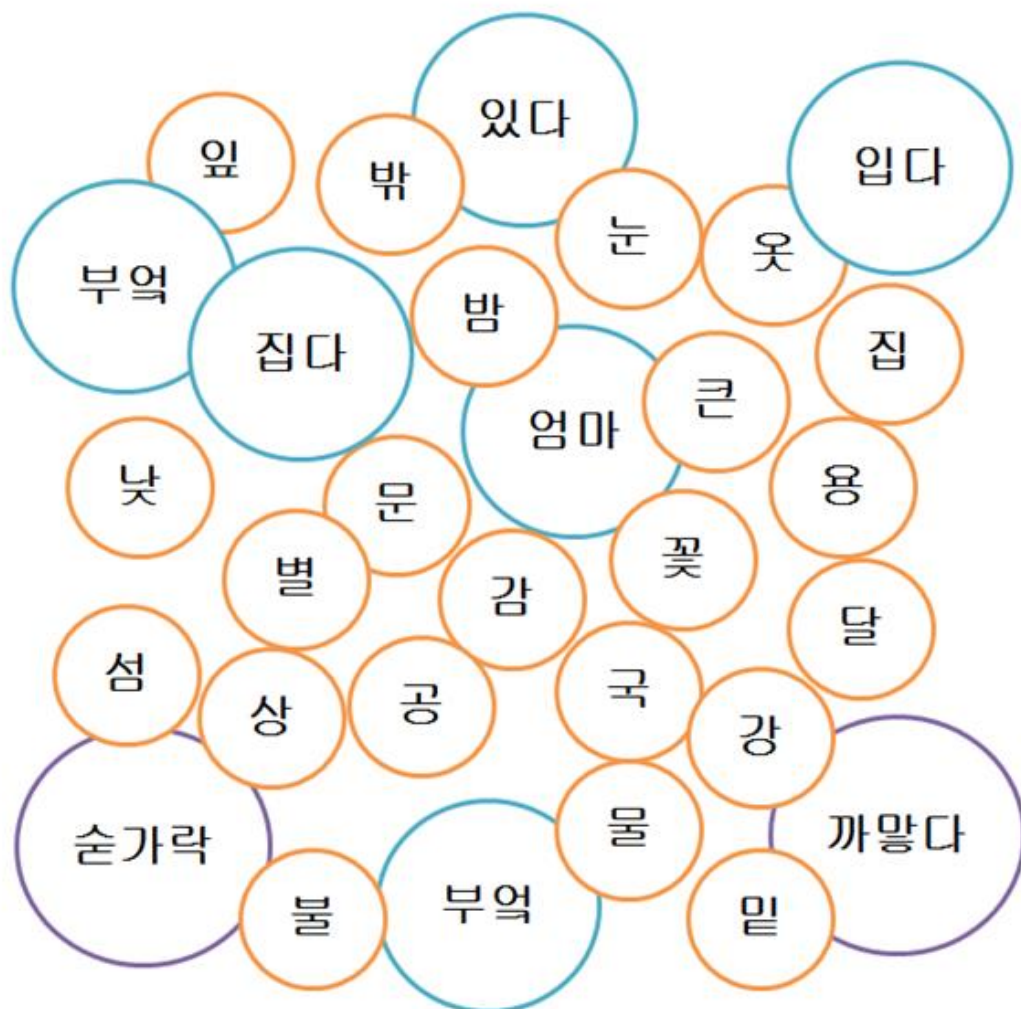
Batchim	Sound value	Sample words
ㄱ ㅋ ㆁ	k	국, 부엌, 밖
ㄴ	n	눈
ㄷ ㅌ ㄸ ㅊ ㅌ ㅍ ㅍ	t	손가락, 옷, 낮, 꽃, 밀, 까맣다, 있다
ㄹ	l	물
ㅁ	m	엄마
ㅂ ㅍ	p	집, 잎
ㅇ	ng	공

Example: The consonants ㅌ ㅍ ㅍ are pronounced as 't' when used as a *batchim*, so although 빗 빗 빗 have different meanings (comb, light and debt), they have the same pronunciation.



Listen carefully and repeat **Track 10**

- a. 국, 부엌, 밖
- b. 눈, 문, 큰
- c. 손가락, 옷, 낫, 꽃, 밀, 까맣다, 있다
- d. 물, 볼, 별, 달
- e. 엄마, 감, 섬, 밤
- f. 집, 앞, 집다, 입다
- g. 공, 용, 상, 강



Other basic pronunciation rules

Linking: When a *batchim* is followed by a vowel, then the sound moves into the position before the vowel. Look at these examples:

옷이 → 오시

많아요 → 마나요

한국어 → 한구거

Double final consonants: When two consonants are used as the final consonants, only the first final consonant is pronounced. For example:

값 → 갑 밖 → 박



Note: 'ㄹ' and 'ㄷ' are the only exceptions. In this case the second consonant is pronounced.

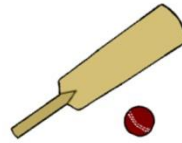


Let's read!

With your partner, read the following words and try to work out the meanings of the words.



컴퓨터



펜



다윈



벨트



드럼

트럼펫



아이스크림



페인트



썬크림



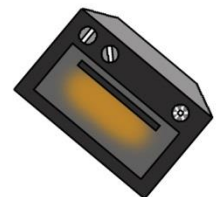
오븐



택시

크리켓

초콜릿

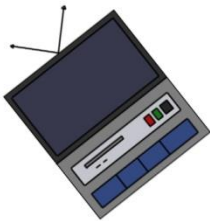


색소폰



넥타이

샌드위치

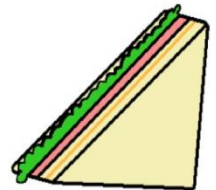


싱가포르

치킨

로션

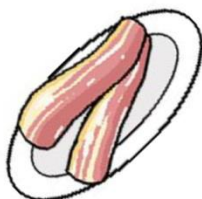
핸드백



립스틱

베이컨

오렌지



텔레비전



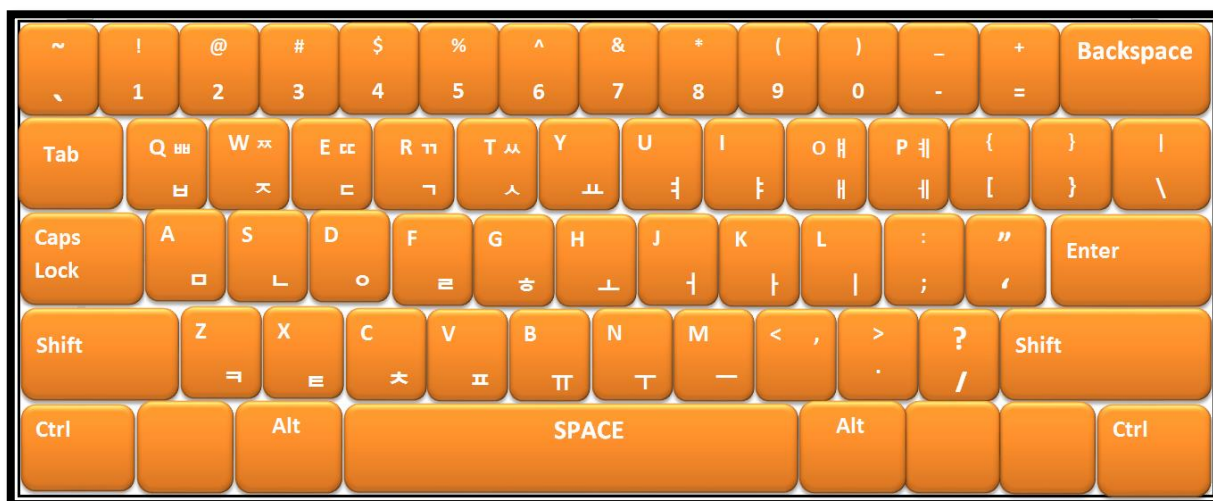
Cultural spotlight

Traditional Korean costumes and accessories



Hanbok is Korean traditional dress for both men and women. The letter 한 *han* means 'Korean' in the word, 한복 *han-bok*, and 복 *bok* means clothing. There are some other words starting with 한 *han* meaning 'Korean' such as 한국 *han-guk* the country of Korea, 한글 *han-geul* Korean alphabet, 한옥 *han-ok* Korean house, 한지 *han-ji* Korean paper, and 한식 *han-sik* Korean food.

Project



Have you seen a Korean keyboard before? The Korean keyboard is easy to remember if you can distinguish Korean vowels and consonants. The left half of the keyboard has consonants and the right half of the keyboard has all of the vowels. To type double consonants or diphthong vowels (e.g. **ㅈ**, **ㅊ**), simply press the Shift key and the key of the consonant or the diphthong vowel.

Try typing the following expressions in Korean:

생일 축하합니다 (Happy birthday to you)

메리 크리스마스 (Merry Christmas)

고맙습니다 or 감사합니다 (Thank you)

사랑해요 (I love you)

Sample

Dear John

생일 축하합니다
Happy birthday to you



From 준호

Make a special card for someone in Korean using these expressions. Don't forget to type your name in Korean!



Hangeul chart

	ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅚ	ㅜ	ㅞ	ㅟ
ㄱ	가	갸	거	겨	고	교	구	규	그	기	게	개	계	개
ㄴ	나	냐	너	녀	노	뇨	누	뉴	느	니	네	내	네	내
ㄷ	다	댜	더	더	도	도	두	두	드	디	데	대	테	대
ㄹ	라	랴	러	려	로	료	루	류	르	리	레	래	레	래
ㅁ	마	먜	머	며	모	묘	무	뮤	므	미	메	매	메	매
ㅂ	바	뵤	버	벼	보	보	부	뷰	브	비	베	배	베	배
ㅅ	사	샤	서	셔	소	쇼	수	슈	스	시	세	새	세	새
ㅇ	아	야	어	여	오	요	우	유	으	이	에	애	예	애
ㅈ	자	쟈	저	져	조	조	주	쥬	즈	지	제	재	제	재
ㅊ	차	챤	처	쳐	초	초	추	쥬	츠	치	체	채	체	채
ㅋ	카	캬	커	켜	코	코	쿠	큐	크	키	케	캐	케	캐
ㅌ	타	탤	터	텨	토	토	투	튜	트	티	테	태	테	태
ㅍ	파	퍤	퍼	펴	포	표	푸	퓨	프	피	페	패	페	패
ㅎ	하	햤	허	혀	호	효	후	휴	흐	히	헤	해	헤	해

With a partner

Decide who is A and who is B. Read the words with your partner, and check your pronunciation together.

A 아이 여우

B 오이 우유

A 아이스 나이스 버스 테니스

B 보트 마트 데이트 토스트

A 피아노 오디오

B 비디오 라디오

A 와요 왜요

B 타워 웨이터

A 토끼 코끼리

B 싸요 비싸요

A 컴퓨터 인터넷 인터뷰

B 한글 한복 한국 한국어



한글 Checklist

I can:

- recognise and identify Korean vowels and consonants
- trace over each letter in the correct stroke order
- explain construct syllables in Hangeul
- read Korean loan words
- how Hangeul was created
- type Korean words and useful expressions.

ARIRANG HANGEUL COURSE BOOK ANSWERS

N.A

ARIRANG HANGEUL COURSE BOOK TRANSCRIPT

Track	Transcript
track 1	Korean Arirang course book Let's learn Hangeul
track 2	Listen carefully and repeat 아 야 어 여 오 요 우 유 으 이
track 3	Listen carefully and repeat 아야어여 오요우유 으이
track 4	Korean vowel song
track 5	Listen carefully and repeat 애 애 예 예 애 애 예 예 애 애 예 예 애 애 예 예

track 6	Listen carefully and repeat ㄱ ㄴ ㄷ ㄹ ㅁ ㅂ ㅅ ㅇ ㅈ ㅊ ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ ㅎ
track 7	Listen carefully and repeat 바나나 시드니 피아노 비디오 주스 토스트 테니스 버스 토마토 라디오 치즈 커피 스피커 카메라 오피스 키보드 파라마타 오페라하우스

track 8	Listen carefully and repeat
	a. 와, 워, 왜, 웨, 외, 위, 의 b. 와요, 타워, 왜요 c. 웨이터, 외나무, 가위 d. 의사, 귀, 돼지
track 9	Listen carefully and repeat
	어깨 아빠 토끼 찌개 머리띠 짜요 싸요 비싸요 코끼리 뽀뽀 뿌리 꼬마
track 10	Listen carefully and repeat
	a. 국, 부엌, 밖 b. 눈, 문, 큰 c. 손가락, 옷, 낮, 꽃, 밑, 까맣다, 있다 d. 물, 불, 별, 달 e. 엄마, 감, 섬, 밤 f. 집, 앞, 집다, 입다 g. 공, 용, 상, 강