



# Korean

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY

## Look out for the following icons throughout the book:



### 'Shortcut' Phrase

Easy to remember alternative to the full phrase



### Q&A Pair

'Question-and-answer' pair – we suggest a response to the question asked



### Look For

Phrases you may see on signs, menus etc



### Listen For

Phrases you may hear from officials, locals etc

### LANGUAGE TIP

### Language Tip

An insight into the foreign language

### CULTURE TIP

### Culture Tip

An insight into the local culture

## How to read the phrases:

- Coloured words and phrases throughout the book are phonetic guides to help you pronounce the foreign language.
- Lists of phrases with tinted background are options you can choose to complete the phrase above them.

## These abbreviations will help you choose the right words and phrases in this book:

**a** adjective  
**adv** adverb  
**inf** informal  
**lit** literal

**n** noun  
**pl** plural  
**pol** polite  
**prep** preposition

**pron** pronoun  
**sg** singular  
**v** verb

# Contents

PAGE

6



## About Korean

Learn about Korean, build your own sentences and pronounce words correctly.

Introduction .....	6
Top Phrases .....	8
Pronunciation .....	10
Grammar .....	18

PAGE

35

## Travel Phrases

Ready-made phrases for every situation – buy a ticket, book a hotel and much more.



## Basics 35

Understanding .....	36
Numbers & Amounts .....	38
Time & Dates .....	45



## Practical 51

Transport .....	52
Border Crossing .....	69
Directions .....	71
Accommodation .....	75
Shopping .....	87
Communications .....	97
Money & Banking .....	104
Business .....	108

Sightseeing .....	110
Senior & Disabled Travellers.....	115
Travel with Children.....	117



## **Social** ..... **119**

Meeting People .....	120
Interests .....	134
Feelings & Opinions.....	139
Going Out .....	144
Romance .....	150
Beliefs & Culture.....	154
Sports.....	158
Outdoors .....	164



## **Safe Travel** ..... **171**

Emergencies .....	172
Police .....	175
Health .....	178



## **Food** ..... **189**

Eating Out .....	190
Self-Catering.....	206
Vegetarian & Special Meals.....	209

## **PAGE** **212**



## **Menu Decoder**

Dishes and ingredients explained – order with confidence and try new foods.

## **PAGE** **221**



## **Two-Way Dictionary**

Quick reference vocabulary guide – 3500 words to help you communicate.

English–Korean Dictionary .....	221
Korean–English Dictionary .....	253

Index .....	268
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## INTRO

## Korean

한국어 han·gu·gŏ

## Who Speaks Korean?



**OFFICIAL  
LANGUAGE**  
NORTH KOREA  
SOUTH KOREA

**CO-OFFICIAL  
LANGUAGE**  
YANBIAN  
AUTONOMOUS  
PREFECTURE  
(CHINA)

### Why Bother

To understand what makes Koreans tick, you should know something about harmony and hierarchy, highly valued principles that draw on Confucian ideals. Start with the language: the Korean greeting **an·nyŏng**

**ha·se·yo** 안녕하세요? (How are you?) is literally translated as 'Are you peaceful?'.

### Distinctive Sounds

Korean distinguishes between 'aspirated' consonants (pronounced with a puff of air) and 'unaspirated' ones.

## 5 Phrases to Learn Before You Go

### 1 Do you have a Western-style room?

서양식 방 있나요? sŏ-yang-shik pang in-na-yo

Smaller lodgings may only have Korean-style rooms (with floor mattresses). If you want a 'proper' bed, check ahead.

### 2 Please bring a fork/knife.

포크/ナイ프 가져다 주세요. p'o-k'ŭ/na-i-p'ŭ ka-jŏ-da ju-se-yo

In Korean restaurants the spoon is meant for rice and soup, and chopsticks are for everything else; ask if you need other utensils.

### 3 Can you make it less spicy?

덜 맵게 해 주시겠어요? tŏl maep-ké hae-ju-shi-gess-ŏ-yo

Korean food is an enthusiastic assault on the senses, often spicy enough to trigger off sweat or tears – you may want to play it safe.

### 4 Where can I find a steam-room?

찜질방 어디에 있나요? jjim-jil-bang ŏ-di-é in-na-yo

Generally open 24 hours, these facilities at public baths are perfect when you need some down time – whether to watch TV, read, just relax or even sleep overnight.

### 5 Please call the tourist interpreting service.

통역 서비스에 전화해 주세요.

t'ong-yŏk sŏ-bi-sŭ-é chŏn-hwa-hae-ju-se-yo

To ensure that you get to the right place, Korean taxi drivers have a number to call to hook you up with someone who will translate directions for you.

## 10 Phrases to Sound Like a Local

**Hey!** :: :: 여기요! :: :: yŏ-gi-yo

**Great!** :: :: 좋아요! :: :: cho-a-yo

**Sure!** :: :: 물론이죠! :: :: mul-lo-ni-jo

**Maybe.** :: :: 아마도요. :: :: a-ma-do-yo

**No way!** :: :: 안 돼요! :: :: an-dwae-yo

**Just a minute.** :: :: 잠시만요. :: :: cham-shi-man-nyo

**Just joking.** :: :: 농담이에요. :: :: nong-da-mi-e-yo

**Never mind.** :: :: 괜찮아요. :: :: kwaen-cha-na-yo

**No problem.** :: :: 문제 없어요. :: :: mun-jé ōp-sŏ-yo

**OK!** :: :: 그렇게 해요. :: :: kŭ-rŏ-k'é hae-yo

## Vowel Sounds

Korean has six basic vowels, all of which are found in English. The difference between the two ‘combination vowels’ (ae and e) is very subtle, and younger Koreans often don’t make the distinction in their speech.

LETTER	SYMBOL	ENGLISH SOUND	KOREAN EXAMPLE	TRANSLITERATION
ㅏ	a	father	가수	ka-su
ㅑ	ae	bag	배우	pae-u
ㅓ	e/é	net	게시판	ke-shi-p'an
ㅕ	i	keen	시작	shi-jak
ㅗ	o	go	오빠	op-pa
ㅛ	ō	son	서울	sō-ul
ㅜ	oé	as in 'no entry'	외상촌	oé-sam-ch'on
ㅡ	u	nude	우리	u-ri
ㅜ	ũ	put	그림	kũ-rim
ㅡ	ŭi	as in 'chop suey'	의사	ŭi-sa
ㅘ	wa	wander	과일	kwa-il
ㅙ	wae	wag	괘락	k'wae-rak
ㅚ	we	wet	궤도	kwe-do
ㅞ	wi	week	귀신	kwi-shin
ㅟ	wō	wonder	원숭이	wōn-sung-i
ㅙ	ya	yahoo	야구	ya-gu
ㅛ	yae	yank	애기	yae-gi
ㅜ	ye	yet	예절	ye-jŏl
ㅠ	yo	yogurt	효도	hyo-do
ㅟ	yō	young	여행	yō-haeng
ㅠ	yu	you	유학	yu-hak