

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

An insight into the foreign language



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 adjectiveadv adverbinf informallit literal

n noun
pl plural
pol polite

pron pronoun singular v verb

prep preposition

ABOUT THIS BOOK

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

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Travel Phrases

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











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Menu Decoder

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

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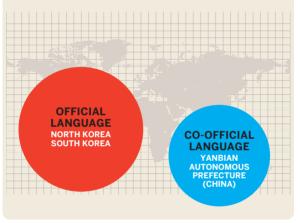


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Who Speaks Korean?



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·vo 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



Do you have a Western-style room?

서양식 방 있나요? sŏ·vang·shik pang in·na·vo

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



▶ Please bring a fork/knife.

포크/나이프 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.



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.



Where can I find a steam-room?

찜질방 어디에 있나요? iiim·iil·bang ŏ·di·é in·na·vo

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.



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 ŏp·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
ŀ	а	father	가수	ka∙su
Н	ae	bag	배우	pae∙u
1	e/é	net	게시판	ke·shi·p'an
1	i	keen	시작	shi∙jak
	0	go	오빠	op∙pa
4	ŏ	son	서울	sŏ∙ul
괴	oé	as in 'no entry'	외삼촌	oé·sam·ch'on
	u	n <mark>u</mark> de	우리	u∙ri
_	ŭ	put	그림	kŭ∙rim
-1	ŭi	as in 'chop suey'	의사	ŭi∙sa
ᅪ	wa	wander	과일	kwa·il
ᅫ	wae	wag	쾌락	k'wae∙rak
ᅰ	we	wet	궤도	kwe·do
ᅱ	wi	week	귀신	kwi·shin
거	wŏ	wonder	원숭이	wŏn∙sung∙i
ŧ	ya	yahoo	야구	ya∙gu
Ħ	yae	yank	얘기	yae∙gi
41	ye	yet	예절	ye∙jŏl
ш	yo	yogurt	효도	hyo∙do
#	yŏ	young	여행	yŏ∙haeng
π	yu	you	유학	yu∙hak