



Korean QuickChat

Most Koreans are delighted when overseas visitors try to use their language, and they will happily help even the worst butchers of the language muddle through until they finally make themselves understood. The whole process can be very entertaining for those on both sides of the conversation, and is a great way to make new friends. Korean is a difficult to learn, but many English words have now penetrated the language so hopefully you won't have too much trouble making yourself understood.

QUESTION WORDS

How?	어떻게	eotteoke
What?	무엇	mu-eot
When?	언제	eonje
Where?	어디	eodi
Who?	누구	nugu

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Hello	안녕 하십니까 (polite)	annyeong haseyo
	안녕 하세요 (inf)	annyeong haseyo
Goodbye	안녕히 가세요	annyeong-hi gaseyo
Yes	예/네	ye/ne
No	아니요	aniyo
Please	주세요	juseyo
Thank you	감사 합니다	gamsa hamnida
That's fine/You're welcome	괜찮습니다	gwaenchan seumnida
Excuse me	실례 합니다	sillye hamnida
Sorry	미안 합니다	mian hamnida
May I ask your name?	이름을 여쭙봐도 될까요	ireumeul yeojjwobwado doelkkayo
My name is ...	제 이름은...입니다	je ireumeun ... imnida
Where are you from?	어디서 오셨어요?	eodiseo oseosseoyo?
I'm from ...	저는...에서 왔습니다	jeoneun ... e-seo wasseumnida
How are you?	안녕 하세요?	annyeong haseyo?
I'm fine thanks	네 좋아요	ne, jo-ayo
I (don't) like ...	저는...좋아해요/ ... 좋아하지 않아요	jeoneun ... jo-a hey/ ... jo-a haji anhayo
Just a minute	잠깐만요	jamkkan manyo

DIRECTIONS

Where is ...?	...이/가 어디 있어요?	... i/ga eodi isseoyo?
Go straight ahead	똑바로 가세요	ttokbaro gaseyo
Turn left	왼쪽으로 가세요	oenjjogeuro gaseyo
Turn right	오른쪽으로 가세요	oreunjogeuro gaseyo
at the next corner	다음 모퉁이에서	da eum motungi e-seo
at the traffic lights	신호등에서	sinhodeung e-seo

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?	영어 하세요?	yeong-eo haseyo?
How do you say ... in Korean?	...을 한국어로	... eul/reul hangug-euro
What does ... mean?	어떻게 말해요?	eotteoke malhaeyo?
I don't understand	...가/어 무슨 뜻 이예요? 잘 모르겠는데요	... ga/i museun tteusieyo? jal moreugenneun deyo

TIME & DATES

What time is it?	지금 몇시예요?	jigeum myeot si-eyo?
in the morning	아침에	achim-e
in the afternoon	오후에	ohu-e
in the evening	저녁에	jeonyeok-e
today	오늘	o-neul
tomorrow	내일	nae-il
yesterday	어제	eo-je
Monday	월요일	woryoil
Tuesday	화요일	hwayoil
Wednesday	수요일	suyoil
Thursday	목요일	magyoil
Friday	금요일	geumyoil
Saturday	토요일	toyoil
Sunday	일요일	iryoil

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'd like to buy를/을 사고 싶어요	... reul/eul sago sipeoyo
How much is it?	얼마예요?	eolma yeyo?
I don't like it	별로 맘에 안드네요	byeollo mam-e andeuneyo
May I look at it?	보여 주실래요?	boyeo jusillaeoyo?
I'm just looking	그냥 구경 하는 거예요	geunyang gugyeong haneungeo-eyo
It's cheap	싸네요	ssa-neyo
It's too expensive	너무 비싸요	neomu bissayo
I'll take it	이걸로 할래요	igeoro haraeoyo
Do you accept credit cards?	카드를 받아요? 지불해도 돼요?	kaedeuteu kadeu-ro jibul haedo dwaeyo?

PLACES

a church	교회	gyohoe
the city centre	시내 중심가	sinae jung simga
the ... embassy	대사관	dae sigwan
the market	시장	sijang
the museum	박물관	bangmulgwan
the post office	우체국	uche-guk
a public toilet	화장실	hwajangsil
the tourist office	관광 안내소	gwan gwang annaesoo

TRANSPORT

What time does the ... leave/arrive?	...이/가 언제 떠 나요/언제 도착해요?	... i/ga (eonje tteonayo/ eonje dochak-haeyo)?
boat (ferry)	여객선	yeogaekseon
bus	버스	beoseu
plane	비행기	bihaeng-gi
train	기차	gicha
I'd like a ticket	한장 주세요	hanjang juseyo
I want to go to에 가고 싶습니다	... e gago sipseumnida
The train has been cancelled	기차가 (취소) 되었습니까	gichaga (chwiso) doe-eosseumnida
The train has been delayed	기차가(연착) 되었습니까.	gichaga (yeonchak) doe-eosseumnida
platform number	플랫폼번호	peuraetpom beonho
ticket office	표 파는곳	pyo paneun got
timetable	시간표	sigan pyo
train station	기차역	gicha yeok

EMERGENCIES

Help!	사람살려!	saram sallyeo!
I'm lost	길을 잃었어요	gireul ireosseoyo
Go away!	저리가!	jeori ga!
Call ...!	...불러 주세요!	... bulleo juseyo!
a doctor	의사를	ui-sareul
the police	경찰을	gyeongchareul

SIGNS

Entrance	입구
Exit	출구
Information	안내
Open	영업중
Closed	휴업중
Prohibited	금지
Rooms Available	방있음
Full/No Vacancies	방없음
Police Station	경찰서
Toilets	화장실
Men	신사용
Women	숙녀용



ROMANISATION

In July 2000, the Korean government adopted a new method of Romanising the Korean language. Most of the old Romanisation system was retained, but a few changes were introduced to ensure a more consistent spelling throughout Korea and overseas. The new system has been energetically pushed throughout the government and tourist bureaus, but some corporations, individuals, academics and news outlets are reluctant to adopt it.

We use the new Romanisation style throughout this guide, but you'll come across many spelling variations. To avoid confusion it's always best to go back to the original Korean script. In fact, it's well worth the few hours required to learn the Korean alphabet, even though we've provided Korean script throughout this book for map references and points of interest.

PRONUNCIATION

In the words and phrases in this chapter, the use of the variants **ga/i**, **reul/eul** and **ro/euro** depends on whether the preceding letter is a vowel or a consonant respectively.

VOWELS & VOWEL COMBINATIONS

a	as in 'are'
ya	as in 'yard'
eo	as the 'o' in 'of'
yeo	as the 'you' in 'young'
o	as in 'go'
yo	as in 'yoke'
u	as in 'flute'
yu	as the word 'you'
eu	as the 'oo' in 'look'
i	as the 'ee' in 'beet'
ae	as the 'a' in 'hat'
yae	as the 'ya' in 'yam'
e	as in 'ten'
ye	as in 'yes'
wa	as in 'waffle'
wae	as the 'wa' in 'wax'
oe	as the 'wa' in 'way'
wo	as in 'won'
we	as in 'wet'
wi	as the word 'we'
ui	as 'u' plus 'i'

CONSONANTS

Unaspirated consonants are generally difficult for English speakers to render. To those unfamiliar with Korean, an unaspirated k will sound like 'g', an unaspirated t like 'd', and an unaspirated p like 'b'.

Whether consonants in Korean are voiced or unvoiced depends on where they fall within a word. The rules governing this are too complex to cover here – the following tables show the various alternative pronunciations you may hear.

SINGLE CONSONANTS

The letter ㅅ is pronounced 'sh' if followed by the vowel ㅣ, even though it is transliterated as si.

In the middle of a word, ㅇ is pronounced 'n' if it follows ㅁ (m) or ㅇ (ng), but when it follows ㄴ (n) it becomes a double 'l' sound (ll); when a single ㅇ is followed by a vowel it is transliterated as r.

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

DOUBLE CONSONANTS

Double consonants are pronounced with more stress than their single consonants counterparts.

ㄲ	kk
ㄸ	tt
ㅃ	pp
ㅆ	ss/t
ㅉ	jj

COMPLEX CONSONANTS

These occur only in the middle or at the end of a word.

ㄱㅅ	-/ksk/-
ㄴㅈ	-/nj/n
ㄴㅎ	-/nh/n
ㄹㄱ	-/lg/k
ㄹㅁ	-/lm/m
ㄹㅂ	-/lb/p
ㄹㅅ	-/ls/l
ㄹㅌ	-/lt/l
ㄹㅍ	-/lp/p
ㄹㅎ	-/lh/l
ㅃㅅ	-/ps/p

POLITE KOREAN

Korea's pervasive social hierarchy means that varying degrees of politeness are codified into the grammar. Young Koreans tend to use the very polite forms a lot less than the older generation, but it's always best to use the polite form if you're unsure. The sentences presented in this guide use polite forms.