

## Korean / 한국어 Hanguk-ö / 조선말 Chosŏnmal

transliteration: KNAB 1998, romanization: McCune-Reischauer 1939

No	Korean	Trlit	Rom
1	ㄱ	g	k
2	ㅋ	k	k'
3	ㄲ	gg	kk
4	ㄷ	d	t
5	ㅌ	t	t'
6	ㄸ	dd	tt
7	ㅂ	b	p
8	ㅃ	p	p'
9	ㅍ	bb	pp
10	ㅈ	j	ch
11	ㅉ	ch	ch'
12	ㅊ	jj	tch
13	ㅅ	s	s
14	ㅆ	ss	ss
15	ㅎ	h	h
16	ㅇ	ng, <sup>-1</sup>	ng, <sup>-1</sup>
17	ㄴ	n	n
18	ㄹ	l	r, n, l
19	ㅁ	m	m
20	ㅏ	a	a

21	ㅑ	eo	ö
22	ㅓ	o	o
23	ㅕ	u	u
24	ㅡ	eu	ü
25	ㅣ	i	i
26	ㅞ	ae	ae
27	ㅟ	e	e
28	ㅠ	oe	oe
29	ㅢ	ya	ya
30	ㅤ	yeo	yö
31	ㅥ	yo	yo
32	ㅦ	yu	yu
33	ㅧ	yae	yae
34	ㅨ	ye	ye
35	ㅩ	wa	wa
36	ㅪ	weo	wö
37	ㅫ	wi	wi
38	ㅬ	wae	wae
39	ㅭ	we	we
40	ㅮ	eui	üi

<sup>1</sup> Syllable-initially.

### Transition from transliteration to romanization

#### Changes occurring word-initially:

l → n ~ (0)

#### Changes occurring at the combinations of consonants with the following vowels:

d → t ~ d',

→ ch ~ j' (before i and y)

{ deui → ti~di }

eui → üi,

→ i (after b,ch,d,g,j,k,l,m,n,p,s,t)

l → n ~ (0),

→ r ~ n ~ l (before i and y),

omitted (word-initially before i and y)

leui → ri ~ ni ~ li,

→ ni (word-initially)

n → n,

→ n ~ l (before i and y),

omitted (word-initially before i and y)

swi → shwi

syui → shwi

t → t',

wi → *ch'* (before i and y) {*teui* → *t'i*}  
 → *wi*,  
 → *i* (after b,m,p)  
 ya → *ya*,  
 → *a* (after ch,d,j,s,t)  
 ye → *ye*,  
 → *e* (after ch,d,j,s,t)  
 yo → *yo*,  
 → *o* (after ch,d,j,s,t)  
 yŏ → *yŏ*,  
 → *ŏ* (after ch,d,j,s,t)  
 yu → *yu*,  
 → *u* (after ch,d,j,s,t)

<sup>1</sup> The choice of the variant depends on the preceding sound (see the following section).

### Changes occurring in the middle of the word:

(syllable-boundaries are marked with +)

b → *p*,  
 → *b* (before ng; after l, lb, lm, m, n, ng, and a vowel)  
 → *m* (before l,m,n)  
 b+bb → *pp*  
 d → *t ~ ch'*,  
 → *d ~ j'* (after lm,m,n,ng, and a vowel)  
 g → *k*,  
 → *g* (before ng; after l, lg, lm, m, n, ng, and a vowel)  
 → *ng* (before l,m,n)  
 g+gg → *kk*  
 j → *ch*,  
 → *j* (after lm,m,n,ng, and a vowel)  
 l → *l*,  
 → *r* (before ng; after a vowel),  
 → *n* (after b,g,m,ng,s)  
 lb+.. → *p*,  
 → *l* (before b,bb,p),  
 → *lb* (before ng),

→ *lp* (before h),  
 → *m* (before l,m,n)  
 lg+.. → *k*,  
 → *l* (before g,gg,k),  
 → *lg* (before ng),  
 → *lk* (before h),  
 → *ng* (before l,m,n)  
 lm+.. → *m*,  
 → *l* (before m),  
 → *lm* (before ng)  
 n → *n*,  
 → *n'* (before g),  
 → *l* (before or after l)  
 s → *s ~ sh'*,  
 → *d* (before ng),  
 → *t* (before bb,ch,gg,h,j,jj,k,p,t)  
 sb → *pp*  
 sd → *tt ~ tch'*  
 s+dd → *tt*  
 sg → *kk*  
 sl → *nn*  
 sm → *nm*  
 sn → *nn*  
 s+ss → *ss*

<sup>1</sup> The choice of the variant depends on the following vowel (see the preceding section).

### Changes occurring at the end of a word:

ch → *t*  
 j → *t*  
 k → *k*  
 l → *l*  
 lb → *p*  
 lg → *k*  
 p → *p*  
 s → *t*  
 t → *t*

### Notes

1. In Korean script, the characters are grouped into syllables and written from left to right or from top to bottom: 판문점 *P'anmunjŏm*.
2. The character ㅇ *ng* is not romanized syllable-initially, otherwise it is romanized *ng*: 창항 *Changhang*; 안양 *Anyang*, 여수 *Yŏsu*.

- Syllable boundaries within words are not reflected in romanization: 일영 *Iryōng*, 여량 *Yōryang*, 읍아가다 *Olmagada*, 알맹이 *Almaengi*.
- A sound change occurring anywhere within a word or geographical name should be reflected in the resulting romanized form: 오곡도 *Ogok-to* ~ *Ogok To*, cf. 소운도 *Soun-do* ~ *Soun Do*; 대성령 *Taesōng-nyōng*, cf. 덕우대령 *Tōgudae-ryōng*, 위건령 *Wōgyōl-lyōng*.

### Comparison with other romanization systems

**Romanization of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Korea (2000-07-07)**  
(in most parts coincides with KNAB transliteration):

ㄱ g, k <sup>1</sup>	ㅈ ch	ㅊ eo	ㅊ yo
ㅋ k	ㅉ jj	ㅌ o	ㅠ yu
ㄲ kk	ㅅ s, t <sup>1</sup>	ㅍ u	ㅑ yae
ㄷ d, t <sup>1</sup>	ㅆ ss	ㅡ eu	ㅕ ye
ㅌ t	ㅎ h	ㅣ i	ㅖ wa
ㅍ tt	ㅇ ng, - <sup>2</sup>	ㅗ ae	ㅗ wo
ㅂ b, p <sup>1</sup>	ㄴ n	ㅛ e	ㅜ wi
ㅃ p	ㄹ r, l <sup>3</sup>	ㅜ oe	ㅜ wae
ㅍ pp	ㅁ m	ㅟ ya	ㅟ we
ㅈ j, t <sup>1</sup>	ㅂ a	ㅟ yeo	ㅟ ui

<sup>1</sup> Word-finally, or if followed by a consonant.

<sup>2</sup> Syllable-initially.

<sup>3</sup> Word-finally, or if followed by a consonant. ㄹㄹ is romanized *ll*.

#### Rules of application:

1. Consideration is given to sound changes not reflected in the orthography:

a) assimilation: 맨마 *baen-ma* *Baengma*, 별내 *byeol-nae* *Byeollae*, 신문로 *sin-mun-lo* *Sinmunno* (standard assimilation rules from the table: b+l → *mn*, b+n → *mn*, g+l → *ngn*, g+m → *ngm*, g+n → *ngn*, j+n → *nn*, j+m → *nm*, j+j → *jj*, l+n → *ll*, m+l → *mn*, n+l → *ll*, nn, ng+l → *ngn*, s+j → *jj*, s+m → *nm*, s+n → *nn*, s+s → *ss*, t+m → *nm*, t+n → *nn*);

b) epenthetic ㄴ n and ㄹ l: 향여울 *hang-yeo-ul* *Hangnyeoul*, 알약 *al-yag* *allyak*;

c) palatalization: 해돋이 *hae-dod-i* *haedoji*, 맞히다 *maj-hi-da* *machida*;

d) cases when ㄱ g, ㅂ b, ㄷ d, ㅈ j are adjacent to ㅎ h: 좋고 *joh-go* *joko*, 잡혀 *jab-hyeo* *japyeo*, 놓다 *noh-da* *nota*, 낱지 *nah-ji* *nachi* (but not if h follows g, b, d in the following cases: 목호 *mug-ho* *Mukho*, 집현전 *jib-hyeon-jeon* *Jiphyeonjeon*);

e) NB! tense (or glottalized) sounds in cases when morphemes are compounded, are not reflected: 압구정 *ab-gu-jeong* *Apgujeong*, 죽변 *jug-byeon* *Jukbyeon*, 낙동강 *nag-dong-gang* *Nakdonggang*, 팔당 *pal-dang* *Paldang*.

2. When there is the possibility of confusion in pronunciation, a hyphen may be used: 중앙 *Jung-ang*, 세운 *Se-un*, 반구대 *Ban-gudae*, 해운대 *Hae-undae*.

3. The first letter is capitalized in proper names: 부산 *Busan*, 세종 *Sejong*.

4. Personal names are written by family name first, followed by a space and the given name. In principle, syllables in given names are not separated by a hyphen, but the use of a hyphen is permitted: 민용하 *Min Yongha* (~ *Min Yong-ha*), 송나리 *Song Nari*. Assimilated sound changes between syllables in given names are not transcribed: 한복남 *Han Boknam*, 홍빛나 *Hong Bitna*.
5. Administrative units such as 도, 시, 군, 구, 읍, 면, 리, 동, 가 are transcribed *do, si, gun, gu, eup, myeon, ri, dong, ga*, respectively, and are preceded by a hyphen; assimilated sound changes before and after the hyphen are not reflected: 충청북도 *Chungcheongbuk-do*, 의정부시 *Uijeongbu-si*, 제주도 *Jeju-do*, 신창읍 *Sinchang-eup*. The terms *si, gun* and *eup* may be omitted: 청주시 *Cheongju*.
6. Names of geographical features, cultural properties, and man-made structures may be written without hyphens: 경복궁 *Gyeongbokgung*, 안압지 *Anapji*, 남한산성 *Namhansanseong*, 돈림문 *Dongnimmun*, 다보탑 *Dabotap*.

#### Former system of the Ministry of Education, Republic of Korea (1984-01-13)

(<http://asadal.cs.pusan.ac.kr/han-tl-ts/moe1984w.html>; based on McCune-Reischauer romanization, main romanization equivalents are identical; valid until 2000)

#### Rules of application:

1. ㅃ *b*, ㅈ *d*, ㄱ *g*, ㅉ *j* between vowels, or between *l, m, n, ng* and a vowel are transcribed respectively as *b, d, g, j*, otherwise as *p, t, k, ch*: 가구 *kagu*, 제주 *Cheju*.
2. ㅅ *s* is transcribed as *s* except in the case of 시 when it is transcribed *sh*: 신안 *Shinan*.
3. ㄹ *l* is transcribed as *r* before a vowel, and as *l* before a consonant or at the end of a word; ㄹㄹ is transcribed as *ll*: 사랑 *sarang*, 물건 *mulgŏn*, 발 *pal*, 진달래 *chindallae*.
4. Consideration is taken of sound changes not reflected in the orthography:
  - a) assimilation: 넷물 *naes-mul naenmul*, 암력 *am-lyeog amnyŏk*;
  - b) epenthetic *l* and *n*: 가랑잎 *ga-rang-ip karangnip*, 담요 *dam-yo tamnyo*, 풀잎 *pul-ip p'ullip*;
  - c) palatalization: 굳이 *gud-i kuji*, 같이 *gat-i kach'i*;
  - d) the assimilation of *b, d, g, j* with *h*: 국화 *gug-hwa kuk'wa*, 날다 *nah-da nat'a*, 밝히다 *balb-hi-da palp'ida*, 맞히다 *maj-hi-da mach'ida*;
  - e) the tense (or glottalized) sounds which occur in cases when morphemes are compounded, are transcribed by voiceless consonants: 사던 *sa-geon sakŏn*, 신다 *sin-da shinta*, 산불 *san-bul sanpul*;
5. To avoid confusion in pronunciation, a hyphen may be used: 장이 *chang-i*, 물가에 *mulka-e*, 종로에 *Chongno-e* (in the transcription of personal names and names of administrative units, assimilated sound changes before or after a hyphen are not transcribed: 김복남 *Kim Pok-nam*, 사북면 *Sabuk-myŏn*).
6. Personal names are written by family names first, followed by the given names. A hyphen will separate given names, except in non-Sino-Korean given names: 손미희자 *son mi-heui-ja Son Mi-hŭi-cha*, 정마리아 *jeong ma-ri-a Chŏng Maria*.
7. In the names of administrative units the terms are always transcribed uniformly and joined to the name by hyphen: 도 *do* (충청북도 *Ch'ungch'ŏngbuk-do*), 시 *shi* (의정부시 *Ŭijŏngbu-shi*), 동 *dong* (당산동 *Tangsan-dong*, 봉천 2동 *Pongch'ŏn 2-dong*). Terms for some administrative units may be omitted: 특별시 *tŭkpyŏl-shi*, 직할시 *chik'al-shi*, 시 *shi*, 읍 *ŭp*.

8. Names of geographical features may be written without hyphens; hyphens may be inserted in words of five syllables or more: 무량수전 *Muryangsujŏn*, 금동 미륵보살 반 가상 *Kūmdong-mirūkposal-pan-gasang*.
9. Some proper names may remain as exceptions: 서울 *seo-ul Seoul*, 이 승만 *i seung-man Syngman Rhee*, 이 화 *i hwa Ewha*, 이 순신 *i sun-sin Yi Sun-shin*, 연세 *yeon-se Yonsei*.

### Romanization of the D. P. R. of Korea, 1992

[UNGEKN 17th Session, Working Paper 57, 1994]

#### Main correspondences:

b	= p	dd	= tt	k	= kh
bb	= pp	g	= k	l	= r
(ch	= ch)	gg	= kk	p	= ph
d	= t	(j	= j)	t	= th

#### Rules of application:

1. The following sound changes are taken into account:

- A. ㅃ b, ㅅ d, ㅈ g between vowels and those between resonant sounds and vowels are transcribed as *b, d, g*.
- B. At the end of a syllable or before a consonant, except resonants, the following transcriptions are made:
- b, p → *p*  
d, t, j, ch, s → *t*  
g, k → *k*
- C. ㄹ l is transcribed as *l* before a consonant or at the end of a word.
- D. Only one of the double consonants is written at the end of a word or before a consonant: 닭섬 *dalg-seom Taksŏm*, 물곶 *mul-gols Mulkol*.
- E. In the case of assimilation the following transcriptions are resulting:
- b, p → *m*  
d, t, j, ch, s, ss → *n*  
g, k, gg → *ng*
- E. g.: 백마산 *baeg-ma-san Paengmasan*, 암록강 *am-log-gang Amrokgang*, 꽃마을 *ggoch-ma-eul Kkonmaül*.
- F. ㄴ n is transcribed as *ll* in combinations with l and n if it is considered to be long-standing: 전리마 *jeon-li-ma Chŏllima*, 전라도 *jeon-la-do Jŏlla-do*, 한나산 *han-na-san Hallasan*.
- G. If the first element of the compound word ends with a vowel and the second one begins with a consonant (except a resonant), a strong sound is used to transcribe the first consonant of the second element, also, *n* is added, if the second element begins with a resonant: 기대산 *gi-dae-san Kittaesan*, 새별읍 *sae-byeol-eub Saeppeyŏl-ŭp*, 뒤편 *dwi-mun Twinmun*.
2. A hyphen may be inserted if there is a need for segmentation or a possibility of confusion in pronunciation: 앞연덕 *ap-eon-deog Ap-ŏndŏk*, 판교 *pan-gyo Phan-gyo*.
3. In the transcription of generic terms and proper nouns they begin with a voiced consonant; a hyphen is used before a name of an administrative unit.

4. In personal names family names are written first, followed by given names, whereby each letter of the name of Chinese character origin is written separately: 김꽃분이 gim-ggoch-bun-i *Kim Kkotpuni*, 박동구 bag-dong-gu *Pak Tong Gu*, 안복철 an-bog-cheol *An Pok Chöl*.
5. Exceptions (e. g.): 평양 pyeong-yang *Pyongyang*.
6. The diacritical mark on *o* and *u* is often a caron: ö, ü.

**Draft transliteration, ISO/TR 11941:1996(E)**

(Where there are pairs of romanizations, the first corresponds to Method I and the second to Method II)

ㄱ k/g	ㅈ ch/c	ㅊ eo	ㅑ yo
ㅋ kh/k	ㅉ cc/jj	ㅓ o	ㅠ yu
ㆁ kk/gg	ㅅ s	ㅕ u	ㅞ yae
ㄷ t/d	ㅆ ss	ㅡ eu	ㅟ ye
ㅌ th/t	ㅎ h	ㅣ i	ㅘ wa
ㄸ tt/dd	ㅇ ',-1,ng <sup>2</sup>	ㅚ ae	ㅙ weo
ㅍ p/b	ㄴ n	ㅜ e	ㅛ wi
ㅍ ph/p	ㄹ l,r <sup>3</sup>	ㅠ oe	ㅜ wae
ㅍㅍ pp/bb	ㅁ m	ㅟ ya	ㅟ we
ㅅ c/j	ㅂ a	ㅟ yeo	ㅟ yi

<sup>1</sup> Word-initially.

<sup>2</sup> Syllable-finally.

<sup>3</sup> Syllable-initially.

Rules of application:

To avoid ambiguity an apostrophe is used to denote the beginning of the next syllable in a polysyllabic word.

1. By Method I the apostrophe is needed in the following cases:

- A. if the consonant ㅇ ' is at the initial position of a non-initial syllable of a polysyllabic word: 꽃이 *kkoch'i*, 강에 *kang'e*, 앞아라 *anc'ara*;
- B. if the five double consonants appear at the initial positions of the non-initial syllables of polysyllabic words: 아까 *a'kka*, 흰떡 *hyin'tteok*;
- C. if the four aspirated consonants appear at the initial position of the non-initial syllables of polysyllabic words: 유쾌하다 *yu'khwaehata*;

2. By Method II the apostrophe is needed in the following cases:

- A. if the consonant ㅇ ' is at the initial position of a non-initial syllable of a polysyllabic word: 꽃이 *ggoc'i*, 강에 *gang'e*, 앞아라 *anj'ara*;
- B. if the five double consonants appear at the initial positions of the non-initial syllables of polysyllabic words: 아까 *a'gga*, 흰떡 *hyin'ddeog*.