

## SPEAK NORTH KOREAN

The transcription below allows you to pronounce Korean sounds exactly like they are. It required to represent some new transcription letters to match certain Korean sounds which don't exist in English. Names of places and Korean specialties used in the book are written in more convenient way for foreigners to read, but it's not enough for learning basic Korean language .

Fortunately, there are no tones in modern Korean, like in Chinese, but still pronunciation can seem to be very difficult. The most uneasy it is to deal with two kinds of vowel sound [o]. One is almost the same as English [o] in the word "boy". Another one is marked as [ǒ] and sounds like the last vowel in English word "sensor". But the voice seems like it comes from the throat, and the vowel sounds as something between [a] and [o].

Another difficult sound is [ũ], which has no analogues in English. To pronounce it, prepare your lips to say [i] in "ill" but say [u] like in "put" instead. It is close to Russian sound "ы" or Japanese ゃ and sometimes transcribed as [eu]. But, as it is just one sound, quite similar to [u], it would be more correct to mark it as [ũ].

The rest of the simple vowel sounds in Korean language are transcribed as follows:

- [a] as in "father"
- [i] as in "big"
- [æ] as in "bad"
- [e] as in "bet"
- [u] as in "zoo"

There are some diphthongs - two sounds pronounced together in one, for example: [ya] as in "yard", which consists of the short [i] and [a]. The same way used to construct the other diphthongs: [i+ǒ]=[yǒ], [i+o]=[yo], [i+u]=[yu], [i+e]=[ye]. Some pairs consist of [w], which actually is the shortened [u] or [o], joined with some vowels: [wa], [wi], [wǒ], [we] [wae].

Korean consonants are quite simple:

- [k] - as in "key"
- [kh] - pronounced with aspiration or puff of breath
- [kk] - just make it stronger than normal [k]
- [g] - as in "get"
- [n] - as in "not"
- [ng] - as in "ring"
- [t] - as English t without following puff of breath
- [t'] - aspirative sound like [t] with following [h]

- [tt] - just sounds stronger than normal [t]
- [d] - as in "day"
- [r] - rolled r
- [l] - slightly palatalized l
- [m] - as in "mother"
- [s] - as in "sun"
- [ss] - just stronger than normal [s]
- [p] - as English p without following puff of breath
- [p'] - aspirative sound like [p] with following [h]
- [pp] - just stronger than normal [p]
- [ch] - as in "children"
- [ch'] - pronounce as ch with following puff of breath like while sneezing
- [j] - as in "jump"
- [ts] - as in "tsetse"

Stress in Korean words, as a rule, fall on the last syllable in each word. If there is only one syllable, it stressed, as well as in the constructions divided by "-" in the transcription. For example, in the word [ka-sipsio] syllable [ka] is stressed and in [-sipsio] a light stress falls on the last sound [o]. Question in Korean requires to rise voice a little at the end of it.

### Greetings and basic words

안녕하십니까?	Annyöng hasimnikka?	Hello! How are you, well?
예, 안녕하십니까?	Ye, annyöng hasimnikka?	Yes. How are you, all right?
안녕히 계십시오.	Annyöngghi ke-sipsio.	Good bye!(while going)
안녕히 가십시오.	Annyöngghi ka-sipsio.	Good bye! (while staying)
또 만나뵈겠습니다.	To manna pwepkēs-sümnida.	See you later!
감사합니다.	Kamsa hamnida.	Thank you!
고맙습니다.	Komap-sümnida.	Thank you!
미안합니다.	Myan hamnida.	I'm sorry.
일없습니다.	Iröp-sümnida.	No worries.
잠 기다리십시오.	Chöm kidari-sipsio.	Wait a second.
축하합니다.	Ch'ukha hamnida.	Congratulations!
예.	Ye.	Yes.
예, 그렇습니다.	Ye, kürös-sümnida.	Yes, that's right.
아닙니다.	Animnida.	No.
도와 주시오.	Towa jusio.	Help, please.
...주시오.	... chusio.	Give me, please, ....
바드시오.	Padüsio.	Take, please.
갑시다.	Kapsida.	Let's go.

가지 마시오.	Kaji masio.	Don't go.
오시오.	Osio.	Come.
그만 둬시다.	Kūman tupsida.	Stop it. That's enough.
왜?	We?	Why?

Acquaintance

어느 나라에서 왔습니까?	Önū nara-esö wa-ssūmnikka?	What country are you from?
미국 사람입니까?	Miguk saram-imnikka?	Are you American?
아닙니다. 오스트랄 리아 사람입니다.	Animnida, Australia saram-imnida.	No, I'm Australian.
영국 사람입니다.	Yöngguk saram-imnida.	I'm British.
영어를 할 줄 압니까?	Yöngö-rül halchul amnikka?	Do you speak English?
조선말을 할 줄 압니까?	Chosönmar-ül halchul amnikka?	Do you speak Korean?
조선은 어떻습니까?	Chosön-ün ötös-sumnikka?	How do you like Korea?
사람들도 좋고 경치도 아름답습니다.	Saramdül-do chokho, kyöngch'i-do arūmdap -sūmnida.	People is good, and the nature is beautiful.
좋습니다.	Cho-ssūmnida.	
이름이 무엇입니까.	Irūmi muö-simnikka?	What is your name?
나는 ...입니다.	Nanün ...imnida.	I'm ...
당신은?	Tangsinun?	And yours?
만나서 반갑습니다.	Mannasö pangapsūmnida.	I'm pleased to meet you.
몇 살입니까?	Myössar-imnikka?	How old are you?
...살입니다.	...sar-imnida.	I'm ... years old.
결혼했습니까?	Kyöron haes-sūmnikka?	Are you married?
아닙니다. 결혼하지 않았습니다.	Animnida, kyuron haji- anas-sūmnida.	No. Not married.
총각입니다.	Chonggag-imnida.	Single (young man).
예, 결혼했습니다.	Yeh, kyöron haes-sūmnida.	Yes, I'm married.
아이들이 있습니까.	Aidüri issūmnikka?	Do you have children?
예, 있습니다. 아들과 딸이 있습니다.	Ye, issūmnida. Adül-gwa ttari issūmnida.	Yes, I have. A son and a daughter.
아닙니다. 아이들은 없습니다.	Animnida. Aidürün öp-sūmnida.	No, I don't have children

## Shopping

나는 상점으로 가고 싶습니다.	Nanün sangjöm-uro kago sipsümnida.	I'd like to go shopping.
무엇을 사려고 하십니까?	Muösul saryögo hasimnikka?	What are you going to buy?
락원백화점으로 가는 길을 가르쳐주세요.	Rakwon paekhwajöm- uro kanün kirül karüch'ö- jusio.	Please, explain me how to get to the Rakwon Department Store.
외화를 어디에서 교환할수있습니까?	Wehwa-rül ödi-esö kyohwan halsu-issümnikka?	Where's the currency exchange desk?
이것은 얼마입니까? ...원입니다.	Igösün ölma imnikka? ... won-imnida.	How much is it? ... won.
그것은 무엇입니까? 그것을 샅시다.	Kügösun muö-simnika? Kügösul sapsida.	What's that? I'll buy that.
기념품은 어디에서 팝니까?	Kinyömp'um-ün ödi-esö p'amnikka?	Where do they sell souvenirs?
술을 사려고합니다. 이것을 바꿔주세요. 잔돈 없습니다.	Sur-ül saryögo hamnida. Igösül pakka-jusio. Chanton öp-sümnida.	I want to buy some alcohol. Exchange this item, please. I don't have any change (money).
상점	sangjöm	shop
백화점	paekhwajöm	department store
우편국	up'yöngük	post office
우표	up'yo	stamp(s)
돈	ton	money
돈표	tonp'yo	check
전지약	chönjiyak	electric battery
필름	p'illim	film
비단	pidan	silk
무관세품	mugwan sep'um	duty free goods

## Restaurant

식당으로 갑시다.	Siktang-üro kapsida.	Let's go to a restaurant.
식사합시다.	Siksa hapsida.	Let's eat (somewhere).
몇사람입니까?	Myössaram imnikka?	How many are you?
한/두/세 사람입니다.	Han/tu/se saram-imnida.	One/two/three person(s).
접대원동무!	Chöptaewon-tongmu!	Waiter (waitress)!
처녀동무!	Ch'önyö-tongmu!	Miss!
료리판 주십시오.	Ryorip'an jusio.	Give me the menu, please!

조선요리를 맛보 겠습니다.	Chosŏn ryori-rŭl mat- poges-sŭmnida.	I(we) will try Korean cuisine.
무엇을 드시겠습니까? ... 주십시오.	Muŏsŭl tŭsiges-sŭmnikka? ... jusipsio.	What would you like? Please, bring ....
이곳을 안시켰습니다.	Igŏsŭl an-sik'ŏs-sŭmnida.	I haven't order it.
매운 요리를 먹지 못합니다.	Maeun ryori-rul mŏgchi mot-hamnida.	I don't eat spicy hot dishes.
이것은 매운것입니까? 맵지않게 해주시기 부탁합니다.	Igŏsŭn maeun-gŏsimnikka? Maepchi-ankhe hae-jusigi put'ak hamnida.	Is this spicy hot? Please, don't make it spicy hot.
참 맛이 있습니다.	Ch'am masi issŭmnida!	It's delicious!
맥주를 한/두/세 병 주시오.	Maekchu-rul han/tu/se byŏng jusio.	Please, bring one/two/ three bottles of beer.
나는 술을 먹지 않습니다.	Na-nŭn sur-ŭl mŏkchi an-sŭmnida.	I don't drink alcoholic drinks.
고기류를 싫습니다.	Kogiryu-rŭl sil-sŭmnida.	I don't like meats.

국수	kuksu	noodles
더운 국수	tŏun kuksu	hot noodles
랭면	naengmyŏn	cold noodles
밥	pap	rice
볶음밥	pokkŭm pap	fried rice
계란지집	keran chijim	fried egg
빵	ppang	bread
바다	pata	butter
잼	tsyam	jam
만두	mandu	dumplings
군만두	kun-mandu	fried dumplings
잡채	chapch'e	starch-noodles with meats and vegetables
되지고기	tweji-kogi	pork
소고기	so-kogi	beef
양고기	yang-kogi	lamb
꿩고기	kkwŏng-kogi	pheasant meat
닭고기	tak-kogi	chicken
물고기	mul-kogi	fish
수산물 요리	susanmŭl-ryori	seafood
문어	munŏ	octopus
낙지	nakchi	squid

불고기	pulgogi	barbeque
랭채	naengch'e	cold salad
남새	namsae	vegetables
오이	oi	cucumber
도마도	tomato	tomato
콩나물	khong-namul	bean sprouts salad
김치	kimch'i	kimchi (spicy pickles)
간장	kanjang	soy sauce
고피	kop'i	cofe
차	ch'a	tea
맥주	maekchu	beer
수입 술	suip sul	imported wine
포도주	p'odoju	(grape) wine
위스끼	wiski	wiskey
브랜디	bŭraendi	brandy

### **Numbers and count**

Two kinds of numerals coexist in Korean language - original Korean numerals and Chinese numerals pronounced with Korean accent. The original Korean numerals are only for counting under 100 and used for expressing the number of age, people, and hours. The Chinese numerals are for counting money and minutes, for example.

<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Korean numerals</i>	<i>Chinese numerals</i>
1	han	ir
2	tu	i
3	se	sam
4	ne	sah
5	tasot	oh
6	yosot	ryuk
7	ilgop	ch'il
8	yodol	p'al
9	ahop	ku
10	yol	sib
11	yol-han	sib-ir
12	yol-tu	sib-i
20	sŭmul	i-sib
21	sŭmul han	i-sib-ir
30	sŏrŭn	sam-sib

40	mahŭn	sa-sib
50	suin	oh-sib
60	yesun	ryuk-sib
70	irhŭn	ch'il-sib
80	yodŭn	p'al-sib
90	ahŭn	ku-sib
100	paek	paek
1000	-	ch'ŏn
10,000	-	man
100,000	-	sip-man
1,000,000	-	paek-man

### Hotel and getting around

청소 해주세요.	Chŏngso hae-jusio.	Please, clean up.
아침/점심/조녁 식사를 주문합니다.	Ach'im/chŏmsim/chonyŏk siksa-rŭl jumun-hapsida.	Let's make booking for breakfast/lunch/dinner.
열쇠를 주세요.	Yŏlswe-rŭl chusio.	Give me my keys, please.
몇호 입니까?	Myŏt-ho imnikka?	What's your number?
1011호입니다.	Chŏn-sib-ir-ho imnida.	Room 1011.
방안에 전화를 어떻게 씁니까?	Pang-ane chŏnhwa-rŭl ŏttŏkhe ssŭmnikka?	How to use telephone in the room?
택시를 필요합니다.	T'aeksi-rul p'iryŏ hamnida.	I need a taxi.
어디 갑니까?	Ŏdi kamnikka?	Where are you going?
고려 호텔로 갑니다.	Koryŏ hot'el-lo kamnida.	I'm going to Koryo Hotel.
모란봉공원으로.	Moranbong kongwŏn-ŭro.	To Moranbong park.
혼자서 산보하겠 습니다.	Hongjasŏ sanpo- hages-sŭmnida.	I'll have a walk alone by myself.
... 시에 돌아옵니다.	... si-e tora-omnida.	I'll be back at ...o'clock.
빠스를 탑니다.	Ppŏsu-rul t'apsida.	Let's take a bus.
몇시입니까?	Myŏssi-imnikka?	What time is it?
두시삼십분입니다.	Tu si sam-sip pun-imnida.	It's 2.30.
두시반입니다.	Tu si ban-imnida.	It's half past two.
오전 열시입니다.	Ojŏn yŏl-si-imnida.	It's 10 am.
오후 열시입니다.	Ohu yŏl-si-imnida.	It's 10 pm.
호텔	hot'el	hotel
차집	ch'ajip	cofe shop
려권	ryŏkwŏn	passport
위생실	wisaengsil	toilet.

방	pang	room
안내원	annaewŏn.	a guide
승용차	sŭngyongch'a	a passanger car
운전수	unjŏnsu	a driver
열차	ryŏlch'a	a train
거리	kŏri	a street
관장	kwanjang	a square
네거리	negŏri	a cross-roads
화학빨래	hwahak ppalle	dry-cleaning
무궤도전차	mugwedo-chŏnch'a	a trolley-bus
버스	ppŏsŭ	a bus
전차	chŏnch'a	a tram

For those who wants to learn how to write and read in Korean we attach the following table of the Korean alphabet, which is one of the simpliest in the world. The letters compose syllabels, which look like characters but represent phonetic writing system and easy to learn. That's why after abolition of usage of Chinese characters in DPRK in '60s all 100% of its population soon became completely litterate. If you learn the alphabet, you will realise how easy it is.

But There are several things to remember. A voiceless consonant becomes voiced in the middle of a word, if it stands between two vowels or voiced sounds like [n] or [m]. Thus the harmony of speach are to be achieved. Sound [r] becomes [l], if it is the last one in a word or stands in the middle together with another [r]. Letter ◊ at the beginning of a syllable indicates that the syllable starts with a vowel and the letter itself has no reading. But at the end of a syllable it is used for the sound [ng].

Also it is important to remember that harmonization demands to read [p] and the following [n] as [mn]. Indeed, it's much easier to pronounce [-mnida] than [-pnida], isn't it?

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ
k/g	kk	n	t/d	tt	r/l
ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅝ	ㅞ
m	p/b	pp	s	ss	ch/j
ㅝ	ㅟ	ㅢ	ㅣ	ㅤ	ㅥ
ts	h	kh	t'	p'	ch'
ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ
a	ŏ	o	u	i	ŭ

ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅠ	ㅞ	ㅟ
ya	yŏ	yo	yu	ae	e
ㅠ	ㅢ	ㅤ	ㅥ	ㅦ	ㅧ
ye	iye	wa	we	ŭi	wi
ㅨ	ㅩ	ㅪ		ㅇ	
wŏ	wae	ue		ng	
				(or no sound)	

You can notice that some vowel letters are of two kinds - vertical by its main line like ㅑ, and horizontal like ㅕ. The composition of the syllable with the vertical vowel will be from the left side of it and if the syllable is closed by a consonant it will be written under the vowel. The syllables with the horizontal vowel are written from the top downwards with letters one after another.

For example, the word Chosŏn, what means Korea, should be written this way: **조선**.