

Speaking hangul essay



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Chapter 1 Getting Down the Basics In This Chapter Sounding off with Korean phonetics Pronouncing the basic vowels and consonants Working on sounding fluent Practicing some Korean phrases Using Korean gestures Surprising a woneomin (won-uh-min; native speaker) of Korea by perfectly pronouncing a mungu (moon-goo; phrase) or a munjang (moon-jang; sentence) of their language can be jaemi (jae-mee; fun). And the purpose of this chapter is to help you do exactly that. Here you will learn how to pronounce Korean and get a hang of a few common haengdong (hang-dong; gestures). It shouldn't take long for you to begin fooling your Korean chingudeul (chingoo-deul; friends) into thinking that you've secretly been spending time mastering the language. Like unjeon (oon-jun; driving), riding ajajeongeong (jajuhn-guh; bike) or tightrope geotgi (gut-gee; walking), the only way to get better at pronouncing Korean is by practicing. And the only way to fix your mistakes is by making them. So in this chapter, I introduce words like chimdae (chim-dae; bed), angyeong (an-gyoung; eye glasses), chitsol (chisol; toothbrush), and keopi (kuh-pee; coffee) so you can practice saying words throughout your daily routine, and also teach you some basic sentences and phrases so you can start communicating in Korean. The more Korean you incorporate into your daily routine and daehwa (dae-hwa; conversations) you have, the better your understanding of Korean will become. Try to get a Korean friend to work with you. Practicing accurate pronunciation will not only help you deutgi (deut-gee; listen) and malhagi (mal-ha-gee; speak), but it will also win you brownie points, as Koreans will think highly of you for taking the time to master the finer points of their native language. In the following sections, I present the sounds in their Romanized alphabetical order. Although it might take a while to get used to

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Korean sounds, there are no new concepts to learn such as tone or pitch. 10

Part I: Getting Started Getting the Basic Sounds Korean, like English, is a phonetic eoneo (un-uh; language). Each character of the Korean sseugi (sseu-gee; writing) system represents a sound, be it a vowel or a consonant. Although Korean has its own writing system, Hangeul, learning Korean using Korean script will require that you learn various sound change rules. So instead throughout this book, I will Romanize (write the sounds of Korean out in English) Korean phonetics, or sounds, using the

English alphabet. The Romanization method that I have chosen is the revised Romanization of Korean approved by the Korean government in year 2000. Using Romanization, I will write out how the characters sound so you can jump into conversation immediately without learning these rules. In addition, I have also included the pronunciation of the Korean words in brackets with English translation. If you have the time, I highly recommend that you learn the Korean script, Hangeul. Hangeul was developed in the mid 1400s by the King Sejong's mandate to create a writing system that could easily be learned by commoners.

Today, almost all of Korea relies on Hangeul for written communication, and Romanization is used exclusively for foreigners. Learning Hangeul will give you access to a wealth of online resources, so if you want to learn Korean more effectively, make sure you eventually take the time to learn Korean script. Pronounce Korean words as though you are British, Scottish, or Australian rather than an American. For example, pronounce an-gyeong as ahn-gyoung not an-gyoung. Pronounce the an as ahn rather than an. The Basic Vowel Sounds Every Korean consonant must be accompanied by a

vowel. Sometimes a group of vowels can form a word, as in the case of uyu (oo-yoo) which means milk, and yeoyu (yuh-yoo) which means leisure/ease. You should have little difficulty pronouncing most of the vowels, but some will sound almost indistinguishable from one another, and some will simply be tricky to pronounce. First, try going over the sounds listed in Table 1-1. Don't worry if you have trouble figuring out how to pronounce some of the sounds. I go over how to distinguish and pronounce some of the trickier ones later in this chapter. Chapter 1: Getting Down the Basics 11 Phonetically, ae and e are two different sounds.

Hence, they should be distinguished as such, although their difference may be blurred by most native speakers in casual speech. Table 1-1 Vowel Sounds

Vowel	English Word with the Sound	Korean Word with the Sound
a	ah-ha	jadongcha (ja-dong-cha; car)
ae	hand	chaek (chaek; book)
e	get	gagye (ga-ge; store)
eo	uh	geoul (guh-ool; mirror)
eu	gull	oneul (o-neul; today)
i	eat	teeth (ee; teeth)
o	so	chitsol (chi-ssol; toothbrush)
oe	wet	hoesa (hwae-sa; company, corporation)
u	boo	mul (mool; water)
ui	boy	uija (ui-ja; chair)
wa	water	hwajangsil (hwa-jang-shil; bathroom)
wae	wet	wae (whae; why)
we	wet	wigyeyang (we-gae-yang; stomach ulcer)
i	we	wiheom (wee-hum; danger)
wo	won	mwo (mwo; what)
ya	yam	chiyak (chi-yak; toothpaste)
yae	yesterday	yae (yae; that person; informal)
ye	yeti	jipye (jee-pae; dollar bills)
yeo	yuck	angyeong (an-gyoung; eye glasses)
yo	yo	yokjo (yog-jo; bathtub)
yu	you	hyusik (hyoo-sheeg; rest)

In Korean, pronounce a as ah (like spa) as in British English instead of ae (like day) in U. S. English. 12 Part I: Getting Started Distinguishing among vowel sounds Can Koreans tell the difference among the following three

groups of sounds? ae (sounds like the a in hand), e (sounds like the e in get), and oe (sounds like the o in hope) The answer is ye (yae; yes) and aniyo (a-ni-yo; no). If native Korean speakers were to anjas (an-ja; sit down) and split hairs over the bareum (ba-reum; pronunciation) of the three groups of sounds, they most likely could. But for the most part, especially in maeil (maeil; daily) conversation, they don't. So do not worry if you cannot distinguish between the sounds ae, e, and oe, because most Koreans do not worry either. The only way to distinguish between them is when you see them written down. Therefore, just by hearing them, most Koreans cannot tell the difference between above sounds. Try these examples: wae (sound like the we in wet) waegurae (wae-geu-rae; what is it) oe (also sound like we in wet) oetori (wae-to-ree; alone) yae (sound like eye in yeah) yaeya (yae-ya; hey, kid) ye (sound like theye in yesterday) ye (yae; yes)

As you can see with the pronunciations written in brackets, above words are very difficult to distinguish just by hearing the words itself. It is more important to listen to the words used in sentences. Pronouncing eu and ui The eu sound does not exist in English. Fortunately, it isn't that eoryoepda (uh-ryup-da; hard) to baeuda (bae-oo-da; learn). Imagine that a friend or a sibling has hit you hard in the bae (bae; stomach) and you've just had the wind knocked out of you. Most likely you'll be clenching your i (ee; teeth) and groaning. Keep imagining the pain that you are in, but now focus on your roaring. Your teeth should be clenched tightly and your mom (mohm; body) should be tense. Now, try groaning a few times, and focus on the sound that you make. Keep your ip (eep; mouth) in the same position. Now try making a clear sound while keeping your mouth in that same shape. The ui sound is a

combination of the eu sound and the i sound. You start off with an eu sound, then quickly shift into an i sound. It might have been easier to remember if ui were written as eui, but I'd like you to learn standard Romanization so just keep this in mind. By this point, you should have the eu and ui sounds down.

I hope that wasn't too painful. Chapter 1: Getting Down the Basics 13 The Basic Consonant Sounds Try saying the words ski, gas, and kid. You should notice that you let more air out when you pronounce gas than when you do ski, and again that you let even more air out when you say kid than you do when you say gas. Korean pronunciation relies heavily on how much air you let out when you pronounce consonants. As you listen to the CD, try to focus on how much air is being let out for each letter. Table 1-2 lists some basic consonant sounds. Please note that when a same consonant has two different sounds, I have bolded the consonant in question to differentiate between examples being used. Note: The revised form of Romanization no longer uses apostrophes. Table 1-2 Consonant Sounds

Consonant	English Word with the Sound	Korean Word with the Sound
ch	chat	chimdae (chimdae; bed)
h	hat	haneul (ha-neul; sky)
j	chose	jigeum (jee-geum; now)
jj	match	jeo jjok (juh-jjok; that way)
cap	kal (kal; knife)	k, g
k, g	kooky	gukgi (gook-gee; national flag)
k, g	good	gilga (geel-ga; roadside)
kk	ski	kkeut (kkeut; end)
m	mom	meori (muh-ree; head)
n	no	namu (na-moo; tree)
ng	sung	sang (sang; table)
p	pass	pal (pal; arm)
b, p	paper	japida (ja-pee-da; get caught)
, p	baby	babo (ba-bo; dummy)
pp	happy	ppang (ppang; bread)
r, l	roll	ramyum (ra-myun; instant noodle)

(continued) 14 Part I: Getting Started Table 1-2 (continued) Consonant English Word with the Sound Korean Word with the Sound

s	so	sul (sool; alcohol)
ss	boss	ssal (ssal; rice)
t	tada	tada (ta-da; to

burn or to ride [depends on the context]) , d tone datda (dat-da; to close) t, d ed badak (ba-dag; floor) tt star ttokttok (ttog-ttog; knock knock) k, g and d, t are read as g and d before a vowel, as in gilga (geel-ga; street), gagu (ga-goo; furniture), doldam (dol-dam; stone wall) and don (don; money), and as k and t when followed by another consonant or form the final sound of a word, as in dokdo (dok-do; dokdo island), yokjo (yog-jo; bathtub), chaek (chaeg; books), geotda (guht-da; to walk) and datda (dat-da; to close).

The r, l sound differs in that it is pronounced as r before a vowel, as in baram (ba-ram; wind), ramyun (ra-myun; instant noodles) and as l everywhere else as in balral (bal-ral; energetic). Pronouncing jj, kk, pp, and tt Most people have little trouble pronouncing j and ch, but the jj sound is often a source of frustration. To understand first how the jj sound is pronounced (and later, the kk, pp, and tt sounds), try saying jazz, match, and champ. You should notice that the ch sound has the most air coming out of your mouth and j the next. It should seem as though you are trying to prevent any air from coming out. For this reason, the j, ch, and also jj sounds are called affricates. They are phonetically a combination of a stop and a fricative, hence the term affricate, which involves a friction of airflow as well as the obstruction of airflow at different stages of its production. In fact, the jj, kk, pp, and tt sounds are actually stops of the ch, k, p, and t sounds. So when you pronounce jj, kk, pp, and tt, try letting less air rush out of your mouth than you would when you are saying ch, k, p, and t. Try these examples: Chapter 1: Getting Down the Basics 15 hong (chong; gun) jeojjok (juh-jjok; over there) jjok-jii (jjok-jee; memo) kkeut (kkeud; end) kkot (kkot; flower) kong (kong; bean) pal (pal; arm) ppalli (ppal-li; fast) ppang (ppang; bread) tang (tang; bang) ttang

(ttang; ground) tteok (tteog; rice cake) Telling the difference between s and ss Again, the name of the game in pronouncing the s and ss sounds is airflow. However, the defining characteristic of these two sounds is that they involve hissing sounds when they are produced, hence their name 'sibilant.' The ss sound involves more friction of airflow compared to the s sound. The s sound in the words sound and cinema is like the Korean ss sound. Try saying the words ssal (ssal; rice) and ssada (ssa-da; cheap). On the other hand, the Korean s sound is closer to an English z sound compared to the ss sound. But, s is quite different from z in English in that the former is voiceless and the latter voiced. Try saying zada first, but then say the z sound imagining that you've lost your voice. You should have an s sound that is significantly softer, and also longer, than what you are used to. If you have trouble differentiating the two, try pronouncing the s sound twice as long as you would the ss sound.

Try these examples: ssal (ss-al; rice), sal (sal; skin) ssada (ssa-da; cheap), sada (sa-da; buy) One more thing to know about the s and the ss sound is that when they are combined with an i sound, as si and ssi, they are read shi and sshi, as in these examples: ssi (sshi; Mr. , Mrs. , Miss), si (shi; poem) 16

Part I: Getting Started Pronouncing the Korean r, l sound If you gullida (gool-lee-da; roll) your hyeo (hyuh; tongue) across the cheon-jang (chun-jang; roof) of your mouth, you should notice a flat hard part near the teeth and a ridge where you should notice an incline. When you say d as in day and dog, or l as in lamb and log, your tongue stays on the hard part near your i (ee; teeth). In the case of l in English, the tip of your tongue touches the alveolar ridge, but when you pronounce an r sound as in run and rock, the tip of your

tongue stays behind the ridge on the roof of your mouth, somewhere on the incline. The key to pronouncing the Korean r, l sound is to keep only the tip of your tongue on the ridge between the r and l sounds. If you have trouble pronouncing the r, l sound, just think of it as the l sound pronounced by putting the tip of your tongue on the ridge that I was talking about earlier.

Try these examples. chitsol (chi-ssol; toothbrush) hangari (hang-a-ree; jar, pot) nara (na-ra; country) pal (pal; arm) ramyun (ra-myun; instant noodles) uri (oo-ree; us, we) Muting consonants at the end of a syllable When Korean syllables or daneo (da-nuh; words) end in a g or a d sound, Koreans will mute the g or d sound. More specifically speaking, syllable-final g and d are unreleased sounds. When pronouncing these sounds, the airflow is closed very rapidly. Koreans do this by not letting as much air rush out of their mouths as they would when they would pronounce a g or a d sound at the beginning of a syllable.

As isanghan (ee-sang-han; strange) as this may sound, even English speakers do this when they say the d in good morning. For practice, try these examples (kkeut should sound a lot like good): kkeut (kkeud; end) chitsol (chi-ssol; toothbrush) chaek (chaeg; book) yok-jo (yog-jo; bathtub) Chapter 1: Getting Down the Basics 17 hyu-sik (hyu-sheeg; rest) jeojjok (juh-jjog; over there) ttok-ttok (ttog-ttog; knock knock) badak (ba-dag; floor) Sounding Fluent Once you have a grasp of the basic Korean sori (so-ree; sounds), mimicking the intonation, and cadence of a Korean speaker should take just a jogeum jo-geum; little) more work. But this does not mean that path to excellent Korean pronunciation is one without yuhok (yoo-hok; temptations). In this section, I provide three tips for mastering Korean

pronunciation and making your Korean sound even more natural. Koreans use many English words on a daily basis. A few of them sound similar to the original English words but for others you might have to use your imagination. Most of these words should be easy to memorize and help you better understand Korean pronunciation. Don't stress English words and sentences are full of stressed and unstressed syllables.

For example, the sentence "Ko-rean pro-nun-ci-a-tion is sim-ple" is stressed at three points. The same sentence in Korean, "Hangugeo bareumeun swiwoyo (han-goo-guh ba-reum-eun shee-wo-yo; Korean pronunciation is easy)," is said with no stress at all. It is possible to emphasize a particular word in a sentence by saying each syllable in that word cheoncheonhi (chun-chun-hee; slowly) and keuge (keu-gae; loudly), but if you ever feel tempted to put stress on a syllable within a word in Korean, resist. Pronounce each syllable In this book, I provide the Romanization for the Korean word and sentences, then I write out how each word is pronounced breaking words up into syllables. Although it may be tempting read each syllable quickly, if you enunciate each syllable clearly it will be easier for you to pronounce words accurately, and easier for Koreans to understand you. Remember to speak like an Australian or British person, such as pronouncing a as ah. 18

Part I: Getting Started Puzzling English words in Korean Some English words have had their meanings your male co-worker says he prefers boxer-changed over the course of their assimilation style sa-gag-paen-tee to briefs. into the Korean language. Don't be surprised Training: Choo-ree-ning does not mean when you hear familiar English words used with training. Instead, it refers to the gym pants different meanings. that you wear when you train.

Panties: Paen-tee does not only refer to Villa: Beel-la is not a house in the countryside, women's underwear; it also refers to men's but a condominium or apartment complex. underwear. Do not get the wrong idea if Speak in a steady rhythm At times, English sentences can sound like a waltz, a minuet, a serenade or sometimes even like a jazz piece.

This is all because speakers of English can vary the rhythm of the words within a sentence. Although Koreans may raise or lower the tone of their moksori (mok-so-ree; voices), the best rhythm of Korean speech is a steady one, almost like a march. It might even help if you clap your hands at a steady beat and pronounce each syllable as you clap. Remember, if you feel the piryo (pee-ryo; need) to vary the rhythm of a Korean sentence, resist. Basic phrases Table 1-3 provides some basic phrases that you can begin practicing now so that even if you don't sound fluent, you can show that you're trying.

Table 1-3 Basic Korean Phrases Korean Pronunciation Translation

cheoncheonhi chun-chun-hee Speak slowly please. malhaejusaeyo mal-hae-joo-sae-yo [some word] eui tteutsi [some word] eui tteut- shee What does [some word] hangugeoro/yeongeoro han-goo-guh-ro/ young- mean in Korean/English? mwoyaeyo? uh-ro mwo-yae-yo? [some word] eul [some word] rul ba-reum- Please pronounce [some bareumhae jusaeyo hae-joo-sae-yo word].

Chapter 1: Getting Down the Basics 19 Korean Pronunciation Translation

gomawoyo go-ma-wuh-yo Thank you. anieyo a-ni-yae-yo No, or No thank you. gwaenchanayo gwen-chan-a-yo It's all right. joayo jo-a-yo Good, I agree.

byeolmalsseumeseyo byeol-mal-sseum-e-se-yo Don't mention it. silyaehaeyo
shil-lae-hae-yo Excuse me. mianhaeyo mee-an-hae-yo Sorry.

Talkin' the Talk Jessica and Jewu are friends. Jessica has learned some
Korean and surprises Jewu. Jessica: jaeussi annyeonghaseyo jae-woo-sshi an-
nyoung-ha-sae-yo ? Jae-Woo, are you doing well? [literal translation: Are you
in peace?] Jewu: ye. geureondaе jaessikassi hangugeo gongbuhaeyo? ye.
geu-ruhn-dae jae-ssi-ka sshi han-goo-guh gong-boo-hae-yo? Yes. By the
way, Jessica, are you studying Korean? Jessica: ye. jinanjuae
babodeuleulwihan hangukeochaеkeul saseo bwaseoyo. ye. jee-nan-joo-ae
ba-bo-deul-eul-wee-han han-goo-guh chaeg-eul sa-suh bwa-ssuh-yo. Yes.

Last week, I bought Korean For Dummies, then started reading it. Jewu:
jeongmaryo? bareumi cham jeonghwakhaneyo. jung-mal-yo? ba-reum-ee
cham-jung-hwak-ha-nae-yo . Really? Your pronunciation is very accurate. 20
Part I: Getting Started Jessica: anieyo. ajik mani bujokhaeyo. jaeussi, “
eoryeowoyo” reul hangugmallo eotteoke bareumhaeyo? a-nee-ae-yo. a-jeek
man-ee boo-jok-hae-yo. jaeu sshi, “ uh-ryuh-wo-yo”-reul han-gug-mal-lo uh-
ttuh-kae ba-reum-hae-yo? Not really. I'm still far from fluent. Jae-Woo, how
do you pronounce difficult in Korean? Jewu: Eoryeowoyo. Eoryeowoyo” ga
eoryeowoyo? (Uh-ryuh-wo-yo. “ Uh-ryuh-wo-yo”-ga Uh-ryuh-wo-yo?)

Difficult. Is “ difficult” difficult to pronounce? Jessica: ye, jaeussi gomawoyo.

ye, jae-woo sshi go-ma-wo-yo. Yes. Thank you, Jae-Woo. Words to Know

beoseu (buh-sseu) Bus haembeogeo (ham-buh-guh) Hamburger hompeiji

(hom-pae-ee-jee) Home page imeil (ee-mae-il) E-mail inteonet (in-tuh-net)

Internet kamera (ka-me-ra) Camera eopi (kuh-pee) Coffee keumpeuteo ma-

u-seu (kum-peu-tuh Computer ma-oo-sseu) mouse neetai (nek-ta-ee) Necktie

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radio (ra-dee-o) Radio syeocheu (syuh-cheu) Shirt tel-le-bi-jyeon (te-rae-bee-juhn) Television Chapter 1: Getting Down the Basics 21 Saying It with Body Language If actions speak louder than words, when in the company of Koreans, respect is the word that all your body should be saying.

Although the repertoire of Korean has expanded to handshakes and sometimes even hugs, aside from bows, it is up to the person of seniority who initiates all of these activities. Juniors are to keep their hands at their sides and listen attentively, unless their seniors initiate a hug or a handshake. Amongst peers, Koreans will use a wide range of body language. Most body language will translate without any problems, but you should be careful about a few gestures. Before you try these gestures yourself, first try to observe the native Koreans around you and maybe even ask them to explain why they are doing what they are doing. Once you get a sense of what's going on try them yourself. Doing so will pleasantly surprise the people around you. Beckoning When Koreans beckon their peers or friends they will use an arm and make a scooping motion in the direction that they want the listener to go. When Koreans signal or beckon their superiors they will use both arms and at times it will seem as though they're trying to signal a fighter jet on a runway. One thing you will most likely never see, and should avoid is beckoning anyone using a single finger. It is insulting and rude. Apologize immediately if you catch yourself doing so. Bowing There are two kinds of bows done in Korean culture: An informal bow, in which you tilt your head slightly A more formal bow, in which you bow with the upper half of your body The informal bow is used when greeting a co-worker or an acquaintance. To your boss or anyone else you meet in a formal setting (or

when addressing someone older than you, whom you respect), make sure you use the formal bow. And for your close friends, you can wave your hands, do an informal bow, or whatever else strikes your fancy like a high five, or even air guitar but expect to get some strange glances.

22 Part I: Getting Started If you've taken tae-kwon-do, you were taught to look at the other person's feet, but there's no need to do this in social settings. In fact, it might be preferable to look a foot or two in front of your feet. Nodding When listening to a senior you will see Koreans put their hands to their side, tilt their body a bit forward and listen attentively while nodding slightly and saying ye (ye; yes) at appropriate intervals. The more frozen the listener seems, the more important the speaker is to the listener.

But even amongst friends you will see Koreans sometimes nod and say geuraeyo (geu-rae-yo; Is that so?) or jeongmal (jung-mal; really?) to show that they are paying attention to the speaker.

Shaking hands As I had told you in the introduction, it is up to the senior to initiate a hand-shake. The grip of the handshake should be like any handshake anybody from America should be used to, only if you are shaking hands with a senior or in a formal setting, put your left hand below your right elbow as if you were supporting your right arm. However, there is a gender difference when it comes to shaking hands. Generally speaking, Korean women do not shake hands that much, unless at a business setting. Even at that time, Korean women do not use two hands the way it's described here. However, there are always exceptions.

Chapter 1: Getting Down the Basics 23 Fun & Games Fill in the blanks with equivalent Korean words: 1. Bicycle

2. Bed

_____ 3.

Greetings _____

_____ 4. Shaking hands

_____ 5. Body

_____ 6.

Danger _____

7. Friend _____

_____ 8. Over there

_____ 9.

Toothbrush _____

_____ 10. Bread
