

First Steps in Hangul

Four live lessons · 50 minutes each · English-supported learning

Start here

I am new to the Korean alphabet.

After this pilot

Read simple syllables and familiar words slowly; introduce yourself using a supported phrase.

Name: _____ First lesson: _____

Your lessons

- Build your first syllables
- Add your first consonants
- More letters and final consonants
- Read, greet, introduce yourself

How to use this book: read with your teacher, try the practice, then speak using your own information. You may invent personal details. The listening tasks use your live teacher's voice; no audio files are included.

This is a four-session pilot, not a complete proficiency level or a TOPIK-aligned course. Level 4 is a conversation track, not a claim of advanced proficiency.

Build your first syllables

I can...

Recognize six vowels and combine them with ㅇ.

Words and phrases

아 · 어 · 오 · 우 · 으 · 이 — vowel syllables; 아이 — child; 오이 — cucumber

Language focus

Korean letters form syllable blocks. At the start of a syllable, ㅇ is silent. Put a vertical vowel to its right (아, 어, 이), or a horizontal vowel below it (오, 우, 으). ㅏ sounds approximately like “ah”; ㅓ is a distinct open back vowel, not English “oh”; ㅜ has rounded lips; ㅠ is approximately “oo”; for —, keep your lips unrounded; ㅗ is approximately “ee”. English comparisons are only starting points: listen to your teacher.

Read and practice together

Teacher: 아, 어. Listen, then repeat.

Learner: 아, 어.

Teacher: 오이. Point to each block.

Learner: 오 / 이.

Before you turn the page

Read the example once with your teacher. Circle one part you want to practice again.

Build your first syllables

1. Combine the letters: ㅇ + ㅣ; ㅇ + ㅓ; ㅇ + ㅕ; ㅇ + ㅗ; ㅇ + ㅛ; ㅇ + ㅜ.

2. Separate these words into syllable blocks: 아이 / 오이. How many blocks does each have?

3. Listen to your teacher's six items. Write the matching syllable for each: 1 __ 2 __ 3 __ 4 __ 5 __ 6 __.

Live speaking task

Point-and-read: your teacher points to the six vowel syllables in a new order. Read each, then read 아이 and 오이. Repeat with the teacher if needed.

After class · 5-10 minutes

Write each vowel syllable five times. Record yourself reading the six syllables and the two words. Aim for clear contrasts, not speed.

My check-in

☐ I can do this independently. ☐ I can do this with help. ☐ I need another try.

One phrase or word to keep:

Add your first consonants

I can...

Build and read simple blocks with ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ, ㅁ, ㅂ, ㅅ.

Words and phrases

나 — I (informal); 나무 — tree; 바다 — sea; 다리 — leg / bridge; 가수 — singer; 모자 — hat

Language focus

Combine one starting consonant with one vowel: ㄴ + ㅏ → 나; ㅁ + ㅜ → 무. ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ are not exact copies of English g, d, b; their sound varies with position. ㄹ is also different from English r and l. Copy the teacher's sound. The word 나 is for recognition here; use 저 in polite self-introductions later.

Read and practice together

Teacher: 나 / 무 → 나무.

Learner: 나무.

Teacher: 바 / 다 → 바다.

Learner: 바다.

Before you turn the page

Read the example once with your teacher. Circle one part you want to practice again.

Add your first consonants

1. Build: ㄱ + ㅏ; ㄴ + ㅏ; ㄷ + ㅏ; ㄹ + ㅣ; ㅁ + ㅏ; ㅂ + ㅏ; ㅅ + ㅏ.

2. Match: 나무 / 바다 / 가수 / 모자 → singer / hat / tree / sea.

3. Read these new combinations aloud, one block at a time: 구, 너, 두, 머, 비, 소.

Live speaking task

Word detective: choose three words from the vocabulary. Read each and say how many syllable blocks it contains. Your partner points to the word you read.

After class · 5-10 minutes

Copy the six vocabulary words twice. Cover the English meanings and read the Korean aloud.

My check-in

☐ I can do this independently. ☐ I can do this with help. ☐ I need another try.

One phrase or word to keep:

More letters and final consonants

I can...

Recognize the remaining basic consonants and read a few supported words with 받침.

Words and phrases

자 — ruler; 차 — tea / car; 코 — nose; 하마 — hippo; 파 — green onion; 타조 — ostrich; 문 — door; 물 — water; 방 — room

Language focus

Meet ㅈ, ㅊ, ㅋ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅎ. Compare 자/차, 가/카, 다/타, 바/파 with your teacher; the second consonant in each pair has a stronger puff of air. A final consonant sits at the bottom of a block: ㅁ + ㅊ + ㄴ → 문. Final ㄴ, ㅁ, ㄹ, ㅇ represent n, m, l-like, and ng sounds. Unlike starting ㅇ, final ㅇ is pronounced. Do not add an extra vowel after a final consonant.

Read and practice together

Teacher: 무 ... 문. Listen for the ending.

Learner: 문.

Teacher: 무 ... 물.

Learner: 물.

Before you turn the page

Read the example once with your teacher. Circle one part you want to practice again.

More letters and final consonants

1. Build: ㅈ + ㅏ; ㅊ + ㅏ; ㅋ + ㅓ; ㅌ + ㅏ; ㅍ + ㅏ; ㅎ + ㅏ.

2. Underline the final consonant in each: 문, 물, 방. Which word ends in ㅇ?

3. Build and read: ㅁ + ㅏ + ㄴ; ㅁ + ㅏ + ㄹ; ㅂ + ㅏ + ㅇ.

Live speaking task

Ask your teacher to point to 문, 물, and 방 in random order. Read them without adding a vowel at the end. Then choose two of the new open-syllable words to read.

After class · 5-10 minutes

Make three word cards: 문, 물, 방. Put a drawing or English meaning on the back. Review for five minutes.

My check-in

☐ I can do this independently. ☐ I can do this with help. ☐ I need another try.

One phrase or word to keep:

Read, greet, introduce yourself

I can...

Use two greeting phrases and a supported self-introduction; identify what to study next.

Words and phrases

안녕하세요 — hello; 감사합니다 — thank you; 저 — I (polite); 이름 — name; 저는 __예요/이에요 — I am __

Language focus

These greetings are whole phrases to learn by listening; you are not expected to decode every letter yet. For a name ending in a vowel, use 예요: 저는 유나예요. After a final consonant, use 이에요: 저는 민준이에요. New-letter preview: ㅟ, ㅢ, ㅤ, ㅥ add a y-like glide to ㅏ, ㅓ, ㅗ, ㅛ. In 예요, 예 contains ㅟ; learn this greeting ending with your teacher before studying all compound vowels.

Read and practice together

A: 안녕하세요.

B: 안녕하세요. 저는 유나예요.

A: 저는 민준이에요.

B: 반가워요. (Nice to meet you — optional listening phrase.)

Before you turn the page

Read the example once with your teacher. Circle one part you want to practice again.

Read, greet, introduce yourself

1. Choose: 저는 유나(예요 / 이에요). 저는 민준(예요 / 이에요).

2. Read previously learned words: 아이, 오이, 나무, 바다, 모자, 문, 물, 방.

3. Write your name in Korean with your teacher. Does its Korean spelling end in a vowel or a final consonant? Complete: 저는 ____.

Live speaking task

Meet a partner: greet them, introduce yourself, and say thank you at the end. Use your written phrase card, then try once without it.

After class · 5-10 minutes

Record a short greeting and introduction. Next study: ㅘ / ㅙ and other compound vowels, double consonants, the remaining final consonants, and common linking patterns.

My check-in

☐ I can do this independently. ☐ I can do this with help. ☐ I need another try.

One phrase or word to keep:
