

# Guide to Korean Romanization System and Word Division

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The library follows the McCune-Reishauer system to romanize Korean. This romanization system is based on the Korean standard pronunciation, when romanization rules conflict with the pronunciation of word. The following chart shows the basic rules of the romanization.

**Note:** Uses Diacritical Marks to express certain vowels and consonants for sounds not really available in Latin alphabet. However, these marks are not needed when searching is done in Melvyl.

한글자음	McCune-Reishauer Romanization			한글모음	McCune-Reishauer Romanization
	Initial	Medial	Final		
ㄱ	K	K,G,NG	K	ㅏ	a
ㄴ	N, O	N, L	N	ㅑ	ya, a
ㄷ	T, CH	T, D, CH, J	T	ㅓ	ö
ㄹ	N, O	R, L, N	L	ㅕ	yö, ö
ㅁ	M	M	M	ㅗ	o
ㅂ	P	P, B, M	P	ㅛ	yo, o
ㅅ	S, SH	S, SH, D, T N, P, K	T	ㅜ	u
ㅇ	O	O, NG	NG	ㅠ	yu, u
ㅈ	CH	CH, J	T	ㅡ	ü, u
ㅊ	CH'	CH'	T	ㅣ	i
ㅋ	K'	K'	K	ㅘ	wa
ㅌ	T', CH'	T', CH'	T	ㅙ	wö
ㅍ	P'	P'	P	ㅚ	ae
ㅎ	H	H	O	ㅜ	e
ㄱㄱ	KK	KK	K	ㅝ	oe
ㄷㄷ	TT	TT	T	ㅞ	wi, i
ㅍㅍ	PP'	PP'	P	ㅟ	üi, i
ㅅㅅ	SS	SS	T	ㅠ	wae
ㅅㅈ	TCH	TCH	T	ㅡ	wye, we
				ㅢ	yae
				ㅣ	ye, e

## Basic Principles and Examples

1. Each word, including particles, is separated from another word eg. han'gül nal (한글 날)
2. A compound word is considered a combination of binary words eg. norae üi nalgae wi e (노래 의 날개 위에)
3. A compound word is divided into binary components according to euphony eg. han'guk munhak chönjip (한국 문학 진집)

## Specific Rules and Examples

1. Write particles as a word separate from the word stem, except as noted in a and b below eg. noin kwa pada (노인 과 바다)
  - a) Add a particle as a suffix to a verb stem, adverb, or a simple inflection of the verb stem or adverb. eg. kanan üi iginun pöp (가난 을 이기는 법)
  - b) Write two coordinated particles together as a word, unless one of them is a binary. eg. hangmun urosö üi sahak (학문 으로서 의 사학)
2. Write a simple inflected verb, adjective, or adverb as a separate word or as s suffix jointed to a word, according to the sense of the element(s) involved. eg. Choguk üi chik'in yongsa (조국 을 지키는 용사)  
Nugu rül wihayö chong ün ullina (누구 를 위하여 중 은 울리나)
  - a) Separate an auxiliary verb, adjective, or adverb, and its inflection, from the word stem.

eg. t'aorūnūn pyōl (타 오르는 별)

b) **Separate the auxiliary *hada* (하다), the copula *ida* (이다)** eg. sin ūn ch'angjoja ida (신 은 창조자 이다)

3. **Write an imperfect noun as a separate word, except as noted in a-b below.**

eg. moran kkot p'il muryōp (모란 꽃 필 무렵)

a) **Write a single syllable, imperfect noun as a word joined to an attributive adjective or to a simple inflected verb.**

eg. sinsa sungnyō yōrōbun (신사 숙녀 여러분)

b) **Write a single syllable, attributive adjective or prefix as joined as a personal pronoun or imperfect noun.**

eg. igōt i sarang ida (이것 이 사랑 이다)

4. **Write a derived word formed by the addition of a single character modifier, affix, or substantive as a single word.** eg. Han'guk kwa Han'gugin (한국 과 한국인)

a) **In a Sino-Korean phrase, write a simple inflection of the auxiliary *hada* (하다) and the copula *ida* (이다) joined to the word stem.**

eg. yōngwōnhan saengmyōng (영원한 생명)

b) **In a Sino-Korean compound, write a single character modifier, affix, or substantive as a separate word.**

eg. Han'guk mal (한국 말)

c) **Add the binary *chuui* (주의) to its modifier as a suffix. If the modifier is a word of foreign origin, add *chuui* after a hyphen.** eg. minjujui (민주주의), kongsanjui (공산주의), Marūkusū-chui (마르크스주의)

5. **Write any binary component of a compound as a single word, when possible.**

a) **Write a single-character substantive as part of the preceding binary element of a compound. Write a single-character substantive or an additional modifier together as part of the binary element.**

eg. Han'guk chōnt'ong yōn'gu (한국 전통 연구), t'oji kaeryang chohap (토지 개량 조합)

b) **If two single-character substantives appear in succession, write the second one as a separate word.**

eg. hyōndae chakka samsipsamin chip (현대 작가 33인 집)

6. **Geographical Names and Personal Names**

a) **Hyphenate a generic term used as part of jurisdiction name, and indicates any phonetic change, except in the case of the term (pukto)** eg. Kangwōn - do (강원도), Taegu - si (대구시), Kyōngsang - pukto (경상북도)

b) **Write a family name consisting of two characters as a single word.** eg. Sōnu Chong - wōn (선우 정원)  
**Hyphenate a given name in two characters or a courtesy name (in place of a given name), and capitalize only the first letter of the first syllable.** eg. Yi Kwang - su (이 광수), Kim so - wōl (김 소월)

## The examples that are easy to be mistaken

### Euphonic Changes

Consonants ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ, ㅈ at **Initial and final positions** are **voiceless**, and are represented by **k, t, p, ch**, respectively.

eg. 경기: kyōnggi (o) → gyōnggi (x), 독립: tongnip (o) → dongnip (x),

북한: pukhan (o) → bukhan (x), 조선: chosōn (o) → josōn (x)

### Family Names

eg. 박: Pak (o) → park (x) or bak (x), 백: Paek (o) → baek (x)

조: Cho (o) → jo (x), 정: Chōng (o) → jong (x) or jeong (x), 장: Chang (o) → jang (x)

이: Yi (o) → lee (x), 오: O (o) → oh (x)

**General examples:** 철학: chorhak → cholhak (x), 실학: sirhak → silhak(x)

남-북한/남 북한: nam - pukhan or nam pukhan → nampukhan (x)

한-미/한 미: han - mi or han mi → hanmi (x), 한-일/한 일: han - il or han il → hanil (x)