

HANGEUL ONE STEP

한글 한 걸음

An English-guided beginning



세종대왕 · King Sejong the Great

한글을 만든 천재대왕.

The genius king who created Hangeul.

Lessons 01-02 · Reading hints · Practice & review

FREE SAMPLE · LESSONS 01-02

Your reading route

A flexible 28-day plan is included in the opening pages. Follow the order, repeat a lesson, or use the page numbers to return to a difficult step.

01 · Your first syllable block	16
--------------------------------	----

02 · Three upright vowels: ㅣ ㅣ ㅣ	20
----------------------------------	----

This sample includes the opening guide, Lessons 01–02 and their answers.

Hangeul, One Step

한글 한 걸음 [han-geul han geo-reum] · Read, build, remember

An English-guided workbook for independent adult beginners.

Illustrated workbook with reading hints · 22 October 2026

Learn to read and write Korean letters, then use them in words, signs, and simple phrases. Each lesson begins with one small success, followed by a short explanation, practice, and a check. Start with Lesson 01 and take the time you need.

Your copy · Personal study licence

Personal study only. No unauthorised sharing, distribution or resale.

This workbook is supplied for one learner's personal study. Buying a copy gives you permission to use that copy; it does not transfer publication or resale rights.

You may:

- Keep the PDF on your own devices and in your private backup storage.
- Print the pages you need for your own study, including a fresh practice page when useful.
- Write, highlight and make your own learning notes.

Without prior written permission from the seller, you may not:

- Share or distribute the complete PDF, scans or substantial parts of the workbook to other people.
- Upload it to a public website, social channel, shared download folder or file-sharing service.

- Resell, rent, sublicense or commercially repackaging the workbook or its original editorial content.
- Distribute copies to a class, organisation or customer group, including copies bundled with another product or course.

Keep the credits and licence notices with the material. Ask the seller for written permission before classroom distribution, institutional use or commercial reuse.

Separate licences and legal rights. These terms do not limit uses permitted by applicable law or your non-excludable consumer rights. Separately credited third-party material, including fonts, retains its stated licence. The cover is an AI-generated artistic interpretation of the historical King Sejong, made with OpenAI's image tool for Hangeul One Step and selected by the publisher. It is not a photograph of an existing monument, an authenticated likeness or an endorsement. This personal-study licence does not replace or expand third-party permissions.

These restrictions concern this workbook as supplied and its original editorial content. They do not give anyone ownership of the Korean language, Hangeul letters, ordinary words or your own learning notes.

Welcome to your little Korean street

Follow **미나** [mi-na] (**Mina**) and **나루** [na-ru] (**Naru**) through a fictional street with a café, bookshop, station, and park. As you learn, the signs become readable.

MEET YOUR KOREAN STREET



A fictional neighbourhood for reading practice. Return to its signs as your reading grows.

A preview of signs you will learn: **카페** [ka-pe] café · **서점** bookshop · **역** station · **공원** park

Korean is the language. **Hangeul** is its writing system; **Hangul** is another common English spelling. You will use Korean letters from the start, with English explanations beside them.

Begin each lesson with **Start here** and **Do one thing**. Then read the explanation and try the numbered exercises. The quick starter is unscored: use its model to check your own work. If a lesson feels full, stop after the starter and return later.

The aim is beginning literacy: reading and writing the script. Listening, conversation, and pronunciation grow with audio, feedback, and further Korean study.

What you need

Use a pencil, blank paper or the grid sheets, and a way to check Korean dictionary audio when possible. A mirror can help you notice lip position. A phone voice recorder can help you compare attempts later. Do not judge your accent from a written answer key. A phonetic symbol describes a target; an experienced speaker and good recordings help you hear it.

Exercises marked **visual** assess letter recognition or reading rules. They are not listening tests. Exercises marked **open** have many possible answers and include a model or checklist. No exercise in this print edition requires an audio file that is not provided. If you use synthetic speech in the companion prototype, treat it as an extra practice aid whose accuracy still needs checking, not as a certified pronunciation model.

Your twenty-minute loop

1. **Retrieve, 3 minutes:** cover yesterday's page and rebuild two syllables or explain one rule from memory.
2. **Discover, 5 minutes:** read today's explanation and inspect each model. Say what changed and what stayed the same.
3. **Try, 7 minutes:** complete the exercises before looking at the key. Use a pencil so your first attempt remains visible.
4. **Check, 3 minutes:** compare your work. Write why an error happened: shape, position, sound, meaning, or attention.
5. **Schedule, 2 minutes:** put difficult items in your review pile. Revisit after roughly 1, 3, 7, and 14 days. These are practical starting intervals, not a guarantee of retention.

When fewer than four out of five items are correct, repeat the examples in a different order the next day. When the shapes are secure but the sound is uncertain, keep the reading score and mark pronunciation **needs feedback**. One weak skill does not erase another skill you have learned.

How to read the notation

A form such as **학교** [hak-kkyo] is ordinary Korean spelling. Roman-letter brackets give a reading hint: **받침** [bat-chim] (often written *batchim*) and **학교** [hak-kkyo]. Hyphens show spoken syllables, not a pause or extra stress. These are learning hints, not English translations or an official romanization system.

Existing brackets containing Korean, such as [**학교**] [hak-kkyo], are simplified Korean sound guides. They are not alternative spellings to copy. A Roman hint can follow the complete Korean guide, outside its brackets. Letter pieces and assessed reading questions intentionally omit hints, so you can try reading before looking at a model or the answer key.

Use this short key. English comparisons are approximate. Listen to Korean audio and gradually cover the hints as the letters become familiar.

Hint	How to use it
a / i / u	a is a steady open vowel; i is a steady ee-like vowel; u is a rounded oo-like vowel. English comparisons are approximate, not identical sounds.
eo	One unrounded back vowel, as in 어 [eo]. The two Roman letters do not make two syllables and are not an English ee-oh sequence.
eu	One high back vowel with unrounded lips, as in 으 [eu]. It is different from rounded u and is not English you. Use the mouth cue and Korean audio.
e / ae	Both are roughly eh-like. Keep the Korean spellings distinct even where a speaker merges the sounds.

Hint	How to use it
ui / wi / we / wa / wo	Each group represents one vowel syllable. ui in 의 [ui] begins toward eu and moves toward i in careful word-initial pronunciation; its other readings depend on context.
g / d / b / j	Plain Korean consonants. At the start they may sound closer to lightly released k/t/p/ch than the English letters suggest; they are not exact English equivalents.
k / t / p / ch at the start	These represent the more strongly aspirated Korean consonants. Keep the contrast with plain and tense starts; do not make all three groups the same.
kk / tt / pp / ss / jj	Tense consonants: one firm start, not two extra syllables and not merely a louder voice.
final k / t / p	Close and hold the mouth position before a pause. Do not add uh/eu or an extra release syllable. Before another sound, use the complete word model.
r / l / ng	r marks the brief Korean tap between vowels; l marks a lateral/final sound. Final ng is a nasal ending, not an added g. Neither r nor l is an exact English accent model.
si / sya / syeo	s before i or a y-glide can sound closer to English sh. The spelling of the hint remains consistent; use Korean audio for the exact sound.

The hints do not show every detail of vowel length, pitch, rhythm or regional variation. Read the complete word model when sounds change. A plus sign separates letter pieces: **ㄴ** + **ㅏ** → **나** [na]. Slashes around an IPA symbol, such as /i/, give a technical reference; memorising IPA is not required.

An asterisk before a form means it is deliberately unsuitable in that task. A row of practice syllables may have no meaning. We label these **practice syllables**. Real words have a gloss. Do not infer a meaning for every possible block you can construct.

Hear what you build

Visit <https://hangeul-one-step.jessiehyein.chatgpt.site/#sound-lab> for the learning companion. Start with **가** [ga], **나** [na], or **한** [han]. Drag or tap a consonant and a vowel into their slots. Add a final consonant only when you are ready. Press **Hear my block** and try a slower speed or a short repeat.

The companion includes 60 built-in AI-generated Korean practice clips and 16 listening checks. Other blocks need a Korean voice available on your device; the player tells you when no voice is available. An isolated block may be a practice sound rather than a real word. Read a whole word with its model before applying a sound rule. You do not need to memorize pronunciation symbols to begin.

Your lesson map

LOOK AT THE WHOLE PICTURE

Small sets, many written blocks



= 11,172 modern written blocks

A possible block is not always a real word.

Build one block. Explain why the final menu includes “no final”.

The modern combinable inventory has 19 initial options, 21 vowel options and 28 final options, including no final.

TRY IT · Build one block. Explain why the final menu includes “no final”.

Lesson	Discovery
01	Your first syllable block
02	Three upright vowels: ㅏ ㅑ ㅓ
03	Three flat vowels: ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ
04	Meet ㄴ, ㄹ, and the two jobs of ㅇ
05	Plain stops: ㄱ, ㅋ, ㆁ

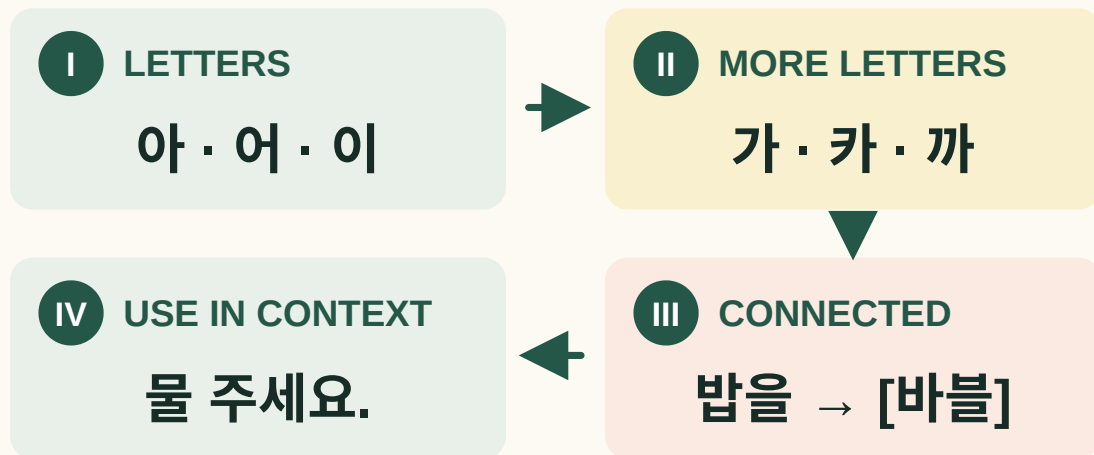
Lesson	Discovery
06	ㄹ, ㅅ, ㅈ, ㅎ in words
07	Air-powered ㅋ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅊ
08	Firm starts: ㅊ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅈ, ㅊ
09	Add a glide: ㅍ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅌ
10	Look-alikes: ㅍ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅌ
11	Compound vowels: ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ
12	Reading and writing checkpoint
13	Give every block a landing
14	Build a block that can stand
15	Let an ending open the next door
16	Meet sounds that help their neighbors
17	A firmer consonant after a stop
18	Two letters at the bottom
19	Names, digits, and useful precision
20	Read your first café menu
21	Find a way through the station
22	A small set of phrases you can use well
23	Mina's small adventure
24	Your literacy passport

Your 28-day route

Each lesson is one session, with four dedicated review days. Take longer whenever you need it; the day numbers are a suggested route, not a deadline.

LOOK AT THE WHOLE PICTURE

Four neighborhoods of reading



Find your next small skill. Point to one earlier skill you can retrieve.

The four parts move from letter shapes to meaningful supported reading.

TRY IT · Find your next small skill. Point to one earlier skill you can retrieve.

READING HELP · 아 [a] · 어 [eo] · 이 [i] · 가 [ga] · 카 [ka] · 까 [kka] · 밥을 [ba-beul]
· 물 주세요 [mul ju-se-yo]

Day	New work	Retrieval focus
1	Lesson 01: syllable blocks	Notice blocks, letters, spaces
2	Lesson 02: ㅏ ㅑ ㅣ	Rebuild 아 [a] from parts

Day	New work	Retrieval focus
3	Lesson 03: ㅏ ㅓ ㅡ	Sort side vowels and bottom vowels
4	Lesson 04: ㄴ ㅁ ㅇ	Contrast first and final ㅇ conceptually
5	Lesson 05: ㄱ ㅋ ㆁ	Read two mixed rows
6	Lesson 06: ㄹ ㅈ ㅊ ㅎ	Retrieve 6 basic vowels
7	Review day A	Checkpoint A and repair page
8	Lesson 07: aspiration	Plain versus aspirated shapes
9	Lesson 08: tense starts	Three-way consonant families
10	Lesson 09: y-glides	One tick versus two
11	Lesson 10: ㅅ ㅆ ㅈ ㅊ	Distinct spellings, variable speech
12	Lesson 11: compound vowels	Find the whole vowel
13	Lesson 12: reading/writing checkpoint	Build unfamiliar blocks
14	Review day B	Checkpoint B and handwriting
15	Lesson 13: seven final sounds	Read without extra final vowels
16	Lesson 14: batchim blocks	Three-part block structure

Day	New work	Retrieval focus
17	Lesson 15: linking	Compare spelling and pronunciation
18	Lesson 16: nasal changes	Spot ㄴ / ㄹ after a stop
19	Lesson 17: tensification	Spot strong following consonants
20	Lesson 18: double batchim	Read whole words in context
21	Review day C	Checkpoint C and error clinic
22	Lesson 19: names/numbers	Retrieve 0–10 and familiar names
23	Lesson 20: menus	Decode, then check meaning
24	Lesson 21: signs/transit	Read a sign before translating it
25	Lesson 22: useful chunks	Read polite requests accurately
26	Lesson 23: short story	Separate decoding from comprehension
27	Lesson 24: final mission	Record evidence of independent reading
28	Review day D	Final reflection and next 14-day plan

Before-you-start record · open

Write today's date. Copy **미나** [mi-na] once even if you cannot read it yet. Count how many square-like units you see. Later, return and annotate each letter. Record one personal reason for learning: reading family names, enjoying a trip, finding song titles, or studying the language more deeply. This is your reason, not a promise the book must make for you.

Part I · Letters become blocks

Lesson 01 · Your first syllable block

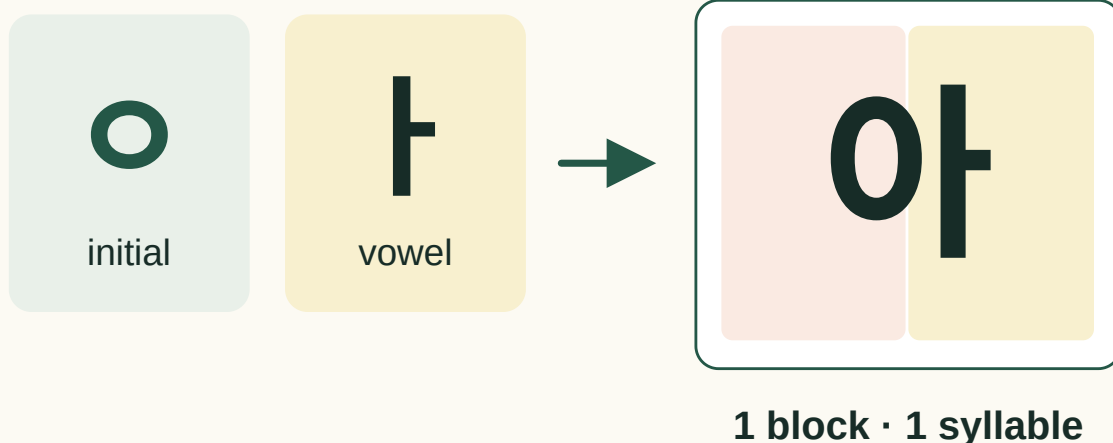
Start here: Make one block from two letters.

Do one thing · 1 minute · open: Copy **아** [a]. Cover it and write it again. Point to **ㅇ** and **ㅏ**. **Model to check:** **ㅇ** + **ㅏ** → **아** [a].

Goal: Build **아** [a] and count syllable blocks.

VISUAL LAB · 01

Two letters. One block.



Cover the model. Rebuild 아 from its two letters.

The initial and vowel share one written syllable block.

READING HELP · 아 [a]

Hangeul is the writing system used for Korean. Its letters fit together in small **blocks**. A block normally represents one syllable, or spoken beat.

Look at **아** [a]. It contains two letters: **ㅇ** + **ㅏ** → **아** [a]. The circle is on the left. The vowel is on the right. Together, they make **one block**.

At the beginning of **아** [a], **ㅇ** has no consonant sound. It holds the first position so the vowel can begin the syllable. Final **ㅇ** has a different sound; you will meet it in Lesson 04.

For **ㅏ**, open your mouth comfortably and keep your lips unrounded. Aim for one steady vowel. Korean audio will help you learn its sound; an English word is not an exact sound guide.

Read blocks from left to right. **아이** [a-i] means “child”: **아** [a] | **이** [i], two blocks. Write the word **아이** [a-i] without a space between its syllables. You will learn **이** [i] next.

Remember: **아** [a] = two letters, one block. A later block can also have a consonant at the bottom, called **받침** [bat-chim]. You will practice that in Lesson 13.

Try it · visual

- **L01-A1:** How many blocks are in each item: (a) **아**, (b) **아이**, (c) **미나**?
Count blocks, not strokes.
- **L01-A2:** Choose the correct statement: (a) **아** has one written letter; (b) **아** has two written letters in one block; (c) **아** must be written as two separate blocks.
- **L01-A3:** Which is the correct assembled block for **ㅇ** + **ㅏ** : **아** or **어**?
- **L01-A4:** In **아**, does beginning **ㅇ** add a consonant sound: yes or no?

Make a mark · open

Draw four squares, about two centimetres wide. Copy **아** [a] into the first three. Keep **ㅇ** on the left and **ㅏ** on the right. Cover the model and write the fourth from memory.

Self-check: Both letters fit inside one block. The circle is closed and **ㅏ** points right.

Tomorrow's retrieval: Build **아** [a] from two letter cards. Explain why its beginning **ㅇ** is silent.

YOUR PRACTICE SPACE · Copy one block, cover the model, then rebuild it from memory.
Use extra paper when needed.

[illegible]

RETRIEVE · Choose four blocks from this lesson. Copy, cover, then rebuild them in the grid.

NOTICE · My first attempt → corrected form → why it changed

RETURN · Today: _____ Next review: _____ A question to check: _____

Lesson 02 · Three upright vowels: ㅏ ㅑ ㅣ

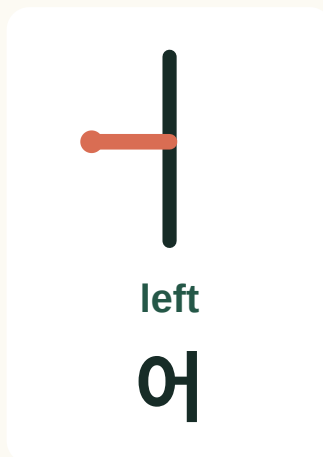
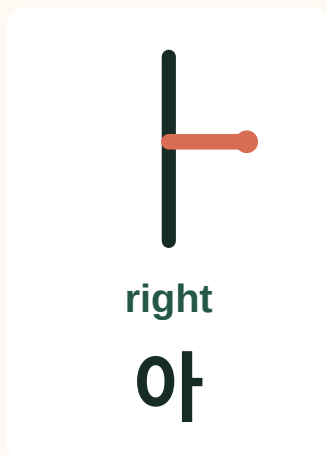
Start here: Notice the short line before you read.

Do one thing · 1 minute · open: Copy **ㅏ** [a] · **ㅑ** [eo] · **ㅣ** [i]. Cover the row and rebuild one block of your choice. **Model to check:** ㅇ + ㅏ → **ㅏ** [a]; ㅇ + ㅑ → **ㅑ** [eo]; ㅇ + ㅣ → **ㅣ** [i].

Goal: Tell **ㅏ** [a], **ㅑ** [eo], and **ㅣ** [i] apart.

VISUAL LAB · 02

Follow the short line



Point: right, left, or no short line? Then read ㅏ · ㅑ · ㅣ.

The short stroke distinguishes the three upright vowels.

READING HELP · ㅏ [a] · **ㅑ** [eo] · **ㅣ** [i]

First, look at the short line:

- ㅏ : short line points **right**.
- ㅑ : short line points **left**.

- **|** : no short line.

These vowels sit to the right of the first consonant. Add silent beginning **ㅇ** : **아** [a] · **어** [eo] · **이** [i]. Keep each pair of letters inside one block.

Now try the mouth shapes. For **ㅏ**, open your mouth with unrounded lips. For **ㅑ**, keep your lips unrounded and make the vowel farther back in your mouth. For **ㅣ**, raise the front of your tongue and keep the sound steady.

Keep ㅏ and ㅑ separate: **ㅏ** has unrounded lips; **ㅑ** has rounded lips. You will practice **ㅑ** in the next lesson. These Korean vowels do not exactly equal English vowel sounds. Use Korean audio when you can.

Read this short row slowly: **아** [a] · **어** [eo] · **이** [i]. Check the short line before reading each block. Then try **이** [i] · **아** [a] · **어** [eo].

One useful word: **아이** [a-i] = **child**, written as two blocks: **아** [a] + **이** [i].

Try it · visual

- **L02-A1:** Complete the blocks: (a) **ㅇ** + **ㅏ** → __, (b) **ㅇ** + **ㅣ** → __, (c) **ㅇ** + **ㅑ** → __.
- **L02-A2:** Select every **어** in this row and give its position number: **아** · **어** · **이** · **어** · **아**.
- **L02-A3:** Match the feature to a vowel: (a) no short side line, (b) short line to the left, (c) short line to the right. Choose from **ㅏ**, **ㅑ**, **ㅣ**.
- **L02-A4:** Split **아이** into its two syllable blocks with a vertical line.

Write and retrieve · open

Copy **ㅏ** **ㅑ** **ㅣ** once, then cover and write them again. For **ㅏ**, draw the long line, then the right stroke. For **ㅑ**, draw the short left stroke, then the long line. For **ㅣ**, draw one downward stroke. Now write **아 어 이** [a eo i].

Self-check: The short lines face the right way. Each vowel has a beginning ○ in its full block.

Tomorrow's retrieval: Write **아** [a], **어** [eo], and **이** [i] in a new order. Check the short lines.

YOUR PRACTICE SPACE · Copy one block, cover the model, then rebuild it from memory.
Use extra paper when needed.

[illegible]

RETRIEVE · Choose four blocks from this lesson. Copy, cover, then rebuild them in the grid.

NOTICE · My first attempt → corrected form → why it changed

RETURN · Today: _____ Next review: _____ A question to check: _____

Sample answer key

Try the exercises before checking these answers.

L01-A1: (a) 1; (b) 2; (c) 2. **L01-A2:** (b). **L01-A3:** **아** [a]. **L01-A4:** No. Beginning **ㅇ** in **아** [a] supplies no consonant sound.

L02-A1: (a) **어** [eo]; (b) **이** [i]; (c) **아** [a]. **L02-A2:** Positions 2 and 4. **L02-A3:** (a) **ㅣ**; (b) **ㅏ**; (c) **ㅑ**. **L02-A4:** **아** [a] | **이** [i].