鄭裕彤東亞圖書館

Korean Romanization System and Word Division
(Advanced Guide)

I. McCune-Reischauer (M-R) Romanization Table

The following table illustrates how Korean is romanized. The numbers in **[ ]** brackets indicate the relevant examples at the bottom of the page.

Table 1 (Consonants)

Final \ Initial	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	ㄲ	ㄸ	ㅃ	ㅆ	ㅉ
	k	n	t	n (r)	m	p	s	vowels	ch	ch'	k'	t'	p'	h	kk	tt	pp	ss	tch
ㄱ k		ngn		ngn	ngm [3]			g+ [1]							kk				
ㄴ n	n'g [2]		nd	ll (nn) [18]		nb (np) [13]		[4]	nj (nch) [19]										
ㄷ t		nn [7]			nm			d+						ch'		tt			
ㄹ l	lg	ll [5]		ll [9]		lb [11]		r+ [8]	lch (lj)					rh					
ㅁ m	mg (mk)		md (mt)	mn		mb			mj										
ㅂ p		mn		mn [12]	mm			b+									pp		
ㅅ t		nn		nn	nm			sh+ nn+ s+ d+ [14][15][16][17]											
ㅇ ng	ngg [25]		ngd	ngn [10]		ngb			ngj										
ㅈ t		nn			nm [20]			j+ [23]						ch' [26]					
ㅊ t		nn [22]			nm			j+											
ㅋ k		ngn		ngn	ngm														
ㅌ t		nn		nn	ngm			t'+ [24]											
ㅍ p		nn			mm			p'+									pp		
ㅎ t [29]	k'	nn [28]	t'					[27]	ch'										
vowels	+g		+d [6]			+b [21]			+j										

exception 1: ㄴ and ㄹ will not be romanized before 'ㅣ' and yotized vowels. [4], [8]
exception 2: final consonant ㅎ is not romanized when followed by ㅇ. [27]
exception 3: ㅌ is romanized as **n** before 'ㅣ' in compound word, or before ㄴ,ㅁ[24]
exception 4: medial ㅅ: (ㅅ + vowels)
    1) ㅅ is romanized as **sh** before ㅟ. [14]
    2) Also, it is romanized as **nn** before 이 and yotized vowels in compound words. [15]
    3) In non-compound words, simply romanize as **s** [16]; 4) in native Korean prefixes, romanize as **d**. [17]

[1] 국어　Kugŏ
[2] 전기　chŏn'gi
[3] 국민　kungmin
[4] 녀자　yŏja
[5] 달님　tallim
[6] 무당　mudang
[7] 치닫는　ch'idannŭn
[8] 력사　yŏksa
[9] 물리학　mullihak
[10] 종로　Chongno
[11] 갈비　kalbi
[12] 섭리　sŏmni
[13] 헌법　hŏnpŏp
[14] 쉽게　shwipke
[15] 옛일　yennil
[16] 깨끗이　kkakkŭsi
[17] 웃옷　udot
[18] 진리　chilli
[19] 민족　minjok
[20] 젖먹이　chŏnmŏgi
[21] 차별　ch'abyŏl
[22] 빛낸　pinnaen
[23] 찾아　ch'aja
[24] 밭일　pannil
[25] 황금　hwanggŭm
[26] 잊혀진　ich'yŏjin
[27] 낳은　naŭn
[28] 낳는　nannŭn
[29] 히읗　hiŭt

Table 2 (Vowels)

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅐ	ㅒ	ㅔ	ㅖ	ㅘ	ㅙ	ㅚ	ㅝ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅢ
A	ya	ŏ	yŏ	o	yo	u	yu	ŭ	i	ae	yae	e	ye	wa	wae	oe	wŏ	we	wi	ŭi

II. Word Division

Nouns (명사), Pronouns (대명사), Imperfect Nouns (불완전 명사)

- **Separate a noun, pronoun, or imperfect noun from other parts of speech.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **17**, Rule **a**)
  - 이 조국 어디 로 갈 것 인가   I choguk ŏdi ro kal kŏt in'ga

- **Separate a compound noun into binary elements without doing harm to the original meaning.** (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **18**, Rule **c**)
  - 대한 민국 의 문화 유적   Taehan Min'guk ŭi munhwa yujŏk

- **Write a compound noun as a single lexical unit when it bears a new meaning.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **19**, Rule **f**)
  - 오늘날   Onŭllal
  - 피땀   P'ittam

- **Add the binary 주의 (主義) to its modifier as a suffix.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **19**, Rule **h**)
  - 마르크스주의 와 기독교   Marŭk'ŭsŭjuŭi wa Kidokkyo

Adjectives (형용사)

- **Separate an adjective from other parts of speech.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **20**, Rule **a**)
  Separate a noun from a compound adjective without doing harm to the original meaning.
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **20**, Rule *b*)
  - 높푸른 가을 하늘   Nopp'urŭn kaŭl hanŭl
  - 버릇 없고 심술 궂은 아이 로 키우기   Pŏrŭt ŏpko simsul kujŭn ai ro k'iugi

Verbs (동사)

- **Separate a verb from other parts of speech.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word*: p. **24**, Rule **a**)
  - 나 를 찾아서 떠난 거리   Na rŭl ch'ajasŏ ttŏnan kŏri

- **Write an auxiliary verb separately from the main verb**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **25**, Rule **b**)
  - 마주 보고 있는 두 사람   Maju pogo innŭn tu saram

- **Separate the auxiliary verbal forms '-하다,' '-되다,' '-없다,' '-삼다,' '-나다,' ' 시키다,' '-받다,' and '-당하다,' etc., and their inflections from a preceding noun.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **26**, Rule **d**)
  - 사랑 하였으므로   Sarang hayŏssŭmŭro

- **Separate the copula '-이다' and its inflections from the preceding word.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **26**, Rule **e**)
  - 평화적 인 시위   P'yŏnghwajŏk in siwi

- **Write a simple inflection of the verb form together with the single syllable noun it modifies.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **26**, Rule **g**)
  - 더욱 좋아진 교육 환경   Tŏuk choajin kyoyuk hwan'gyŏng

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Adverbs (부사)
- **Separate an adverb from other parts of speech.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **28**, Rule **a**)
  - 한글 은 매우 독창적 이고 과학적 이다 Han'gŭl ŭn maeu tokch'angjŏk igo kwahakchŏk ida

Particles (조사)
- **Separate a particle from other parts of speech.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **29**, Rule **a**)
  - 草原 의 꿈 을 그대 에게   Ch'owŏn ŭi kkum ŭl kŭdae ege

- **Attempt to create binaries for coordinated or multi-syllabic particles when possible.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **29**, Rule **b**)
  - 一等 에게는 소 를 상 으로   Iltŭng egenŭn so rŭl sang ŭro
  - 서울역 에서 부터   Sŏuryŏk esŏ put'ŏ

III. Double Consonants
(Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **10**, Rule **8** & p. **8**, Rule **7**)

Initial / Final		ㄱ k	ㄴ n	ㄷ t	ㄹ n (r)	ㅁ m	ㅂ p	ㅅ s (sh)	ㅇ vowels	ㅈ ch	ㅊ ch'	ㅋ k'	ㅌ t'	ㅍ p'	ㅎ h
ㄲ	k														
ㄸ	-														
ㅃ	-														
ㅆ	t		nn						ss+						
ㅉ	-														
ㄳ	k														
ㄵ	n								nj+						nch'
ㄶ	-	nk'	nn	nt'					n+	nch'					
ㄺ	k	lk	ngn						lg+						lk'
ㄻ	m								lm+						
ㄼ	l								lb+						lp'
ㄽ	l														
ㄾ	l								lt'+						
ㄿ	p								lp'+						
ㅀ	-	lk'	ll	lt'					r+	lch'					
ㅄ	p								ps+						

exception 1: In the case of '밟-', romanize as *m* when followed by ㄴ and, romanize as *p* when followed by other consonants: i.e. 밟는 pamnŭn   밟고 papko

exception 2: In the case of '넓-', romanize as *p* in the following instances: i.e. 넓죽하다 nŏpchukhada

IV. Other Exceptions

Conflict between Romanization Rule and Pronunciation
- **When romanization rules conflict with the pronunciation of a word, prefer to represent the pronunciation.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **1**, Rule **3**)
  - 漢字 Hancha   令狀 yŏngchang

Words of Western Origin (외래어)

- **Apply the McCune-Reischauer romanization rules to words of Western origin, with exception of words beginning with the letter ㄹ. For the words beginning with the letter ㄹ, romanize the ㄹ as *r* or *l* corresponding to its counterpart in the Western word being romanized ;however, when the first letter of the Western equivalent is silent, apply this rule to the next non-silent consonant.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **14**, Rule **10**)
  - 제로 (zero) chero   베트남 (Vietnam) Pet'ŭnam

Capitalization (대문자 사용)

- **Capitalize each separate word of a personal name and corporate name; Titles and terms of address; Names of dynasties; geographic name; and a full proper name and abbreviations**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **44**)
  - 민주화 를 위한 전국 교수 협의회   Minjuhwa rŭl Wihan Chŏn'guk Kyosu Hyŏbŭihoe
  - 함 석헌 목사   Ham Sŏk-hŏn Moksa

Abbreviated Forms (줄임말, 약어 등)

- **Hyphenate combined abbreviated forms or coordinated forms of proper nouns. Do not indicate phonetic changes either before or after the hyphen.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **36**, Rule **c**)
  - 남북한 정상 회담   Nam-Pukhan Chŏngsang Hoedam

Numerals (수사)

- **Write a number, includes a native Korean and a Sino-Korean number, as one word. Separate each romanized digit by hyphens without phonetic changes.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **30**, Rule **a**)
  - 三百六十五   Sambaek-yuksip-o
  - 마흔다섯   Mahŭn-tasŏt

Geographical Names (지명)

- **Hyphenate a generic term used as part of the name of a jurisdiction, and indicate any phonetic change.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **2**, Rule **4**)
  - 강원도 Kangwŏn-do   대구시…Taegu-si   경상북도 Kyŏngsang-bukto

Personal Names (인명)

- **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.**
  (Refer to *ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division*: p. **12**, Rule **9**)
  - 李 舜臣   Yi Sun-sin

Public Catalog Online Search Tip:

For certain names, the U.S. Library of Congress may establish other spellings of people's names as the standard form, even though they are different from the proper romainzation. Please consult the Name Authority http://authorities.loc.gov/ to confirm.

i.e. 노 무현
- No Mu-hyŏn (correct form according to the M-R system) for keyword search
- Roh, Moo Hyun (the form officially accepted by the Library of Congress) for subject search

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**All page references refer to
the *ALA LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division* available online at
http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romanization/korean.pdf.**