

Korean Language Essentials Cheatsheet

A quick reference guide covering essential Korean vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and useful phrases for beginners. Useful for learners in navigating the basics of the Korean language and culture.



Basic Vocabulary

Core Words Numbers

(Annyeonghaseyo)	Hello/Hi (Formal)
(Gamsahamnida)	Thank you (Formal)
(Joesonghamnida)	I'm sorry (Formal)
☐ (Ne)	Yes
[] (Aniyo)	No
[] (Ireum)	Name
☐ (Mul)	Water
[] (Bap)	Rice / Meal

[] (Hana)	One
[] (Dul)	Two
☐ (Set)	Three
☐ (Net)	Four
□□ (Daseot)	Five
□□ (Yeoseot)	Six
[] (Ilgop)	Seven

Essential Grammar Points

Sentence Structure

Korean follows an Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure. **Example:** [] [] [] [] [] . (Naneun sagwaleul meogneunda)

- I eat an apple. (I apple eat.)

Particles are crucial as they indicate the role of nouns in a sentence.

- []/[] (eun/neun) Topic marker
- []/[] (i/ga) Subject marker
- []/[] (eul/reul) Object marker

Verb Conjugation

Korean verb conjugation changes based on politeness levels and tense.

The most common polite form ends in -[[]/[[] (-ayo/eoyo).

Example:

- [] (Meokda) To eat
- [] (Meogeoyo) Eat (polite form)

Politeness Levels

Korean has different levels of politeness, impacting verb endings and word choice.

- Formal/Polite (IIIIIII) Used in presentations, news, and formal settings.
- Polite (IIII) Commonly used in everyday conversation.
- Informal (III) Used with close friends and family.

Pronunciation Guide

Basic Vowels

[] (a)	Pronounced like the 'a' in 'father'
[] (eo)	Pronounced like the 'u' in 'but'
[] (o)	Pronounced like the 'o' in 'go'
[] (u)	Pronounced like the 'oo' in 'moon'
[] (i)	Pronounced like the 'ee' in 'see'

Basic Consonants

☐ (g/k)	Similar to 'g' at the beginning and 'k' at the end of a word
[] (n)	Similar to 'n' in 'no'
[] (d/t)	Similar to 'd' at the beginning and 't' at the end of a word
[] (r/l)	A sound between 'r' and 'l'
[] (m)	Similar to 'm' in 'me'

Important Notes

Aspiration: Some consonants have aspirated versions (stronger puff of air), affecting pronunciation.

Tense Consonants: Double consonants are tense and require more force.

Useful Phrases

Greetings & Introductions

(Cheoeum boepgetseumnida) - Nice to meet you (Formal)
[][] [][][] (Mannaseo bangapseumnida) - Pleased to meet you

Basic Interactions

? (Eolmayeyo?)	How much is it?
[[]] [][]? ([Jangso] eodiyeyo?)	Where is [place]?
	Where is the bathroom?
(Dowajuseyo)	Help me

Expressing Needs

[[]]] [][] ([Mueot] juseyo) - Please give me [item].
[] [] [] (Ihae mot haeyo) - I don't understand.

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