

TRANSCRIPTION SYSTEM FOR KOREAN
BGN (McCune-Reischauer) System)

The BGN system for romanizing Korean was devised by G. M. McCune and E. O. Reischauer and is generally known as the McCune-Reischauer System. It was published in the Transactions of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, volume XXIX, in 1939 under the title "Romanization of the Korean Language." The system was first used by the Board during World War II to romanize Korean names from Japanese sources. It has been adopted by the PCGN and is widely used also by scholars and others.

The Korean language is written in both Sino-Korean characters and in the Korean han'gŭl syllabary (formerly known as ŏnmun). The tables which follow provide for the romanization of the han'gŭl.

For names written in Sino-Korean characters and not available in han'gŭl, it is necessary to convert the characters to the han'gŭl or make use of a *Korean-English dictionary which gives conversion to the romanized forms.

In cases where the names or name elements are not contained in a Korean-English dictionary it is necessary to find the han'gŭl equivalents of Sino-Korean characters in a Korean-character-to-han'gŭl dictionary and then romanize by use of the han'gŭl-to-roman tables. The Guide to the Geographical Names in Korea (Chōsen), Special Publication No. 51, Board on Geographical Names, Department of the Interior, Washington, July 1945, (out of print) contains a table, pages 25-50, which can be used for this purpose.

*E.g., Concise English-Korean Dictionary Romanized, by Joan Underwood, Rutland, Vermont, 1954.

TRANSCRIPTION SYSTEM FOR KOREAN
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<u>CONSONANTS</u>			<u>VOWELS</u>		
<u>Korean</u>	<u>Roman</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Korean</u>	<u>Roman</u>	<u>Sound</u>
<u>INITIAL</u>					
ㄱ	k	<u>g</u> ame *	ㅏ	a	f <u>a</u> ther
ㅋ	k'	<u>c</u> ame	ㅓ	o	h <u>o</u> me
ㄷ	t	<u>d</u> one *	ㅜ	u	f <u>oo</u> d
ㅌ	t'	<u>t</u> on	ㅣ	i	f <u>ee</u> t
ㅍ	p	<u>b</u> an *	ㅑ	e	s <u>e</u> t
ㅑ	p'	<u>p</u> an	ㅓ	ö	h <u>u</u> t
ㅈ	ch	<u>j</u> ee <u>p</u> *	ㅛ	ü	s <u>o</u> fa
ㅊ	ch'	<u>c</u> heap	ㅝ	ae	h <u>a</u> t
ㄴ	n	<u>n</u> un	ㅙ	ya	y <u>a</u> cht
ㅇ	m	<u>m</u> an	ㅞ	yö	cl <u>a</u> ri <u>o</u> n
ㄹ	n	<u>n</u> un	ㅟ	yo	y <u>o</u> ke
ㅅ	s	<u>s</u> ee <u>k</u>	ㅠ	yu	u <u>s</u> e
ㅎ	h	<u>h</u> ome	ㅝ	yae	y <u>a</u> m
			ㅑ	ye	y <u>e</u> s
			ㅗ	wa	w <u>a</u> ter
			ㅜ	wae	w <u>a</u> x
			ㅝ	wö	w <u>o</u> n
			ㅑ	we	w <u>e</u> nt
			ㅓ	wi	w <u>e</u>
			ㅝ	oe	sch <u>ö</u> n (German)
			ㅛ	üi	b <u>u</u> ild
<u>FINAL</u>					
ㄱ, ㅋ	k	fl <u>a</u> k			
ㄷ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅊ	t	h <u>u</u> t			
ㅍ, ㅑ	p	pop			
ㄴ	l	sell			
ㅇ	m	sum			
ㄹ	n	kin			
ㅇ	ng	ring			

*These sounds have weak or no voicing, and have no precise equivalent in English.

KOREAN SYLLABIC ROMANIZATION TABLE

VOWELS		CONSONANTS (preceding the vowels)										
Roots used with consonants	o*	ㄱ	ㅂ	ㄷ	ㅈ	ㄴ		ㄹ		ㅇ	ㅅ	ㅎ
		(ㄱ)	(ㅂ)	(ㄷ)	(ㅈ)	1st Syllable	2nd Syllable	1st Syllable	2nd Syllable			
ㅏ	a 아	ka 가	pa 바	ta 다	cha 차	na 나 na	na 라 ra	ma 마	sa 사	ha 하		
ㅑ	ya 야	kya 가	pya 바	cha 차	cha 차	ya 야 nya	ya 라 rya	mya 마	sa 사	hya 하		
ㅓ	o 어	kō 거	pō 버	tō 더	chō 저	nō 너 nō	nō 러 rō	mō 머	sō 서	hō 허		
ㅕ	yō 여	kyō 거	pyō 버	chō 저	chō 저	yō 너 nyō	yō 러 ryō	myō 머	sō 서	hyō 허		
ㅗ	o 오	ko 고	po 보	to 도	cho 초	no 노 no	no 로 ro	mo 모	so 소	ho 호		
ㅛ	yo 요	kyo 교	pyo 보	cho 도	cho 초	yo 노 nyo	yo 로 ryo	myo 모	so 소	hyo 호		
ㅜ	u 우	ku 구	pu 부	tu 두	chu 추	nu 누 nu	nu 루 ru	mu 무	su 수	hu 후		
ㅠ	yu 유	kyu 구	pyu 부	chu 두	chu 추	yu 누 nyu	yu 루 ryu	myu 무	su 수	hyu 후		
ㅡ	ü 으	kū 그	pū 브	tū 드	chū 즈	nū 누 nū	nū 르 rū	mū 무	sū 스	hū 흐		
ㅣ	i 이	ki 기	pi 비	chi 디	chi 지	i 니 ni	i 리 ri	mi 미	si 시	hi 히		
ㅐ	ae 어	kae 개	pae 배	tae 태	chae 채	nae 내 nae	nae 래 rae	mae 매	sae 새	hae 해		
ㅙ	yae 여	kyae 개										
ㅑ	e 예	ke 계	pe 베	te 테	che 제	ne 네 ne	ne 레 re	me 메	se 세	he 헤		
ㅓ	ye 예	kye 계	pye 베	che 테	che 제	ye 네 nye	ye 레 rye	mye 메	se 세	hye 헤		
ㅜ	oe 외	koe 괴	poe 배	toe 태	choe 채	noe 네 noe	noe 레 roe	moe 메	soe 세	hoe 헤		
ㅣ	ü 이	ki 기	pi 비	ti 디	chi 지	ni 니 ni	ni 리 ri	mi 미	si 시	hi 히		
ㅣ	wi 위	kwil 위	pi 비	twi 뒤	chwi 쥐	nwi 위 nwi	nwi 뒤 rwi	mi 위	shwi 위	hwi 후		
ㅣ					ch'wi 쥐				shwi 위			
ㅘ	wa 와	kwa 파	pwa 바	twa 타	chwa 차	nwa 나 nwa	nwa 라 rwa	mwa 마	swa 사	hwa 하		
ㅙ	wae 웨	kwae 패	pwae 배	twae 태	chwae 채	nwae 내 nwa	nwae 래 rwa	mwae 매	swae 새	hwae 해		
ㅚ	wō 위	kwō 위	pwō 뷔	twō 뒤	chwō 쥐	nwō 위 nwō	nwō 뒤 rwō	mwō 위	swō 쉬	hwō 후		
ㅜ	we 웨	kwe 위	pwe 뷔	twe 뒤	chwe 쥐	nwe 위 nwe	nwe 뒤 rwe	mwe 위	swe 쉬	hwe 후		
ㅣ					ch'we 쥐							
Syllabic finals	ng ㅇ	k ㄱ	p ㅂ	[t]	[t]	n ㄴ	l ㄹ	m ㅇ	t ㅅ	[h]		

*This letter is always written but not pronounced or transliterated before vowels in syllable-initial position.

KOREAN ROMANIZATION TABLE
of
EUPHONIC CHANGES OF CONSONANTS

(Syllabic finals are listed vertically and syllabic initials horizontally.)

	Between Vowels	CH ㄱ	CH' ㅈ TCH' ㅊ	H ㅎ	K ㄱ	K' ㅋ KK' ㅋ	M ㅇ	N ㄴ	P ㅍ	P' ㅍ PP' ㅍ	R ㄹ	S ㅅ SS ㅅ	T ㄷ	T' ㅌ TT ㄷ
Between Vowels	-	j	ch' tch	h	g	k' kk	m	n	b	p' pp	r	s ss	d	t' tt
K (ㄱ)	g	kch	kch' ktch	kh	kk	kk' kk	ngm	ngn	kp	kp' kpp	ngn	ks kss	kt	kt' ktt
L (ㄴ)	r	lch	lch' ltch	rh	lg	lk' lkk	lm	ll	lb	lp' lpp	ll	ls lss	lt	lt' ltt
M (ㅇ)	m	mj	mch' mtch	mh	mg	mk' mkk	mm	mn	mb	mp' mpp	mn	ms mss	md	mt' mtt
N (ㄴ)	n	nj	nch' ntch	nh	n'g	nk' nkk	nm	nn	nb	np' npp	ll	ns nss	nd	nt' ntt
NG (ㅇ)	ng	ngj	ngch' ngtch	ngh	ngg	ngk' ngkk	ngm	ngn	gnb	ngp' ngpp	ngn	ngs ngss	ngd	ngt' ngtt
P (ㅍ)	b	pch	pch' ptch	ph	pk	pk' pkk	pm	pn	pp	pp' pp	pn	ps pss	pt	pt' ptt
T (ㅌ)	d	tch	tch' tch	th	kk	tk' tkk	tm	tn	pp	tp' tpp	nn	ss	tt	tt' tt