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)

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

Exception 1: ㄱ and ㅋ 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 ㄴ before ㅣ in compound word, or before ㄴ, ㅁ [24]
Exception 4: medial ㅅ: (ㅅ+ vowels)
1) ㅅ is romanized as sh before ㄱ. [14]
2) Also, it is romanized as nn before ㅁ 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]
Table 2 (Vowels)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ㅏ</th>
<th>ㅑ</th>
<th>ㅓ</th>
<th>ㅕ</th>
<th>ㅗ</th>
<th>ㅛ</th>
<th>ㅜ</th>
<th>ㅠ</th>
<th>ㅡ</th>
<th>ㅣ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ya</td>
<td>yâ</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>yo</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>yu</td>
<td>ü</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ae</td>
<td>yae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 어디로 갈 것인가
    - I choguk ôdi ro kal kêt 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 민국의 문화유적
    - Taehan Min'guk üi munhwa yujök

- 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 피땀
    - Onüllal P'ittam

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'urûn kaŭl han'ûl
  - 버릇 없고 심술궂은 아이로 키우기
    - Pôrût ōpko simsul kujûn ai ro k'iugi

Verbs (동사)

- Separate a verb from other parts of speech.
  (Refer to ALA-LC Romanization Tables: Korean Romanization and Word Division: p. 24, Rule a)
  - 나를 찾아서 떠난 거리
    - Na rûl ch'ajasô tûnan kôri

- 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 inûn tu saram

- Separate the auxiliary verbal forms ‘–하다,’ ‘–되다,’ ‘–없다,’ ‘–있다,’ ‘–있다,’ ‘시다,’ ‘–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 hayajûmûro

- 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'yôngghwajûk 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
    - Tôuk choajin kyoyuk hwon'gyông
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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 독창적이고 과학적이다  Han’gul un maeu tokch’angjok igo kwahakhŏk ilda

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)
  ○ 셀–의 꿈을 그대에게  Ch’owŏn ŭkkum ŭl kūdae 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)
  ○ 서울역에서부터  Sŏuryŏk esŏ pu’tŏ

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

| Initial | ㄱ ㄴ ㄷ ㄹ ㅁ ㅂ ㅅ ㅇ ㅈ ㅊ ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ ㅎ | ㅏ ㅐ ㅑ ㅒ ㅓ ㅔ ㅕ ㅖ ㅗ ㅘ ㅙ ㅚ ㅛ ㅜ ㅝ ㅞ ㅟ ㅠ ㅡ ㅢ ㅣ |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 꼫       | k                             | n                             | t (r)             |
| 꼬       | m                             | p                             | s (sh)            |
| 꼶       | vowels                        | ch                            | ch’               |
| 꼷       | k’                            | t’                            | p’                |
| 꼸       | h                             |                               |                   |

exception 1: In the case of "밟밟", 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 "넓넓", romanize as p in the following instances: i.e. 넓죽하다 nŏchukhada

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

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Words of Western Origin (외래어)
• Apply the McCune-Reischauer romanization rules to words of Western origin, with exception of words beginning with the letter 률. For the words beginning with the letter 률, romanize the 률 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’unam

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)
○ 민주화를 위한 전국 교수 협의회 Minjuhwa rul Wihan Chŏng’uk Kyosu Hyŏbuihoe
○ 함석헌 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)
○ 삼백육십오 Sambaek-yuksip-o
○ 마흔 다섯 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)
○ 유 정현 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 romanization. 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

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.