

## Korean Transliteration, Geographic Units, and Proper Names

The Korean language presents a number of problems for transliteration, and there is no universally accepted system. The most common schemes now in use are the McCune-Reischauer system, the South Korean Ministry of Education system, and the North Korean system. The Center for Nonproliferation Studies uses the McCune-Reischauer system in the North Korea Country Profile as in its other work. However, exceptions have been made for public figures and proper names of firms, publications, and organizations. The original Korean names of places, organizations, and facilities, etc., have been included in parentheses throughout the profile; however, this text is illegible for browsers without the proper fonts or encoding. Tables for the South Korean Ministry of Education system can be found below, and more information on this system can be found online at <<http://www.korea.net/learnaboutkorea/hangeul/revised4.html>>.

### The McCune-Reischauer Transliteration System

#### Consonants

	Initial	ㅇ	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ
Final		*1	K	N	T	R	M	P
ㄱ	K	G	KK	NGN	KT	NGN	NGM	KP
ㄴ	N	N	N'G	NN	ND	LL	NM	NB
ㄹ	L	R	LG	LL	LT	LL	LM	LB
ㅁ	M	M	MG	MN	MD	MN	MM	MB
ㅂ	P	B	PK	MN	PT	MN	MM	PP
ㅇ	NG	NG	NGG	NGN	NGD	NGN	NGM	NGB

	Initial	ㅅ	ㅆ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅑ	ㅎ
Final		S2	CH	CH'	K'	T'	P'	H	
ㄱ	K	KS	KCH	KCH'	KK'	KT'	KP'	KH	
ㄴ	N	NS	NJ	NCH'	NK'	NT'	NP'	NH	
ㄹ	L	LS	LCH	LCH'	LK'	LT'	LP'	RH	
ㅁ	M	MS	MJ	MCH'	MK'	MT'	MP'	MH	
ㅂ	P	PS	PCH	PCH'	PK'	PT'	PP'	PH	
ㅇ	NG	NGS	NGJ	NGCH'	NGK'	NGT'	NGP'	NGH	

1. consonant between two vowels is transcribed with its initial value except that ㄱ is G, ㄷ is D, ㅂ is B, ㅅ is J, and ㅍ is P (with no apostrophe).
2. transliterated as SHWI.
3. is transliterated as SHI.
4. is transliterated as SSI.

#### Double consonants in the initial position

ㄲ	ㄸ	ㅃ	ㅆ	ㅉ
KK	DD	BB	SS	JJ

#### Vowels

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ
a	ya	õ	yõ	o	yo	u	yu	ũ	i

ㅘ	ㅙ	ㅚ	ㅜ	ㅝ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅢ	
wa	wõ	ae	e	oe	Wi	ũi	wae	we	yae	ye

## Geographic Names and Units in North Korea

Geographic place names include the administrative unit, except for cities, provinces and mountains. The administrative unit follows the place name, and a hyphen separates the place name and administrative unit. See the following table for an explanation of Korean geographic/administrative units. Note that the place names "No-dong" and "Taepo-dong" include hyphens, but the missile names "Nodong" and "Taepodong" do not.

### Geographic Units

Korean	English	Definition	Examples
노동자구	nodongjagu	Special administrative districts for mining, forestry, or other enterprises. The term literally means "labor district."	Okp'yõng-nodongjagu
동	dong	Smallest administrative unit of a town, village or city	No-dong, Taepo-dong, Kwahak-dong
리	ri	Village	Musudan-ri, Kũmchang-ri, Yõngjo-ri
구	ku	District within a town, village or city	Tongdaemun-ku
읍	ũp	Town	Chunggang-ũp
군	kun	County	Hwadae-kun
구역	kuyõk	District	Taesõng-kuyõk
지구	chigu	District	Kũmho-chigu
시	shi	City	Pyongyang, Kanggye
도	do	Province	South Hamgyõng Province
도	do	Island	Mayang Island
산	san	Mountain	Mt. Kũmgang
봉	Pong	Peak	Kungmang Peak (國望 峰)

Names of the cities of Seoul and Pyongyang are exceptions because of traditional usage:

Seoul (Sõul)

Pyongyang (P'yõngyang)

## Proper Names, Names of People and Public Figures

Korean names begin with the surname and are followed by the given name. The given name does not have a hyphen between the first and second syllables. "Lee" is used for the common name "李" or "이 (리)," and "Park" is used for the

common name "朴" or "박." Alternative spellings that have become standard for public figures are used:

Chung Ju Young (Chung Chu Yǒng)  
 Kim Dae Jung (Kim Tae Chung)  
 Kim Il Sung (Kim Il Sǒng)  
 Kim Jong Il (Kim Chǒng Il)  
 Kim Young Sam (Kim Yǒng Sam)  
 Park Chung Hee (Park Chǒng Hŭi)  
 Rhee Syngman (Lee Sŭng Man)  
 Roh Moo Hyun (No Mu Hyǒn)  
 Roh Tae Woo (No T'ae U)

### Proper Names for Missiles

Nodong  
 Taepodong-1  
 Taepodong-2  
 Hwasǒng-5  
 Hwasǒng-6  
 Paektusan-1

### Proper Names for Publications

The North Korea Country Profile utilizes the same spellings adopted by major publications, even though the spellings may be different from those found in some other sources. The following is a list of common news publications found in the North Korea country profile:

Chosun Ilbo (Chosǒn Ilbo)  
 Chugan Chosun (Chugan Chosǒn)  
 Donga Ilbo (Tong'a Ilbo)  
 Hankook Ilbo (Han'guk Ilbo)  
 Hankyoreh 21 (Han'gyǒre 21)  
 Hankyoreh Shinmun (Han'gyǒre Shinmun)  
 Joongang Ilbo (Chung'ang Ilbo)  
 Kook Bang Ilbo (Kukpang Ilbo)  
 Kukmin Ilbo (Kungmin Ilbo)  
 Kwahak Donga (Kwahak Tong'a)  
 Kyunghyang Shinmun (Kyǒnghyang Shinmun)  
 Minju Josen (Minju Chosǒn)  
 Munhwa Ilbo  
 Rodong Sinmun (Rodong Shinmun)  
 Segye Ilbo  
 Seoul Shinmun (Sǒul Shinmun)  
 Shindonga (Shindong'a)  
 Taehan Maeil  
 Wolgan Chosun (Wǒlgan Chosǒn)

### South Korean Ministry of Education Romanization System

Below are tables for the South Korean Ministry of Education transliteration system. More information on this system can be found at <<http://www.korea.net/learnaboutkorea/hangeul/revised4.html>>.

#### Consonants

	Initial	ㅇ	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ
Final			g	n	d	r	m	b

ㄱ	k	g	kg	ngn	kd	ngn	ngm	kb
ㄴ	n	n	ng	nn	nd	ll(nn)	nm	nb
ㄷ	l	r	lg	ll	ld	ll	lm	lb
ㅁ	m	m	mg	mn	md	mn	mm	mb
ㅂ	p	b	pg	mn	pd	mn	mm	pb
ㅇ	ng	ng	ngg	ngn	ngd	ngn	ngm	ngb

	Initial	ㅅ	ㅆ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅍ	ㅎ
Final		s	j	ch	k	t	p		h
ㄱ	k	ks	kj	kch	kk	kt	kp	kh(k)	
ㄴ	n	ns	nj	nch	nk	nt	np	nh	
ㄷ	l	ls	lj	lch	lk	lt	lp	lh	
ㅁ	m	ms	mj	mch	mk	mt	mp	mh	
ㅂ	p	ps	pj	pch	pk	pt	pp	ph(p)	
ㅇ	ng	ngs	ngj	ngch	ngk	ngt	ngp	ngh	

"Final" refers to the final position character in a Korean syllable.

"Initial" refers to the first position character in a Korean syllable. When the final position character of one syllable is followed by the first position character of the next, the phonetic value of either or both characters changes in a limited number of cases as demonstrated here.

Plosives (stops)

ㄱ	ㄱ	ㅋ	ㄷ	ㄷ	ㅌ	ㅂ	ㅂ	ㅍ
g, k	kk	k	d, t	tt	t	b, p	pp	p

Affricates

ㅆ	ㅆ	ㅈ
j	jj	ch

Fricatives

ㅅ	ㅅ	ㅎ
s	ss	h

Vowels

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅝ
a	eo	o	u	eu	i	ae	e	oe	wi	ya

ㅙ	ㅚ	ㅜ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅝ	ㅞ	ㅟ
yeo	yo	yu	yae	ye	wa	wae	wo	we	ui