

CLAIRE LILIENTHAL SCHOOL KOREAN IMMERSION PROGRAM

AN INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



Welcome to the Claire Lilienthal Korean Immersion Program!

This guide has been assembled by a team of parents and teachers in response to feedback that English-speaking families new to the Korean Immersion Program would appreciate a basic introduction to Korean language and culture.

Having an understanding of Korean language and culture will help you support your child as he or she develops fluency and interest in Korean, and it can also be fun and enriching for you.

We would appreciate any feedback on whether this guide is helpful to you and how we could improve this guide in future years. Please direct any feedback to Ann Kim at ahkim27@gmail.com or 221-2142.

Once again, welcome!

- The KIP Teachers and Parents

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THE KOREAN ALPHABET (“HANGUL”)

Hangul has 14 basic consonants and 10 basic vowels:

● **Consonants:**

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ
\k,g\ kiyok	\n\ niun	\t,d\ tikut	\r,l\ riul	\m\ mium	\p,b\ piup	\s,sh\ siot	\ng\ iung	\ch,j\ chiut

● **Vowels**

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ
\a\ la	\ya\ ya	\eo\ leo	\yeo\ yeo	\o\ lo	\yo\ yo	\u\ lu	\yu\ yu	\eu\ eu	\ee\ ee

Note that four of the consonants (ch'iut, k'iuk, t'iut, and p'iup) are aspirated forms of chiut, kiyok, tikut, and piup, formed by adding an extra stroke to the unaspirated letters.

All words in Korean are composed of syllables, which follow these basic rules:

1. A syllable begins with a consonant.
2. A syllable has at least one consonant and one vowel.
3. Each syllable gets written in a square box.

So if you put the ㄴ (n) and the ㅏ (ah) together, they form the word ㄴㅏ (nah), which means “I” in English.

KOREAN NUMBERS

Korean has two different sets of numbers. One set is “pure Korean” and is used mainly for counting.

Korean

1	하나	Hah-nah	10	열	Yaul
2	둘	Dool	20	스물	Seu-mool
3	셋	Set	30	서른	Suh-reun
4	넷	Net	40	마흔	Mah-heun
5	다섯	Dah-sut	50	쉰	Shoo-eeun
6	여섯	Yuh-sut	60	예순	Yea-soon
7	일곱	Eel-gope	70	일흔	Eel-heun
8	여덟	Yuh-dulp	80	여든	Yuh-deun
9	아홉	Ah-hope	90	아흔	Ah-heun

To put together numbers like "17" or "35", you write or say the tens number followed by the ones number. For example:

17 = ten-seven = 열일곱 = Yaul Eel-gope

35 = thirty-five = 서른다섯 = Suh-reun Dah-sut

The other set of numbers is “Sino-Korean” and is borrowed from the Chinese. This set is used, among other things, for expressing certain concepts in numbers, such as:

- years
- months
- days
- minutes
- currency
- phone numbers

Sino-Korean

1 일 Eel	6 육 Yook	100 백 Paek
2 이 Ee	7 칠 Cheel	1,000 천 Chun
3 삼 Sahm	8 팔 Pahl	10,000 만 Mahn
4 사 Sah	9 구 Koo	
5 오 Oh	10 십 Sheep	

For Sino-Korean numbers, split up the number into its place values and tack them together.

Example: 495

사백	구십	오
4 x 100	9 x 10	5
Sah-Paek	Koo-Sheep	Oh

Example: 317

삼백	십	칠
3 x 100	10	7
Sahm-Paek	Sheep	Cheel

TIMES AND DATES

To tell time, you use the Pure Korean number for the hour, followed by the word for o'clock 시 (shee).

For minutes, you use the Sino-Korean number for minutes, followed by the word for minutes 분 (poon)

Examples:

2:15 = 두시 십오분 = Doo-Shee Sheep-Oh-Poon

1:39 = 한시 삼십구분 = Hahn-Shee Sahm-Ship-Koo-Poon

Note: For telling time, the following Pure Korean numbers are abbreviated:

1	하나	Hah-nah	1 o'clock	Hahn-Shee
2	둘	Dool	2 o'clock	Doo-Shee
3	셋	Set	3 o'clock	Seh-Shee
4	넷	Net	4 o'clock	Neh-Shee

To tell the date, you start with the year in Sino-Korean, followed by the word for year (nyun):

2007 = Ee-Chun Yook Nyun

Then the month in Sino-Korean, followed by the word for month (Oo-ul)

October = Sheep Oo-ul

Then the date in Sino-Korean, followed by the word for day (Eel)

3rd = Sahm Eel

KOREAN WORDS AND PHRASES

English	Pronunciation
Yes	Neh
No	Ah-nee-yo
Thank you	Kahm-sah-hahm-nee-da/ Goh-mahp-seum-nee-da
You're welcome	Chun-mahn-eh-yo
I am sorry	Mee-ahn-hahm-nee-da
How are you?	Ahn-nyoung-hah-sae-yo
Hello? (on the phone)	Yo-boh-sae-yo?
Do you speak English?	Young-uh-hahl-soo-it-suh-yo?
May I go to the bathroom?	Hwah-jang-shil gah-doh-dae-yo?
Mother (familiar) (formal)	Um-mah Uh-muh-nee
Father (familiar) (formal)	Ah-ppah Ah-buh-jee
Older Brother (for a girl) (for a boy)	Oh-ppah Hyung
Older Sister (for a girl) (for a boy)	Un-nee Noo-nah
Younger sibling	Dohng-saeng

Grandmother	Hahl-muh-nee
Grandfather	Hah-rah-buh-jee
Teacher	Sun-saeng-neem

KOREAN HOLIDAYS

Koreans celebrate some of the same holidays as Americans, such as New Year's (January 1) and Christmas. In addition, the KIP classes typically celebrate the following traditional Korean holidays as part of the curriculum.

Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving)

The full harvest moon festival occurs on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, and is similar to the American Thanksgiving holidays. Similar to the lunar new year, family members pay respect to their living relatives and visit the graves of their ancestors. Family members exchange gifts and play special games.

The KIP classes usually celebrate Chuseok by dressing in traditional Korean garments (han-bok), eating Korean foods, and playing Korean games.

Seol Nal (Lunar New Year)

The day before and after the first day of the first new moon are also holidays. During this holiday, Korean family members typically get up early, put on their best clothes, and bow to their elders as a reaffirmation of family ties. Feasts are held with specially prepared food such as ttok-guk (rice cake soup) and mandu-guk (dumpling soup), and everyone plays traditional games, flies kites, or spins tops.

The KIP classes usually celebrate Seol Nal by dressing in han-bok, making mandu, playing games, and bowing to their teachers and elders.

Children's Day

May 5th represents a day of celebration for children, both young and old. Korean parents dress up their children and take them to parks, amusement parks, zoos, or to the cinema for a full day of fun and games.

The KIP classes usually celebrate Children's Day by enjoying a picnic or other fun activity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Much of the information in this guide was adapted from the following helpful websites. We encourage you to check out these sites for more information about Korean language and culture:

<http://www.lifeinkorea.com/language/korean.cfm>

<http://www.langintro.com/kintro/index.htm>

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/korean.htm>

<http://www.learnkoreanlanguage.com/index.html>

OTHER RESOURCES

The Claire Lilienthal PTA website (www.clairelilienthal.org) has a section devoted to KIP events and news. Among the interesting entries is the KIP Resource Guide, which provides recommendations from KIP families about places to get great Korean food, books, and more. The following listing of resources has been adapted from the KIP Resource Guide. Check out the KIP website for periodic updates.

Where Can I Buy Korean Groceries and Ready-made Food?

There are many stores that offer Korean groceries and a variety of ready-to-eat deli-style foods. Here are a few places to try.

- **Seoul Market/First Korean Market.** Richmond District. 4625 Geary Blvd. (at 10th & 11th Avenues), 221-2565

Seoul Market has all the basics, from regular grocery items, housewares, frozen foods and fresh produce. They also have a wide selection of prepared foods (bulgogi, kalbi, sesame chicken, and lots of homemade kimchi, pickles and side dishes). At the front of the store, they have an assortment of cheon (little pancakes) made fresh, kimbap, japchae, Korean fried chicken, and other specialties.

- **Woori Market.** Fillmore District. 1528 Fillmore (at O'Farrell)

Woori Market is small but has all the basic Korean groceries, plus marinated meats, kimchi, pickles and lots of take-out food (japchae, kimbap, fried chicken, and lots more).

- **Kukje Market.** Daly City. 2350 Junipero Serra Blvd. (near the Daly City Civic Center)

Kukje Market is huge compared to the local markets in the city. You'll find groceries, frozen foods, lots of fresh produce, a very big housewares department, meats and a very big deli with lots of ready to eat items. Even video rentals. Kukje also has a customer loyalty program, so if you are going to shop there regularly, be sure to ask to join their "club." You'll get price discounts and other perks. Kukje also has a larger selection of soju than the other local markets.

Where can we find good Korean Restaurants?

There are lots of Korean restaurants in the city (and in the East and South Bay too). Here's a few to get you started.

• **Brothers Restaurant.** Inner Richmond. 4128 Geary Blvd. (at 5th & 6th Avenues), 387-7991

Brothers is known for their Korean Barbecue. You cook your own meat at your own table, on a small charcoal grill. It's fun to go with a small group and share the dishes. There's also a "Brothers 2" restaurant nearby. Crowded on weekend nights (and some weekday nights). Also open for lunch.

• **Han Il Kwan.** Outer Richmond. 1802 Balboa Street (at 19th Avenue), 752-4447

Han Il Kwan has been around for a long time and has a very loyal following. They're known for very good food and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. They offer many barbecue items, plus lots of other Korean favorites. Go with friends if you can, so that you can order more things to try off the menu.

Every time you dine at Han Il Kwan, 20% of your bill will be donated to the Claire Lilienthal Korean Immersion Program. In order for the donation to take place, please bring the donation voucher at the end of this guide. You can download more vouchers at: <http://www.clairelilienthal.org/KIP/Han-II-Kwon-KIP.pdf>.

• **My Tofu House.** Inner Richmond. 4627 Geary Blvd. (at 10th and 11th Avenues), 750-1818

The specialty at this restaurant is the Korean comfort food known as sun-dubu jigae, or tofu soup. There are many versions of the soup, with different kinds of meat, or vegetarian, and of course, varying levels of spiciness. They are all really good. After 1 or 2 visits here, you may find yourself become seriously addicted to this wonderful soup (served in superhot stone pots.) The jigae also comes with a pot of rice, barley tea, and a very nice, generous assortment of panchan to nibble on throughout the meal. Open for lunch and dinner. And conveniently located right next to Seoul Market.

• **Seoul Garden.** Japantown. 22 Peace Plaza, 563-7664

Seoul Garden describes its food as in the style of food at a country inn. The food is fresh, the service good and the restaurant is child-friendly. Our source especially recommends the Sae woo Bokum (sauteed prawns and vegetables), Dak Gui (broiled, marinated chicken) and the Chadol baegi (broiled, sliced boneless beef).

Where Can I Get Korean Books?

• **Seoul Selection.** Website: www.seoulselection.com

Check out this website for lots of different types of content. First, link up to Seoul magazine, an English-language magazine that has lots of articles about things going on

in Korea and contemporary Korean culture. This magazine is hip and has lots of interesting photography. Through the website (which is connected to Seoul Selection bookstore in Seoul), you can also buy English or English/Korean kids books, and lots of other English language books on cooking, culture, language, history etc. Check out their very nice selection of books and CDs to help you learn Korean. There's also a gift shop and a chat area.

- **Asia For Kids.** Website: www.asiaforkids.com

This site has a good selection of Korean and Korean-English books for the beginner (including picture dictionaries and board books) and advanced student (including Korean language versions of classics such as [A Farewell to Arms](#) and [Wuthering Heights](#)). The site isn't particularly well-designed, but the easiest way to find Korean books is to go to the "custom search" or "search catalog" links and pull up "Korean" as the desired language. Prices are reasonable, and you can start a decent beginner Korean library for less than \$100. You can also get on the mailing list to receive their catalogs, which are colorful and easy to use.

- **San Francisco Public Library.** Website: sfpl.org

The Richmond branch at 351 9th Avenue (at Clement) used to carry a good selection of Korean children's books in their lower-level Children's Library, but the branch is closed for renovations.

The Anza branch and Sunset branch libraries each carry a small selection (about 30) of children's books in Korean. The largest selection (over 200) of Korean language children's books is at the Main Library's Children's Center.

You can browse the SF Public Library's holdings of children's books in the online catalog by going to the sfpl.org, click on the Library Catalog - Call Number Search, and type in the text box: Korean j

You can then click on any title of interest; click on the grey "Request" button near the top/left of the page; and arrange to have the item delivered for pick up at whatever open library location you choose, including the Bookmobile at 6th Avenue & Geary Boulevard.