

Part 1

Introduction



한글 *Hangeul* – the Korean Alphabet



The Invention of *Hangeul*



한글 (meaning “the great writing”) was created by King Sejong the Great and his royal scholars in 1443. Before 한글 was created, Chinese characters or Chinese character-derived letters had been used, and the majority of ordinary Korean people were not familiar with Chinese characters or did not know them well. King Sejong felt pity for his people and created the Korean letters. Koreans are truly proud of Hangeul, one of the most scientific writing systems.





The statue of King Sejong the Great is located at the center of Gwanghwamun Square.



King Sejong the Great's portrait is on the 10,000 won bill of South Korea's currency.



The UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize

The UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize was created in 1989 through the generosity of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The Prize gives special consideration to the promotion of mother-tongue languages in developing countries. The Prize consists of two awards, and each award provides a sum of US \$20,000, a silver medal, and a certificate.



UNITED NATIONS

Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization

UNESCO
International
Literacy Prizes



The New York Times

Sept. 11 2009

바짜안

꾸롬볼레아우 이 다라판, 인다우 아파바이스 하따우 티아
아소 이소오.” 라자 노메르따루 마이 아갈라노 켈린찌 뽀
올리 노보올바모 꾸라꾸라 나만따라에 이 다라판.

팍주 모이아 노까라도 이 다라판, 꾸라꾸라 노보올바모
켈린찌, “마림바 뽀올리 파빠에 하렘, 이끼따 하루스 세계
라 따판올레 이 이스따나.” 게우디안 켈린찌 노보가우,
“이소오 꾸라꾸라 보도! 비나왕 부라에 빠갈루아라노 하렘
노? 블라이!” 켈린찌 노루수모 이 올랄로노 올라본도우,
게우디안 꾸라꾸라 노판올레모 이 따이 삼빌 노겨에.

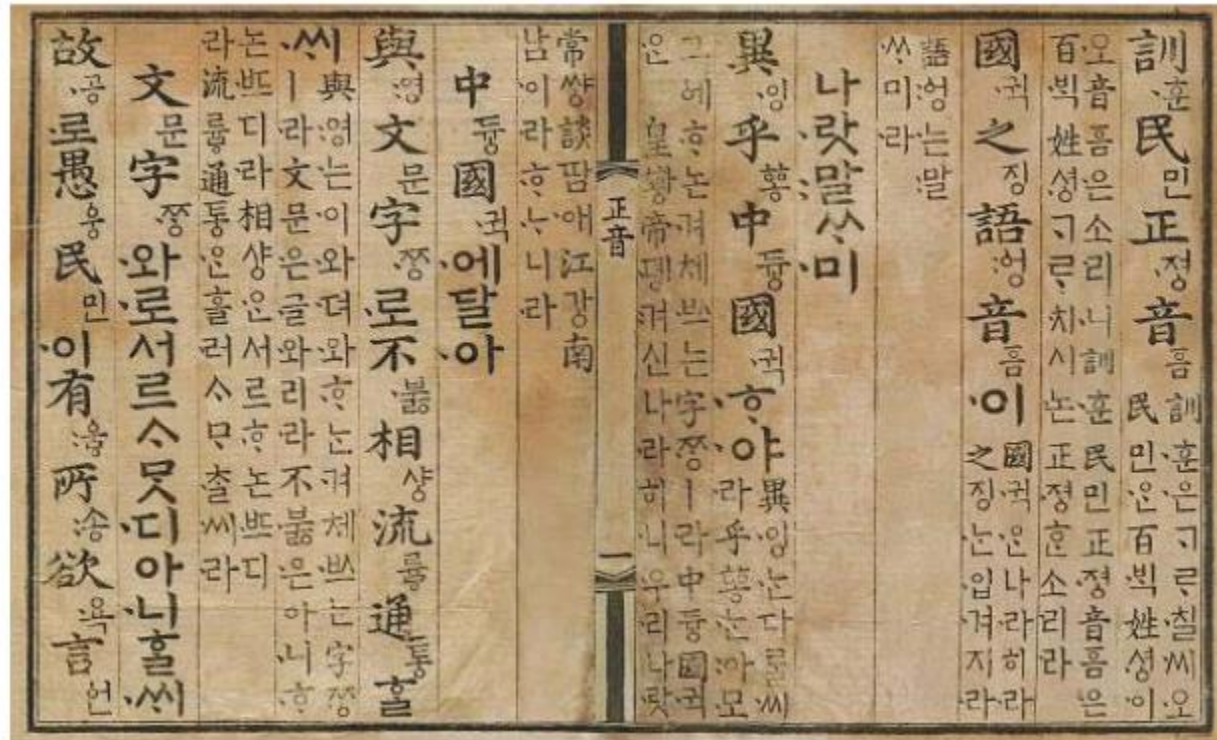


*South Korea's Latest Export:
Its Alphabet*

An Indonesian tribe called
Cia-Cia adopted *Hangeul*
as their writing system.



훈민정음 *Hunminjeongeum*



훈민정음 (*Hunminjeongeum*) is the specific name of 한글 invented in 1443. It means 'the correct sounds to educate the people', and 'sound' means 'a letter' or 'a writing', that is, the Korean alphabet, 한글.



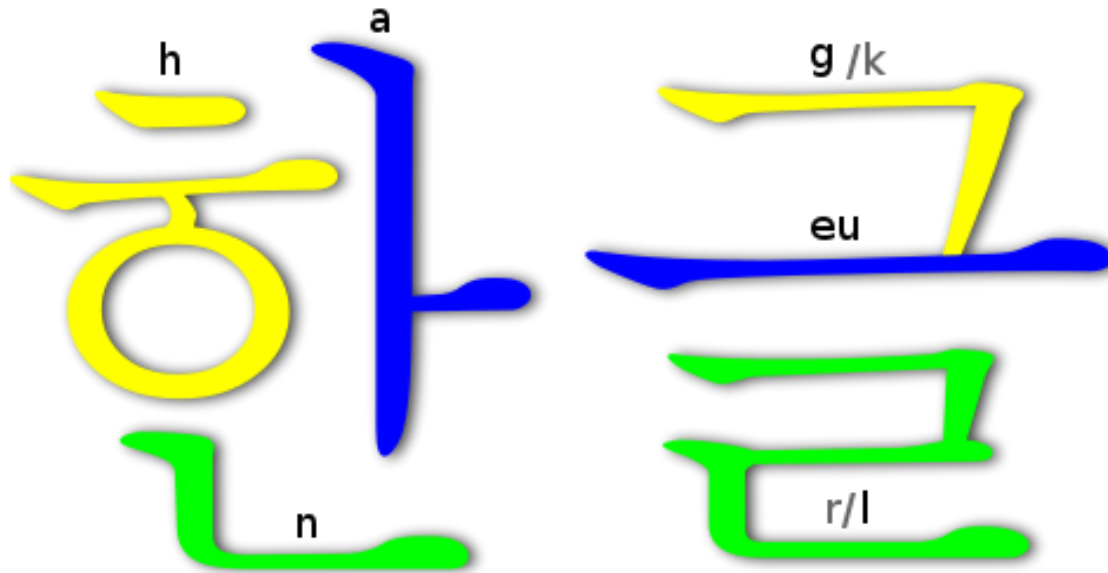
집현전 *Jibhyeonjeon*



집현전 (the Academy of Worthies, or the Hall of Worthies) was an academic research institute established at the beginning of the *Joseon* Dynasty. The achievements accomplished here included various academic researches, compiling works, and book publishing. **훈민정음** was also developed at **집현전**.



한글 *Hangeul*



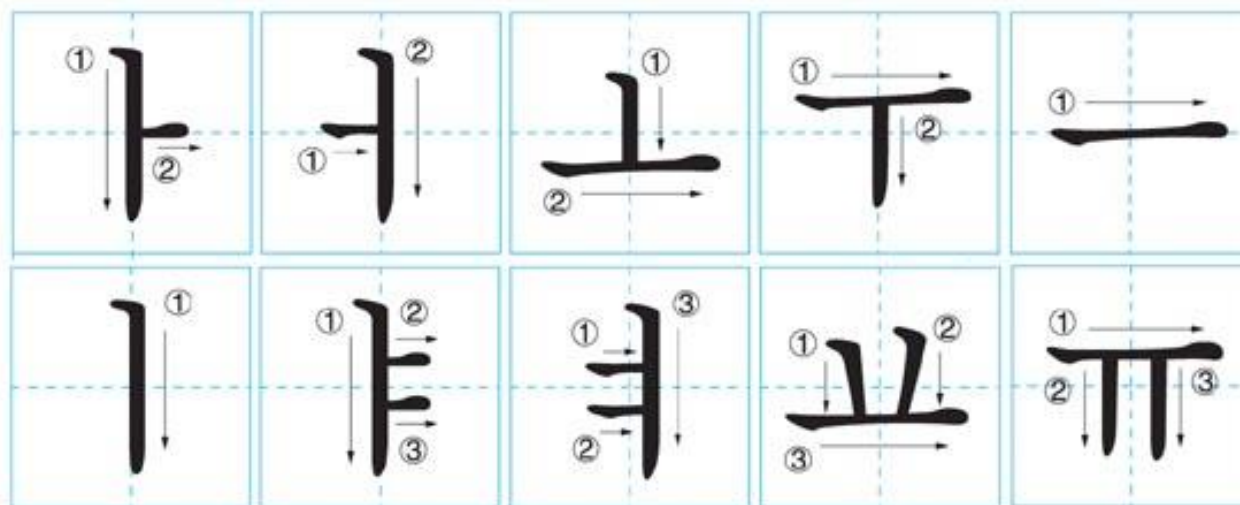
As shown above, the consonant sound *h* is represented by the Hangeul letter ㅎ, the vowel sound by the letter ㅏ, and the consonant sound *n* by the letter ㄴ. The three letters ㅎ, ㅏ, and ㄴ are combined as the syllable block 한 to be pronounced *han*. Remember that a syllable must contain one and only one vowel.



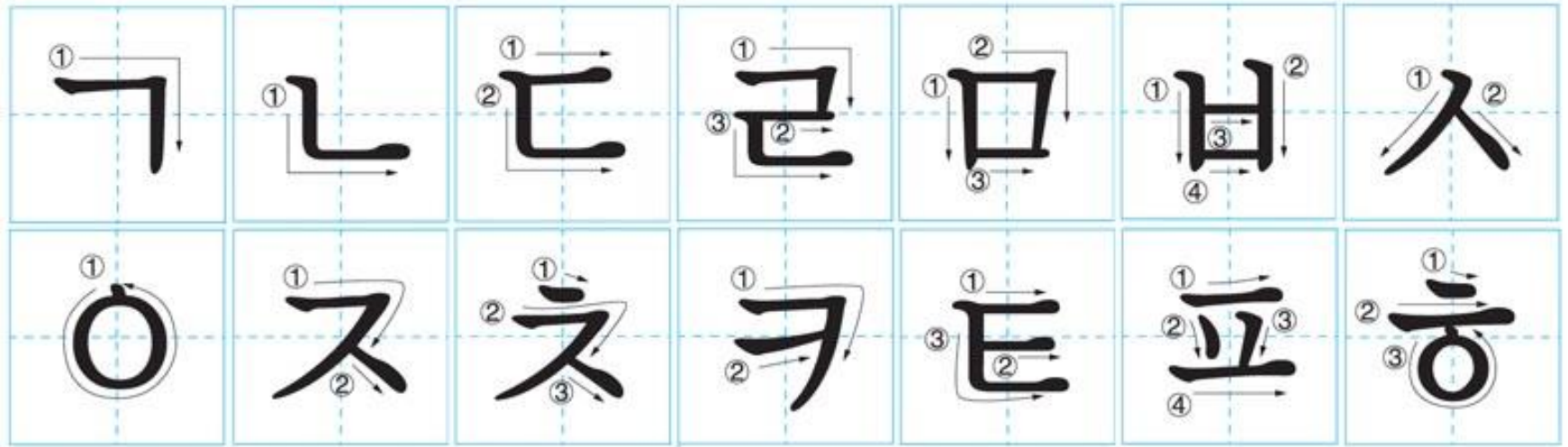
Stroke order

Three basic rules of stroke order:

1. Left to right
2. Top to bottom
3. Counterclockwise



Stroke order



Let's write!

저는 한국어를 공부해요.



대답해 보세요. (Answer following questions)

1. Who created the Korean alphabet, Hangeul?
2. Where was it developed?
3. What was the main purpose of this invention?
4. What is *Hunmin jeongeum*?

