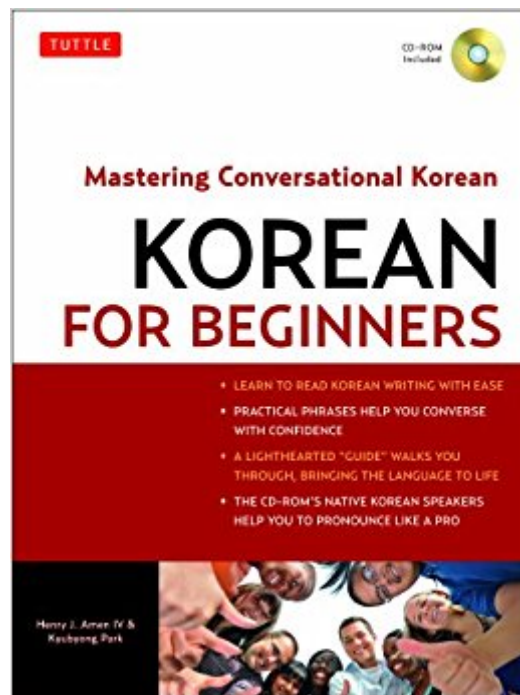




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# Korean For Beginners: Mastering Conversational Korean (CD-ROM Included)



## Synopsis

Have you ever considered learning Korean, but been put off by the unusual look of the characters? Don't let yourself be scared away! Korean has been called "the most logical language there is," and with this friendly and thorough introduction you will soon see why. The best way to learn Koreanâthis book uses a lighthearted, humorous approach. Korean for Beginners starts by showing you just how reasoned and logical the Korean alphabet, hangeul, actually is, and helps you master it faster than you learned the English alphabet. Realistic situations you might encounter in Korea in Korean-speaking environments are described, and new words are explained in terms of how you'll find them useful to communicate. Numerous illustrations enliven the text, and a CD-ROM bound into the jacket lets you listen and repeat phrases in the book. Soon you'll be able to say with pride, "I know Korean!" Features of Korean for Beginners are: Learn to read Korean writing with ease. Practical phrases help you converse with confidence. A lighthearted "guide" walks you through, bringing the language to life. The CDâROM's native Korean speakers help you to speak Korean like a pro. As the more than 1 million Americans who speak Korean can attest, the Korean language is here to stay, and generations of young (and older) adults are determined to learn it. This book is for people who want a grasp of how to speak, write and understand Koreanâand who want to enjoy things while they're at it!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"With its tricky pronunciation, complex grammar and elaborate honorific forms, the Korean language

can present a daunting prospect. This was the first book I used. it is a nice option if you prefer a gentle introduction to Korean. It's also entertaining with plenty of cultural information packed it."

â "Perapera Language Tools blog" This was such a delightful book! I'd like to note that this book truly IS for beginners wanting to learn the language without having to take a class. the way Park Kyubyong Songsaengnim (with the help of Henry J. Amen IV) has set up the book works quite well with learning to read + write Hangul and the included cd-rom helps with pronunciation. I appreciate at how casually it's written as well, allowing you to take a breather at the more challenging parts while still hammering home all the needed details â | if you're interested in learning the language, I definitely recommend that you start with this book."

â "Goodreads" So far, as explanations of Korean grammar go, this was the best resource I've come across. It explains complex grammar in ways that make them easy to understand and replicate in other contexts."

â "Eurolinguiste blog

Henry J. Amen, IV, is a freelance editor and writer of language learning materials; he studied Korean while working for a publishing company in Seoul for two years. Kyubyong Park works at a Korean publishing company that creates practice books for Koreans learning English.

The title of this book is greatly misleading. It is in fact a detailed Korean grammar. It is for beginners only in the sense that no previous knowledge of Korean is assumed, but I doubt that any beginner can learn Korean from this book. For instance, all possible verbal endings are listed in an early chapter instead of being introduced gradually and accompanied by appropriate texts. This is not how to learn a language. The book is conversational only because it deals with the language as it is spoken, but you will not be able to converse in Korean after studying it. Not a single dialog is in it.

This book is really great. It seems as though whenever I had questions about why something is done a certain way this book clears it up for me. However, I wouldn't use this book by itself. I use:-The Korean Wiki Project (For learning Hangul)-Korean for Beginners (For great explanations and making the language feel less intimidating)-Talk to Me in Korean's free podcast lessons (Great for being able to hear the words to make sure you are learning Hangul correctly)-Talk to Me in Korean's books (Goes perfectly with the podcasts so you can read what they are saying to once again help you with hangul)-Korean Dramas from DramaFever (listening to 16 hours of nonstop korean [with english subs] almost makes me feel as though I'm in Korea)-Korean Music (I listen to it all day) If you are unfamiliar with any of these just quickly search for them as they should pop right up. Keep practicing! It gets easier.

Great informative book, the chapters are easy and quick to read. My real problem is the CD-ROM that comes with it. No matter what browser or operating system I run it on it never plays the videos. I've tried everything but I can never get the videos to play.

I am 20% of the way through this book. I learn poorly from books, so I am critical of anything that makes them more difficult to understand than necessary (I critique user-interfaces). This book, however, is easy to learn from. In fact, it is astonishingly good at it. The book is concise and the chapters are short, so the material is dense. Every time I reread a chapter I learn something new, and I like that--much less hunting around for info than usual. However it needs a little more to be perfect. :) So far, the CD is a bunch of clips that let you hear what spoken Korean sounds like, but it isn't a teaching tool in any other respect. What is really needed is exercises, not just the kind that see if you understand what was taught, but the kind that drill you enough that you will remember what was taught. If that was in a workbook, I would be happy as pie! If the software drilled the information, that would be even better. At this level of the language, there isn't really a way to remember the material except drilling. i.e., I can't go have a conversation to practice. I find that after rereading a small section of material several times over several days, that I still don't remember it. I am after all, learning something new every time I look down at the book. It's too much to remember without practice.

I'm giving it 4 stars because it truly does take you into matters of starting a conversation with another person or rather in Korean. It truly does teach you from common words to then making you use conversational words, along with being able to pronounce the words. The CD that comes along with it teaches a person to pronounce and see how each alphabet is pronounced. Since I'm from south asia, the pronunciation is really easy and have no difficulty in it, but for those who don't know, the video in the CD shows how your mouth and sound should be. To make things challenging, after a few chapters, it makes you depend less on the english translation or how to pronounce it, and rather makes you remember what it was. Its a nice way to remember things and it helps. But not only does it teach you conversational korean, but also gives you an understanding of the korean culture. Its quite an interesting read. Now comes the part which is why I didn't give it a full 5 star. Its because it doesn't teach you the alphabets of the korean language nor does it teach you to write the language except to pronounce and write the common words used and how to speak it. Its fine if you don't plan on learning the whole language and just want to say a few things, but for someone like me, I want to

learn a whole new language and for that I want to begin by learning all the alphabets just like how all of us started when we learned English. For me the ideology is to learn to read and write comes first, and then being able to speak in the Korean way comes second. Culture learning can be done after one learns the language first. For that I found out that there is a second book which does that all along with a workbook that gives you exercises to work with. For those wanting to learn a whole new language, you are better off getting the second workbook first and then moving on to this one after grasping the alphabets and writing the language.

I bought this about two days ago. I ordered a rush on it and received it the next day, well packaged. I read the first 2 or so chapters... I already learn how to read Korean like the pronunciation of each syllables and how each character should be read all in one day. Now, I learn pretty fast. So, it all depends on everyone's speed of learning. This book breaks it all down very well and it's easy to follow. It comes with a CD rom to help with pronunciations. It's also very an entertaining read and definitely not a boring textbook. I do recommend everyone who wants to learn the Korean language basics to buy this book.

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