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How To Learn Hangul by Linguajunkie

You should be spending less time drilling Hangul (grammar, rules, etc, etc.) and actually putting it to use. If you're spending more than a week on an Alphabet, either you're preferring learning nice and slow (which is totally ok) or you're wasting your time.

The basics of Hangul can be done & memorized in under an hour.

Forget the combinations for now, we're mastering the characters.

What you need right now is a sheet of all the characters.

	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㆁ	ㅍ	ㅎ
ㅏ a	가 ga	나 na	다 da	라 ra	마 ma	바 ba	사 sa	아 a	자 ja	차 cha	카 ka	타 ta	파 pa	하 ha
ㅑ ya	가 gya	나 nya	다 dya	라 rya	마 mya	바 bya	사 sya	야 ya	자 jya	차 chya	카 kya	타 tya	파 pya	하 hya
ㅓ eo	거 geo	너 neo	더 deo	러 reo	머 meo	버 beo	서 seo	어 eo	저 jeo	처 cheo	커 keo	터 teo	퍼 peo	허 heo
ㅕ yeo	겨 gyeo	녀 nyeo	더 dyeo	려 ryeo	머 myeo	버 byeo	서 syeo	여 yeo	저 jyeo	처 chyeo	커 kyeo	터 tyeo	퍼 pyeo	허 hyeo
ㅗ o	고 go	노 no	도 do	로 ro	모 mo	보 bo	소 so	오 o	조 jo	초 cho	코 ko	토 to	포 po	호 ho
ㅛ yo	교 gyo	뇨 nyo	도 dyo	료 ryo	묘 myo	뇨 byo	쇼 syo	요 yo	조 jyo	초 chyo	쿄 kyo	토 tyo	포 pyo	호 hyo
ㅜ u	구 gu	누 nu	두 du	루 ru	무 mu	부 bu	수 su	우 u	주 ju	추 chu	쿠 ku	투 tu	푸 pu	후 hu
ㅠ yu	gyu	nyu	dyu	ryu	myu	byu	syu	yu	jyu	chyu	kyu	tyu	pyu	hyu
ㅡ eu	게 geu	네 neu	데 deu	레 reu	메 meu	베 beu	세 seu	에 eu	जे jeu	체 cheu	케 keu	테 teu	페 peu	헤 heu
ㅣ i	기 gi	니 ni	디 di	리 ri	미 mi	비 bi	시 si	이 i	지 ji	치 chi	키 ki	티 ti	피 pi	히 hi
ㅞ eo	개 gae	내 nae	대 dae	래 rae	매 mae	배 bae	새 sae	애 ae	재 jae	채 chae	캐 kae	태 tae	패 pae	해 hae

Consonants: 14 of them total; let's start with them first.

Notice the chart provides you with the romanization.

Step 1: Break down & Memorize the 14 consonants into 4 groups.

For simplicity's sake, I did 4 (4, 4, 4, 2).

That breaks them down to #1 (g,n,d,r) #2 (m,b,s, o) #3(j, ch, k, t) #4 (p,h).

Memorize these 4 groups of letters first.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
ㄱ g	ㅁ m	ㅈ j	ㅍ p
ㄴ n	ㅂ b	ㅊ ch	ㅎ h
ㄷ d	ㅅ s	ㅋ k	
ㄹ r	ㅇ o	ㅌ t	

Step 2: Write them out. Spend say 10 minutes writing all symbols out 'til you're comfortable.

Step 3: Association: Done memorizing? You sure? Lets match up the romanized characters to the Korean ones. This is going to require creativity on your part. You're going to take each character and associate them with something you already know. Here's how I remember them:

1. ㄱ looks like the Russian letter G in reverse which makes it easy for me. In your case, you can try imagining the ㄱ as a gun, (also starts with G) or that horizontal line within the actual letter G.
2. ㄴ would look like an "n" if you took the curvy part of the "n" and flattened it down.
3. ㄷ This is easy. It's the letter "D" but looks like a C. So when I see it, I think "C is D."
4. ㄹ Also easy. It's the letter "R" but looks like a backwards S. Same as C is D, R is S. Can you think of anything else you can connect ㄹ with the letter "R"? Go with the first thing you think of.
5. Do the same for the others.

Step 4: Connect The Two. You've memorized the 4 consonant groups.

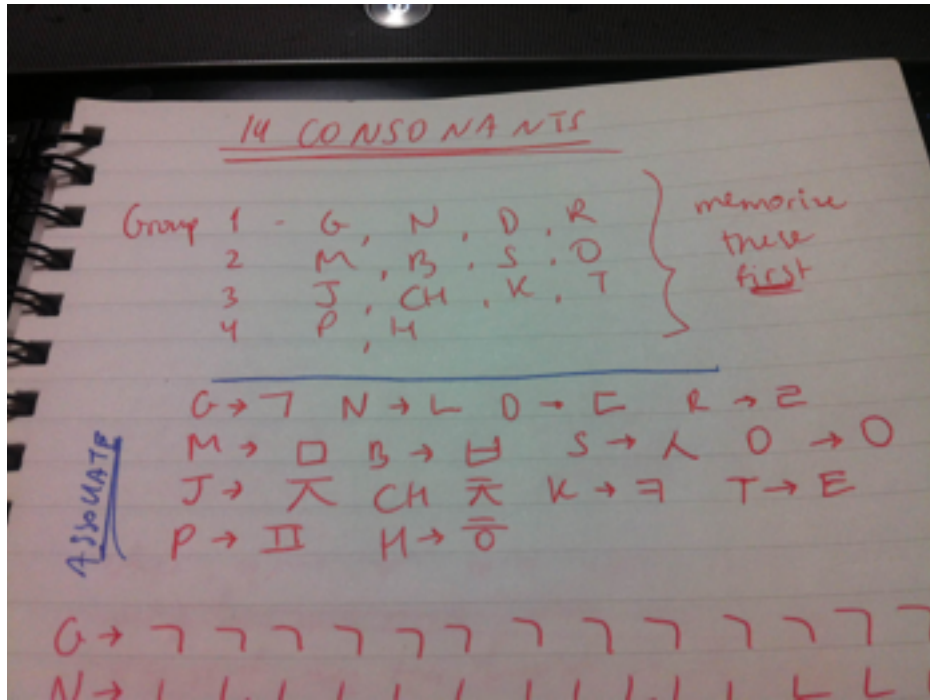
(G N D R),

(M B S O)

(J CH K T)

(P H).

Now write them out in Korean several times 'til you're done.



Now, onto the vowels!

Step 1: The Vowel Breakdown. Do the same exact thing. I break them down into #1(a, ya) #2 (eo, yeo) #3 (o, yo) #4 (u, yu) and #5 (eu i, ae) and memorize just the roman letter groups.

Note: I broke 'em down into 5 groups. Notice how the characters in #1 are similar – (7 ƒ) Same thing for #2 (ƒ 7), #3 (7 ƒ), #4 (7 ƒ), #5 (—, |, ƒ)?.

So.. there's a VERY EASY pattern to memorize groups 1 to #4.

Remembering group 5 is easy now as it's just 3 characters.

But more on this later. For now, remember the groups.

Step 2: Write them out.

Step 3: Association: Remember the pattern mentioned above? All it really is, is adding an extra line or flipping the character. If you can remember this sequence, you'll be okay.

Memorize this pattern... from #1 to #4 Right, Left, Up, Down.

Don't get it? Just look at #1 7 ƒ ... the characters are facing right.

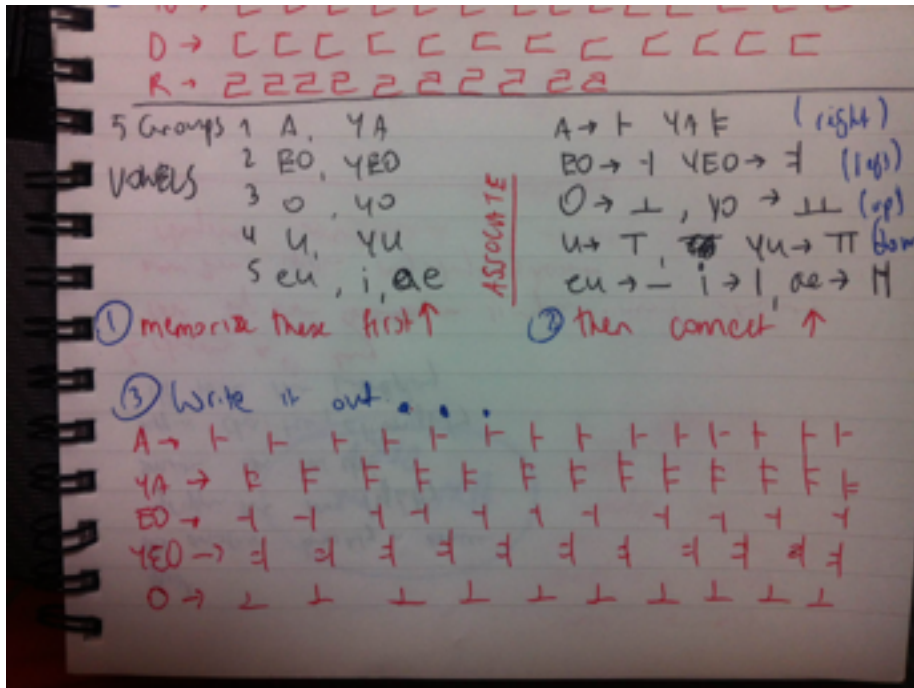
In #2 ƒ 7 – they're facing left.

In 3, 7 ƒ, they're up and in 4, 7 ƒ, they're down.

Right 7 ƒ Left ƒ 7 Up 7 ƒ Down 7 ƒ

And #5... — | H

Step 4: Connect The Two: Once you've gotten used to the pattern or came up with other associations, just write out the Korean characters based on the groups. #1 (a, ya) #2 (eo, yeo) #3 (o, yo) #4 (u, yu) and #5 (eu i, ae).



And that's it.

Memorizing this takes less than an hour. No need to spend days or weeks.

However... easy come and easy go. You can learn this fast, but you can forget it even faster. Now, your next step is to jump into reading. You need to put it to use in order to memorize or remember Hangul well.

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