

Self-placement guidelines for Korean

The guidelines below are intended to help you assess your language proficiency levels in Korean so that you can register yourself in an appropriate Korean class before taking a placement test. All students with prior background in Korean still need to take the official placement test; for the placement test schedule and to sign up, see the Department of Asian Studies website: <http://asianstudies.unc.edu/placement>.

The statements below describe language proficiency skills in Korean. Please register in the course that best matches your proficiency level. If you have no prior knowledge in Korean, you are exempt from taking the Korean placement test. However, if you have some limited knowledge in Korean language, you need to take a placement test.

KOR 101

- I do not have any knowledge of Korean language.
- I can understand and use very basic Korean words or phrases (e.g. hello, how are you?), but can't read or write Korean at all.
- I know Korean alphabets, but I have great difficulty formulating words or reading Korean words on my own.

KOR 102

- I can read or write Korean words with some difficulty, but I don't have much understanding of what I am reading or writing.
- I can count up to 100s and write the numbers in Korean with some spelling mistakes.
- I can briefly introduce myself in Korean using my age, year in college, country of birth, hobbies, etc.
- I know how to say and write days of the week, months, years, and time in Korean.
- I can use and write simple sentences using past and present tense (e.g. 어제 친구를 만났어요. 저는 토요일마다 친구를 만나요)
- I can describe location of things using locative markers such as on, in, behind, top/above, under/below, front, etc.
- I know names of at least 10 body parts such as head, eyes, nose, ears, arms, legs, etc.

KOR 203

- I can read Korean without much difficulty and understand simple sentences related to personal and family information, immediate and concrete environment, body parts, weather, dates and times, etc.
- I can formulate simple sentences or paragraphs on my own using past, present, and future tenses.

- Although I may have some difficulty recalling a couple of words or phrases, I think I can understand and fairly successfully carry on simple conversations on the topics below.
 - Talk about ability/ capability (examples: 내일 같이 영화보러 갈 수 있어요, 피아노를 칠 줄 알아요.)
 - Making suggestions (examples: 이 옷을 입어 보세요. 그 식당에 가 보세요. 술을 많이 마시지 마세요, 이번 주말에 같이 운동할까요?)
 - Describing daily activities and hobbies (examples: 저는 매일 아침 6시에 일어나서 아침식사를 한 다음에 학교에 가요. 수업이 끝난 다음에 친구들과 농구를 해요.)
 - Provide reasons (examples: 어제는 아파서 학교에 못 갔어요. 숙제가 너무 많아서 친구와 같이 못 놀아요. 날씨가 좋아서 공원에 갔어요.)
 - Requesting or demanding (examples: 문을 좀 닫아 주세요. 물을 좀 갖다 주세요.)
 - Comparing/Contrasting (examples: 채플힐에서는 덜함보다 랄리가 더 멀어요. 비행기가 기차보다 더 빨라요. 제가 제일 좋아하는 음식은 불고기예요.)

KOR 204

- With the help of a dictionary, I am able to understand the main idea of a children's story or Korean folk tale that I am reading
- I can write a 1-page short essay on a specific topic such as self-introduction, description of my family and friends, and my favorite things or hobbies.
- When I watch Korean dramas or listen to slow-tempo Korean songs, I can grasp the main storyline or meaning of the song, but I have difficulty understanding details of the contents.
- Although I may have some difficulty recalling a couple of words or phrases, I think I can understand and successfully carry on uncomplicated conversations on the topics below.
 - I can describe events or activities in detail
 - I can provide fairly good directions to a stranger if asked
 - I can ask and give permission
 - I know names of colors and clothing items, and can describe a person based on their physical characteristics, appearance, or outfits
 - I can give and follow cooking directions and provide simple recipes
 - I can describe food by its taste

ADVANCED KOREAN: Students who belong to this category are strongly encouraged to register in KOR 305. Students who wish to start Korean class from KOR 306 are required to communicate with the instructor before registration.

- Although I occasionally need the help of a dictionary, I have a fairly good understanding of storyline and main points when I read children's books or folktales.

- I can grasp the main idea of a news or magazine article, but I may need to use a dictionary extensively.
- I can write a short report of 2-3 pages about a topic, but I may need to use a dictionary extensively or need help formulating complicated sentences.
- When I watch Korean dramas or listen to pop songs, I can understand the main content without much difficulty and understand many details of the content.
- When I watch Korean TV news, I can understand the main idea and some of the details.
- I think I can deal fairly well with most situations likely to happen when I travel to Korea (i.e. ordering food, using transportation, shopping, asking for directions or locations, making appointments, etc.)