UNIT 03

How Korean Syllable Blocks Work

Goal: know the two block patterns (tall vowel → right, flat vowel → below), the silent ㅇ rule, and read a block as consonant first, vowel second.

Remember the whole unit in two lines:

Tall vowel. Goes on the right. 가 Flat vowel. Goes below. 고

Read the consonant first, then the vowel. One block = one syllable.

Exercise 1 · Tall or flat?

Tall (vertical) vowels stand up and down. Flat (horizontal) vowels lie sideways. Write **T** (tall) or **F** (flat) under each vowel.

ㅗ	ㅏ	ㅜ	ㅓ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅛ	ㅑ	ㅠ	ㅕ

Exercise 2 · Tall or flat? Say the position, then build the block

Write **right** or **below**, then write the block.

ㅅ + ㅏ = _____ position: _____

ㅈ + ㅜ = _____ position: _____

ㅁ + ㅣ = _____ position: _____

ㅎ + ㅗ = _____ position: _____

ㄴ + ㅓ = _____ position: _____

ㄷ + ㅡ = _____ position: _____

Exercise 3 · Same consonant, six vowels

The first row is done for you. Fill in the empty cells to finish the table (tall vowels ㅏ ㅓ ㅣ go on the right, flat vowels ㅗ ㅜ ㅡ go below).

	ㅏ	ㅓ	ㅗ	ㅜ	ㅡ	ㅣ
ㄱ	가	거	고	구	그	기
ㄴ						
ㄷ						
ㅁ						

Exercise 4 · Silent ㅇ

When a syllable starts with a vowel sound, silent ㅇ fills the first space. Build the block and write whether the vowel goes **right** or **below**.

ㅇ + ㅏ = _____ _____ ㅇ + ㅓ = _____ _____

ㅇ + ㅗ = _____ _____ ㅇ + ㅜ = _____ _____

ㅇ + ㅡ = _____ _____ ㅇ + ㅣ = _____ _____

ㅇ + ㅑ = _____ _____ ㅇ + ㅕ = _____ _____

ㅇ + ㅛ = _____ _____ ㅇ + ㅠ = _____ _____

Exercise 5 · Decode these blocks into letters

Write the consonant + the vowel for each block.

서 _____ 두 _____ 그 _____

지 _____ 사 _____ 호 _____

Exercise 6 · Which pattern?

Write **R** if the vowel is on the right, or **B** if it is below the consonant.

가	고	거	구	기	그	너	노	미	모

Exercise 7 · Build more blocks

A few extra blocks from the reading grids. Build each one.

ㅎ + ㅓ = _____ ㅈ + ㅓ = _____

ㅎ + ㅜ = _____ ㅈ + ㅡ = _____

ㅅ + ㅡ = _____ ㅁ + ㅡ = _____

Exercise 8 · Reading grids (no romanization!)

Tall vowels (vowel on the right), then flat vowels (vowel below). Read each row out loud.

Row 1	가 나 다 마 사 자 하	□□
Row 2	거 너 더 머 서 저 허	□□
Row 3	기 니 디 미 시 지 히	□□
Row 4	고 노 도 모 소 조 호	□□
Row 5	구 누 두 무 수 주 후	□□
Row 6	그 느 드 므 스 즈 흐	□□

Exercise 9 · Sneak peek: the third letter

Some blocks have a third letter at the bottom. You don't have to learn it yet (Unit 06). Just look:

ㅎ + ㅏ + ㄴ = 한 ㄱ + ㅡ + ㄹ = 글

한글

Hangul, the name of the writing system you are learning!

Exercise 10 · Quick quiz

1. Which vowel goes on the **right** side of the consonant?

A ㅏ **B** ㅗ **C** ㅜ

2. Which block is made of ㅁ + ㅗ?

A 마 **B** 모 **C** 미

3. Where does the vowel ㅜ go?

A to the right **B** to the left **C** below the consonant

4. What do we do with ㅇ at the beginning of a syllable?

A it is silent **B** say “o” **C** say “a”

5. Which block has a **tall** vowel?

A 고 **B** 기 **C** 구

Unit 03 Master Check

- ☐ I know a Korean block is letters grouped in one square, and one block is one syllable
- ☐ Tall vowel (ㅏ ㅓ ㅣ …) → goes on the right
- ☐ Flat vowel (ㅗ ㅜ ㅡ …) → goes below
- ☐ I can say what 고 (ㄱ + ㅗ) and 너 (ㄴ + ㅓ) are made of
- ☐ I know ㅇ is silent at the start of a syllable and just holds the place
- ☐ I read a block consonant first, vowel second
- ☐ I can read 가, 고, 아, 미, 두 without romanization

Answer Key

Check your work. Then read every answer out loud once more.

Exercise 1

ㅗF · ㅏT · ㅜF · ㅓT · ㅡF · ㅣT · ㅛF · ㅑT · ㅠF · ㅕT

Exercise 2

ㅅ+ㅏ = 사 (right) · ㅈ+ㅜ = 주 (below) · ㅁ+ㅣ = 미 (right) · ㅎ+ㅗ = 호 (below) · ㄴ+ㅓ = 너 (right) · ㄷ+ㅡ = 드 (below)

Exercise 3

ㄱ : 가 거 고 구 그 기
ㄴ : 나 너 노 누 느 니
ㄷ : 다 더 도 두 드 디
ㅁ : 마 머 모 무 므 미

Exercise 4

ㅇ+ㅏ=아 (right) · ㅇ+ㅓ=어 (right) · ㅇ+ㅗ=오 (below) · ㅇ+ㅜ=우 (below) · ㅇ+ㅡ=으 (below) · ㅇ+ㅣ=이 (right) · ㅇ+ㅑ=야 (right) · ㅇ+ㅕ=여 (right) · ㅇ+ㅛ=요 (below) · ㅇ+ㅠ=유 (below)

Exercise 5

서 = ㅅ + ㅓ · 두 = ㄷ + ㅜ · 그 = ㄱ + ㅡ · 지 = ㅈ + ㅣ · 사 = ㅅ + ㅏ · 호 = ㅎ + ㅗ

Exercise 6

가 R · 고 B · 거 R · 구 B · 기 R · 그 B · 너 R · 노 B · 미 R · 모 B

Exercise 7

ㅎ+ㅓ=허 · ㅈ+ㅓ=저 · ㅎ+ㅜ=후 · ㅈ+ㅡ=즈 · ㅅ+ㅡ=스 · ㅁ+ㅡ=므

Exercise 10

1. A (ㅏ is tall) · 2. B (모, ㅗ is flat so it goes below) · 3. C (below) · 4. A (silent) · 5. B (기, ㅣ is tall)

> Some answers depend on your own pronunciation. Compare your voice with the native-speaker audio in the video.