



## Korean Ladder Study Note

# ㅎㅇ / 뷁뷔 / ㄱㅅ

## Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations

Level	Topic	Focus
A2 · Elementary TOPIK 2	Colloquial Texting	ㅎㅇ / 뷁뷔 / ㄱㅅ Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations

## Study Links

[Open this lesson on Korean Ladder](https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-TXT-001)

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-TXT-001>

[Watch the full video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fLjD91qgqI)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fLjD91qgqI>

[Visit Korean Ladder for all free lessons](https://www.koreanladder.com)

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## Core Idea

Okay, real story. My Korean friend texts me three letters: ㅎㅇ. No vowels. Just ㅎㅇ. I thought my phone was broken.

Same! I kept seeing ㄱㅅ and 뷁뷔 at the end of messages and just smiled and nodded. What ARE these?

좋은 질문이에요. These are not broken — they're shortcuts. Koreans drop the vowels and text only the first consonants. Today you'll read three: hi, bye, thanks.

Here is the idea. Take a normal Korean word, keep only the first consonant of each syllable, and throw the vowels away. That's a chat abbreviation — 초성체.

## Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	ㅎㅇ 잘 지냈어? —	Hi, how have you been?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	ㅎㅇ 응, 잘 지냈어. 오랜만이야. —	Hi, yeah, I've been good. Long time.
Junho	내가 책 보내줄게. —	I'll send you the book.
Hana	ㄱㅅ ㄱㅅ. 진짜 고마워. —	Thanks thanks. Really, thank you.
Junho	나 이제 가야 해. ㅂㅂ —	I have to go now. Bye.
Hana	응, 잘 가. ㅂㅂ —	Okay, take care. Bye.

## Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㅎㅇ · ㅂㅂ · ㄱㅅ —	hi · bye · thanks	좋은 질문이에요. These are not broken — they're shortcuts. Koreans drop the vowels and text only the first consonants. Today you'll read three: hi, bye, thanks.
초성체 choseongche	'initial-consonant style' texting	Here is the idea. Take a normal Korean word, keep only the first consonant of each syllable, and throw the vowels away. That's a chat abbreviation — 초성체.
하이 → ㅎㅇ ha-i → 'hi'	'hi' becomes ㅎㅇ	Watch 하이 — that's Korean for the English 'hi.' 하 starts with 히읃, 이 starts with 이읃. Keep just those two and you get ㅎㅇ.
바이바이 → ㅂㅂ ba-i-ba-i → 'bye'	'bye bye' becomes ㅂㅂ	Same trick with 바이바이 — 'bye bye.' Each 바 starts with 비읃. People shorten it all the way down to ㅂㅂ.
감사 → ㄱㅅ gam-sa → 'thanks'	'thanks' (from 감사합니다) becomes ㄱㅅ	And the polite one: 감사합니다 means 'thank you.' The core is 감사 — 감 starts with 기읃, 사 starts with 시읃. So thanks becomes ㄱㅅ.
ㅎㅇ / ㅂㅂ / ㄱㅅ —	hi / bye / thanks	So far: ㅎㅇ is 하이, hi. ㅂㅂ is 바이바이, bye. ㄱㅅ is 감사, thanks. Three letters you'll see every single day.
ㅎㅇ read aloud as 하이 (ha-i)	Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations	But here's the part people miss — you don't say ㅎㅇ out loud as letters. When you read it aloud, you say the full word it stands for: 하이.



Word	Meaning	Example
ㅂㅂ · ㄱㅅ ㅂㅂ → 바이바이 · ㄱㅅ → 감사	Beginner Korean Chat Abbreviations	Same for the others. ㅂㅂ out loud is 바이바이. ㄱㅅ out loud is 감사. The letters are for your eyes; your mouth says the word.

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# Grammar / Structure Notes

ㅎㅇ · 바이 · ㄱ사

ㅎㅇ · 바이 · ㄱ사 — hi · bye · thanks

consonant-only chat shortcuts

## 초성체

초성체 — 'initial-consonant style' texting

keep first consonants, drop the vowels

### 하이 → ㅎㅇ

하 + 이 + → + ㅎ + ㅇ — 'hi' becomes ㅎㅇ

Watch 하이 — that's Korean for the English 'hi.' 하 starts with 히읃, 이 starts with 이읃. Keep just those two and you get ㅎㅇ.

### 바이바이 → 바이

바 + 이 + 바 + 이 + → + 바 + 바 — 'bye bye' becomes 바이

Same trick with 바이바이 — 'bye bye.' Each 바 starts with 비읃. People shorten it all the way down to 바이.

### 감사 → ㄱ사

감 + 사 + → + ㄱ + 사 — 'thanks' (from 감사합니다) becomes ㄱ사

And the polite one: 감사합니다 means 'thank you.' The core is 감사 — 감 starts with 기읃, 사 starts with 시읃. So thanks becomes ㄱ사.

# Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
하이	read aloud as 하이 (ha-i)
바이 · ㄱ사	바이 → 바이바이 · ㄱ사 → 감사
히읃 + 이읃 = ㅎㅇ	hieut + ieung
바이바이	ba-i-ba-i
감사	gam-sa
하이 / 바이바이 / 감사	하이 · 바이바이 · 감사

# Self-Check

- 1 Say ㅎㅇ / 바이 / ㄱ사 three times: slow, natural, then inside a short sentence.
- 2 Write one original sentence that was not in the video.
- 3 Rewatch the YouTube lesson and pause when the same pattern appears.



## Related / Subsequent Studies

Lesson	Why study it next	Link
ㅇㅇ / ㅋㅋ / ㅎㅎ / ㅎㅎ More Korean Chat Shorthand	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅇ / ㅋㅋ / ㅎㅎ / ㅎㅎ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-002">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-002</a>
ㅇㅋ / ㅋㅋ / ㅋㅋ Reading Korean Text and Chat Abbreviations	B1 Colloquial: compare ㅇㅋ / ㅋㅋ / ㅋㅋ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B1-COLLOQ-TXT-001</a>
ㅠㅠ / Korean Emoticons and Tone in Text	B2 Colloquial: compare ㅠㅠ / with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-B2-COLLOQ-TXT-001</a>
글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 Hedging and Agreeing Naturally	A2 Colloquial: compare 글썩요 / 그러게요 / 아무튼 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson <a href="https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001">https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A2-COLLOQ-FIL-001</a>

## My Notes

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Free Korean lessons, one rung at a time. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.