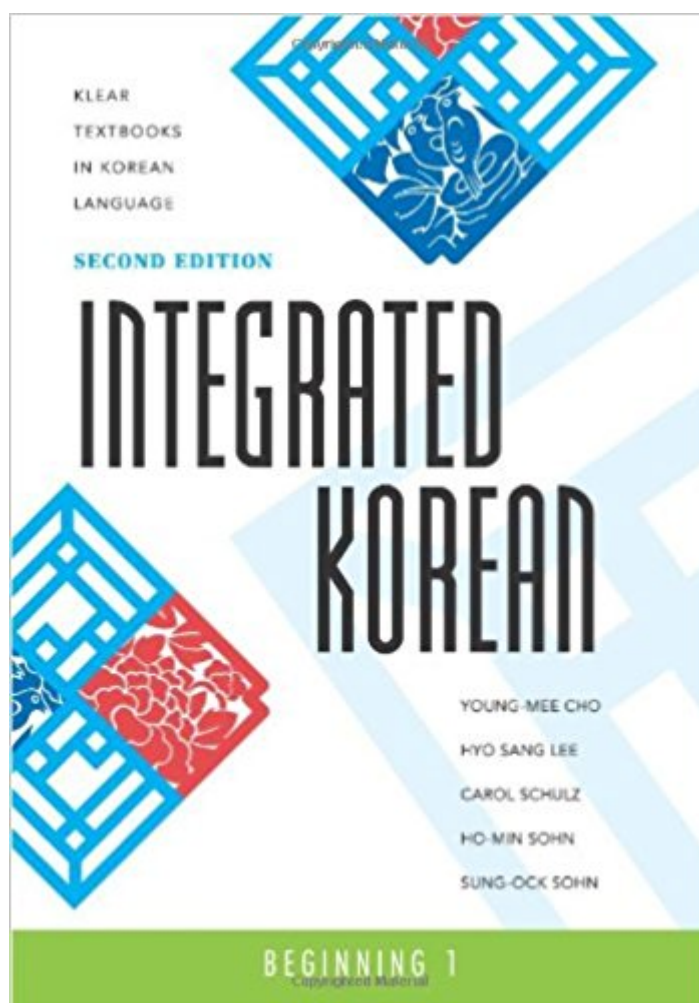


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Integrated Korean: Beginning 1, 2nd Edition (Klear Textbooks In Korean Language)



Synopsis

This is a thoroughly revised edition of Integrated Korean: Beginning 1, the first volume of the best-selling series developed collaboratively by leading classroom teachers and linguists of Korean. All series volumes have been developed in accordance with performance-based principles and methodology—contextualization, learner-centeredness, use of authentic materials, usage-orientedness, balance between skill getting and skill using, and integration of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture. Grammar points are systematically introduced in simple but adequate explanations and abundant examples and exercises. Each situation/topic-based lesson of the main texts consists of model dialogues, narration, new words and expressions, vocabulary notes, culture, grammar, usage, and English translation of dialogues. In response to comments from hundreds of students and instructors of the first edition, this new edition features a more attractive two-color design with all new photos and drawings and an additional lesson and vocabulary exercises. Lessons are now organized into two main sections, each containing a conversational text (with its own vocabulary list) and a reading passage. The accompanying workbook, newly written, provides students with extensive skill-using activities based on the skills learned in the main text. Audio files for this volume may be downloaded on the web in MP3 format at <http://www.kleartextbook.com>. A set of CDs is also available for purchase.

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Customer Reviews

The accompanying set of 7 audio CDs are available from UH Press for \$195. Individual audio files

for this volume are also accessible on the web at hawaii.edu/uhipress/realaudio/klear/beg1/ --This text refers to the Unknown Binding edition.

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I'm not criticizing the book, I think it's well made. However, this book is intended for Beginning Korean learners. I disagree with that. This book seems like it's for those who already have a background in Korean. Being a Korean American, I found this book to be easy, just a lot of work. But for my boyfriend who's American and has NO background in Korean, this was very fast and challenging. I really think this isn't fair for non-Korean speakers. I was shocked they were using this for Beginner's Korean. I took 2 years of Spanish and even then the Spanish workbooks and textbooks weren't this hard.

My university switched out their old books for these and I think everyone is quite happy. Some of the nouns/vocab are Hawaii-specific but otherwise, very good. This book is used for both regular introductory class, and the heritage class. I'm in the heritage class because I have some background of Korean from my family. It helped me understand the linguistic concepts I always used but never formally knew. The book made sense and it has lots of good references within it. I didn't have very high expectations for language books because my high school had terrible Spanish books. But this book made learning enjoyable. Every chapter has two conversations that utilize the grammar points and a narration doing the same. It breaks down the grammar points into subpoints as needed and has useful charts -- they're summarized in the back. The dictionary in the back of the book is great -- it's full of words that I use in my colloquial Korean. I've moved onto Beginning 2 but I still refer back to this volume to help me brush up on the basics.

Firstly, the book itself deserves 3 stars. The reason I'm giving it 1 is because the description

explicitly says the book is optimized for the Kindle app on Android. The Hangul in this book appear as squares in the Kindle app on my Android phone.

I also posted this review re: the workbook: I bought the Klear Textbooks and workbooks because they are required by my Lingual Institute. I have been told by my friends that these are in reality the best Korean textbooks written as of today, but...they leave a bit to be desired. I'm not a fan of the way the vocab is structured...Korean has words that have multiple (and often disparate) meanings, and the book chooses to break those meanings up over several chapters. To me, this is confusing...I want to know ALL the meanings at once, so I can differentiate which context delineates which meaning. Don't teach me that a word means one thing, and then 30 pages later tell me, "Oh by the way, it also means this completely unrelated word." Overall, the book isn't as clear as it could be. I think the problem is that it labels things as one concept when really they technically aren't quite that thing. I'd rather not call something an "adjective" if it's really an "adjective phrase." Don't use the English grammar names to categorize if you're not going to do it 100% accurately...it's confusing. I am ALREADY prone to trying to cram Korean concepts into the little boxes of English grammar rules, and if the book supports that tendency by using English grammar labels--but then isn't labeling things accurately--it just makes it harder. Overall, I AM learning to speak and read Korean, so the books must be working...I just think they would be more helpful if written from a different perspective.

Overall, this book is awesome. I tried another book before this, but it just overwhelmed and discouraged me. This one is systematic and logical in its approach, and I love that it has an accompanying workbook with additional written and audio exercises. However, there are two small downsides. One is that it doesn't come with an answer key. For those of us studying on our own, an answer key would be an invaluable addition. Fortunately, I have a Korean friend I can ask to check my work if I'm not sure about something, but for those with no way to check their answers, that could be a problem. Another thing that would be really great would be to make audio files available for the new vocabulary so you could hear what the words are supposed to sound like before you go sounding them out (possibly incorrectly) yourself. You do eventually hear the words in the audio exercises, but by then you've already read and written the words so many times, incorrect pronunciation is a habit you have to break. Better to just avoid it altogether. For those two issues, I took away one out of five stars. But honestly, the book and workbook have been great and I've

learned a lot from them. I definitely recommend them. Pros: Systematic and logical approach to learning, not overwhelming, uses hangeul Cons: No way to check your work, no way to hear pronunciation of vocabulary until well into the lessons EDIT 4/9/13: Audio files for the vocabulary words are available on the website now. I don't know if they were always there or if they're a new addition, but either way, well done.

I haven't really used any other Korean textbook considering this year is my first year learning Korean, but so far it is amazing. It has conversations as well as vocab for each lesson and it is suuuuper simple. It's also not that big and convenient to carry around! Definitely recommend it to anyone who is trying to learn!

Though the book is very insightful and has plenty of practice problems, I do several personal problems with the book. First of all, the book I got was dented because it was not properly protected for shipment. Also, this book is more for a classroom textbook use. I understand many Korean concepts and I bought this book to supplement my learning, but the explanations in the book were more unclear and made me more confused.

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