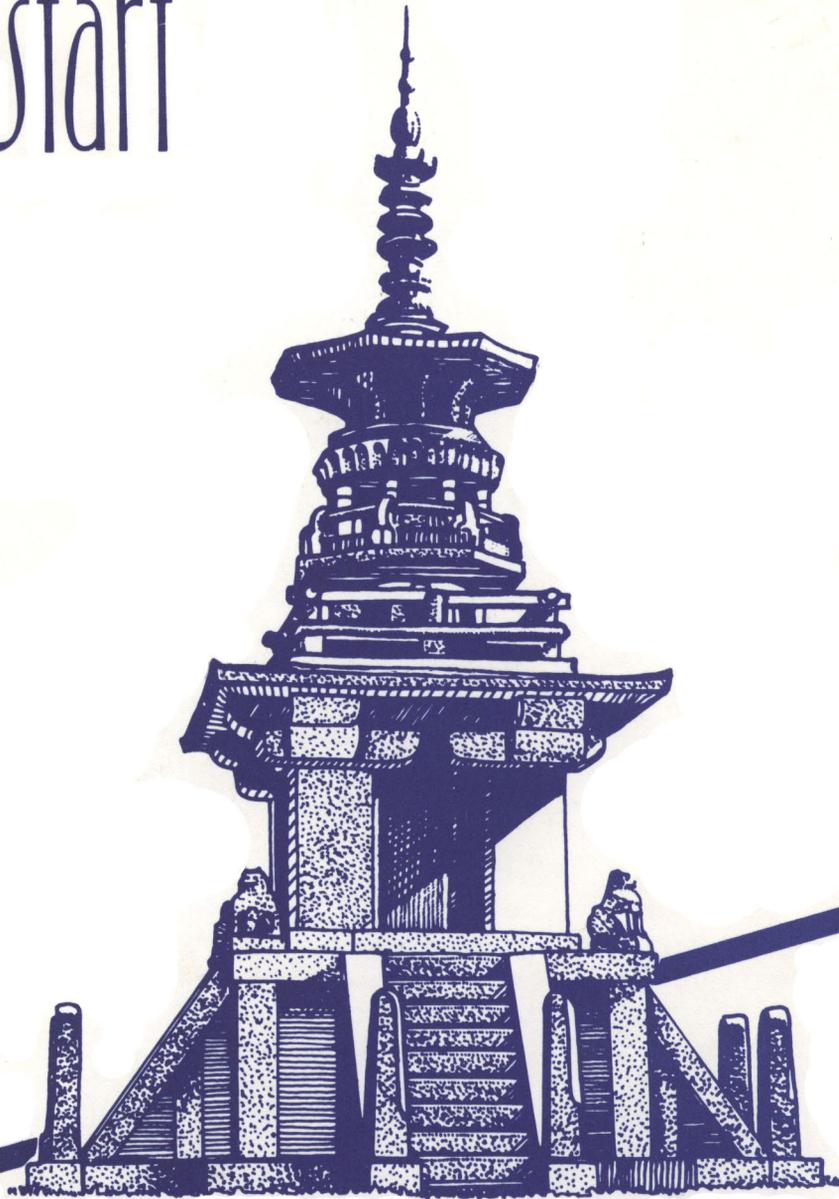


Korean headstart



CULTURAL NOTES

KOREAN
HEADSTART

Cultural Notes

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CONTENTS

UNIT 1. INTRODUCTION	1
UNIT 2. A BRIEF BACKGROUND	2
Population	2
Geography	3
Climate	3
Recent History	3
Government	4
The Korean Monetary System	5
Holidays	5
UNIT 3. KOREAN CULTURE AND VALUES	7
A People in Transition	7
Religion and Philosophy	7
Family and Obligation	8
Male/Female Relationships	8
Group and Identity	9
Respect for Seniors	10
<u>Kibun</u>	10
Punctuality and Patience	11
UNIT 4. CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE	12
Introductions and Greetings	12
Names and Titles	13
Courtesy to Seniors	15
Nonverbal Etiquette	16
Hospitality and Home Visits	18
Table Manners	19
Entertaining, Drinking, and Parties	20
UNIT 5. TRAVEL, SHOPPING, AND RECREATION	23
Where to Go: Seoul	23
Where to Go: Outside Seoul	24
How to Get There	26
Where to Stay	27
Shopping in Korea	28
Restaurants and Food	30
Coffee Shops and Tea Rooms	31
Nightlife	31
Sports and Games	32
UNIT 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	34
Off-limits Areas	34
If You Need Housing	34
Family Members: Facilities and Services	35
A Few Final Tips	35
Some Books of Interest	36
Feature Map of Seoul with Key	37

UNIT 1. INTRODUCTION

Although the Korean way of life may be very strange to Americans at first, it's not quite as confusing once you have learned some basic facts about the history, traditions and customs of the Korean people. The purpose of this book is to give you the background information you will need to get a "head start" in Korea and to feel comfortable dealing with its culture.

As you read this, remember that Korea and Koreans are changing quickly as Western ideas and technology blend with (or challenge) tradition. Remember also that not every generalization applies to every person; some Koreans are very traditional, some fairly Westernized, and most somewhere in between. But, in spite of the many changes in the society and its individuals, there are still many customs and traditions that all Koreans recognize. Knowing some of these "unspoken rules" will help you:

- a. learn Korean more easily, by relating it to the total picture of Korean life;
- b. understand the Korean people better;
- c. minimize cultural surprises and anxiety by knowing what to expect; and
- d. generally act appropriately and comfortably by accepting new rules for some situations.

This book's major sections include background information on Korea; Korean society and its values; customs and etiquette; and finally, travel and recreation hints to make your stay more enjoyable.

Even with the best preparation and intentions, you may feel confused at first by the world outside your post. That's only natural. But if you look at your new environment as something exciting and challenging, and make an effort to meet the people and to see Korea, you'll discover some new things (foods, beverages, and so on), some old things (ancient palaces and temples), and something unchanging--the natural scenic beauty of Korea.

So take it easy, take it slow; find an "old hand" to show you around or a new friend to experience it all with you. Keep your sense of humor, and you'll feel more at home in no time at all. As you read, jot down your comments; make this your book. It's yours to keep and use as your personal guide to Korea.

UNIT 2. A BRIEF BACKGROUND

The Korean peninsula lies between the People's Republic of China, to which it is attached, and Japan. It can be seen as a crossroads of the Orient--or as a target for invaders. It has been both. Look at its size. This small country has demonstrated strength of spirit, adapting to repeated domination and devastation without losing its own traditions. The word "Korea" means "high" (ko) and "clear" (ryō), reflecting the country's mountains and clear streams. An older name is Chosun, "Land of the Morning Calm," "which mirrors the country's traditional state of mind.

POPULATION

The ancestors of the Koreans are believed to have been migrants from the north (specifically, Central Asia and the Caucasus) who came to the Korean peninsula around the thirteenth century B.C. Generally, Koreans have seldom intermarried with outsiders until recently when there have been many Korean-American marriages; however, the percentage of intermarriage with other races is still very small.

In 1984, South Korea's population was estimated at slightly more than 40 million, with approximately nine million people living in Seoul, the capital city. North Korea's total population at this time was estimated at 20 million.

South Korea is said to be one of the world's most densely populated nations, averaging about 970 people per square mile. While most people traditionally lived in rural areas, growing numbers are shifting toward city living as Korea rapidly develops business and industry. Now almost half (48 percent) of the population lives in urban areas. This move to the cities has had important effects on traditional customs and attitudes.

GEOGRAPHY

Jutting south from the northeastern corner of the Asian continent, the Korean peninsula covers about 85,000 square miles. The Republic of Korea (South Korea), occupying about 45 percent of the peninsula, is roughly the size of New York State, but has twice the population.

The peninsula is bounded on the north by the Amnok and Tuman rivers (Yalu and Tumen in Chinese) and Mount Paektu. Korea shares its borders with that part of the People's Republic of China which was formerly Manchuria, and, for a short distance, with the Vladivostok area of the Soviet Union. On the south the peninsula faces Japan and on the west the People's Republic of China.

The Korean peninsula is rugged and mountainous; Mount Paektu is over 9,000 feet high. South Korea contains more level land than North Korea, especially along the western coast and in the southeastern Naktong River basin.

CLIMATE

Summers are hot and humid with the monsoon (heavy rainfall) season usually falling between late June and late August. Winters are cold with occasional snowfalls. Average January temperatures along the southern coast are above 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees centigrade). Spring and fall are clear and comfortable, as in the eastern United States.

RECENT HISTORY

Korea has had centuries of civilization, which make a fascinating story you can trace as you explore the country. For now, a few words on recent history:

In 1910, following the Russo-Japanese War, Japan annexed Korea. Despite Korean struggles for independence, this occupation lasted until 1945, the end of World War II. To facilitate the surrender of the Japanese troops in Korea to the Russian and American commands, the country was temporarily split along the 38th Parallel,

with the North under Soviet control and the South under U.S. control. Following United Nations-supervised elections in the South, the Republic of Korea was proclaimed on August 15, 1948, and recognized by the U.N. as the only lawful government of Korea.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel. This was the start of the Korean War (1950-1953) in which the joint forces of the United Nations and the Republic of Korea fought the forces of North Korea and the Chinese Communists.

When the hostilities ended, a new demarcation line was established--the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). This strip is five miles wide and 155 miles long. At its western end, the DMZ reaches south to the mouth of the Han River, about 15 miles below the 38th Parallel. The eastern end turns up to the coast near Kosong, a town 50 miles north of the 38th Parallel. Panmunjom, site of the Military Armistice Commission meetings, lies near the western end of the DMZ.

GOVERNMENT

The power of the Republic of Korea is centralized in the office of the President. The Constitution provides for a strong President, who directs the executive functions through the Prime Minister and the State Council. Legislative power rests in the National Assembly and judicial power in the Supreme Court.

North Korea is nominally a republic with power vested in a representative assembly to which a cabinet and judiciary are subordinate. However, the government is actually controlled by the Korean Workers' Party (Korean Communist party) which is headed by the General Secretary of the Party, who is also President.

THE KOREAN MONETARY SYSTEM

The basic money unit of the Republic of Korea is the won. Korean money is easy to deal with since the value of coins and bills is printed in plain Roman numerals. Today there are six coins, in one-, five-, 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-won denominations. Paper money comes in 500-, 1,000-, 5,000-, and 10,000-won bills. The exchange rate changes frequently, but usually by very small amounts. However, you will want to keep informed of these changes to get full value for your dollars. Current rates will be displayed in tourist hotels and banks, as well as in the local military banking facility. You may exchange dollars for won at any of these places. (Other money terms you may hear used by Koreans are bul for dollars, and jōn for cents.)

HOLIDAYS

In Korea, holidays may occur on fixed dates or they may change slightly from year to year. Officially, Korea follows the Western calendar, but many festival days began centuries ago and are based on the ancient Oriental lunar calendar.

The following are official holidays:

New Year's Day (<u>Shinjōng</u> or <u>Sōl</u>)	January 1
First of March (<u>Samil-jōl</u>)	March 1
Arbor Day (<u>Shikmok-il</u>)	April 5
Children's Day (<u>Ōrini-nal</u>)	May 5
Memorial Day (<u>Hyōnch'ung-il</u>)	June 6
Constitution Day (<u>Chehōn-jōl</u>)	July 17
Independence Day (<u>Kwangbok-jōl</u>)	August 15
Armed Forces Day (<u>Kukkunūi-nal</u>)	October 1
National Foundation Day (<u>Kaech'ōn-jōl</u>)	October 3
Hangul Day (<u>Hangul-nal</u>)	October 9
Christmas (<u>Sōngt'an-jōl</u>)	December 25

The following festival days are set by the lunar calendar:

Lunar New Year, or Sōl, occurs on the first day of the first month (normally late January or early February). On New Year's, families gather to observe ancestral ceremonies. Younger generations visit their elders to make formal bows and greetings. Family celebrations traditionally include eating rice-cake soup (ttōk-kuk), playing games, seesawing and flying kites.

Hanshik. Also called "Cold Food Day" or "Grave Visiting Day," this is the 105th day of the lunar calendar. Koreans take wine, fruit, and cakes to the graves of their ancestors for a ceremony and a family picnic.

Buddha's Birthday (Sawōl Ch'op'a-Il). (Eighth day of the fourth lunar month.) Known as the "Festival of Lanterns," this is the most colorful of Korean holidays. Rituals are held at Buddhist temples throughout the country, and lanterns are carried in parades through city streets. Buddha's Birthday is an official holiday.

Tano-jōl. (Fifth day of the fifth month.) Tano-jōl, along with New Year's and Ch'usōk, is one of the three big celebration days of the lunar calendar. Summer food is offered at the household's ancestral shrine. Traditionally, girls dress in their prettiest clothes and compete in swinging matches, while men compete in wrestling and play tug-of-war.

Ch'usōk. (Fifteenth day of the eighth month.) Known as Korea's Thanksgiving Day, Ch'usōk is the day of the full moon and the harvest festival. Everyone wears new clothes and visits their ancestors' graves. In the past, archery and hunting contests were held for the men and weaving contests for the women. This is also an official holiday.

UNIT 3. KOREAN CULTURE AND VALUES

A PEOPLE IN TRANSITION

Like every society, Korea's is built around certain themes that underlie its customs. This section compares Korea's social themes with our own and suggests what this means for you as an outsider or guest.

As you learn about Koreans, keep in mind that the country has been undergoing great changes in life-styles as well as in business and industry--changes that affect some Koreans more than others. This means that you will meet some Koreans who are Westernized and others who are traditional.

Koreans who live in urban areas or who have been educated abroad are, predictably, more Westernized than Koreans who have had less exposure to the West. But in cities, almost everyone wears Western clothing for convenience, keeping traditional clothing for special occasions. Therefore, Western dress does not necessarily reflect a Western outlook. You may need to talk to a Korean at length to find out how traditional he is. Even Westernized Koreans may maintain an inner core of tradition, shedding Western ideas and dress when they return home at night.

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

Koreans enjoy freedom of religion. Animism (based on the idea of spirits residing in inanimate objects and natural forces), Buddhism (based on the idea of repeated rebirths until one enters Nirvana, or final perfection) and Christianity all coexist in Korea without conflict or contradiction. Christianity in both Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations is quite influential.

Probably the strongest influence on the way Koreans have lived for the past thousand years is that of Confucianism. Confucianism is not a religion; it is an ethical code--a set of rules for proper behavior--that emphasizes order, harmony and respect for elders and seniors. This code requires obedience and loyalty from subject, son and wife to the ruler, father and husband respectively. On the other hand, the king (or leader), father and husband must each take the responsibility for the welfare of those subject to his authority.

FAMILY AND OBLIGATION

Korean society has traditionally been centered around the family, and even today the family connection is still the most important. As a result, a Korean's loyalty is first and foremost to his immediate family and then to other relatives. The stability of the family under the father's authority is vital to the key Korean virtues of order, harmony, self-control and obedience. The family system requires a strong sense of duty and obligation in its members. These obligations are deep and continuing, involving financial as well as moral support.

The family name and welfare are more important than individual wants or needs. Even today many Koreans make personal sacrifices for the good of the family. Because of this strong family loyalty, you will hear both traditional and modern Koreans use expressions like "our house" or "our mother," rather than "my house" or "my mother." The Korean home provides love, comfort, trust and, despite changing social conditions, true security.

How does this compare with American family life? Although American families come in a variety of sizes and styles, they are likely to be more flexible, more democratic, and less stable than Korean families. Also, most Americans are used to a more individualistic way of life and may be less willing to make personal sacrifices for the good of the family as a whole. Keep in mind that because of these strong ties a Korean may put his family obligations ahead of his plans with you. This is only natural to him; no offense or insult to you is intended.

MALE/FEMALE RELATIONSHIPS

Traditionally, Korean women were quite isolated and restricted. For the most part, a young woman stayed within the limits of the family compound until marriage. After marriage, she stayed within the confines of her new home, except for tasks like shopping. (Even today, one of the most common Korean expressions for wife is "inside person.") A man, however, had few if any restrictions.

Modern times have brought changes to Korea, but traditional attitudes are frequently observed as well. Most girls and boys are separated in secondary schools. Even today, wives are often excluded from their husbands' business or social lives. In the past, Korean men rarely if ever brought business acquaintances home "to meet the wife." Instead, they would usually entertain them at a coffee shop, restaurant or other public place.

Of course, there are exceptions, and these occur mostly among wealthier, urban and younger Koreans. Women in these groups are generally better educated and more likely to break away from traditional roles. As the economy continues to develop, other women are becoming more independent, seeking careers and having more influence outside the family.

In smaller villages and in the countryside, most young women remain relatively restricted and isolated. Dating as Americans know it may be almost nonexistent, although in villages near military bases certain women may be more Westernized. It is best to be very cautious and reserved when meeting a young lady for the first time, until you determine how traditional she is.

GROUP AND IDENTITY

To better understand the Korean people, you must first realize that the family and other groups are the major sources of the individual's prestige, support and sense of worth. A Korean derives his status and identity primarily from his family, where traditional roles and relationships are clearly defined and understood.

Other groups essential to one's sense of self and well-being include the work group (co-workers and colleagues) and especially the school group. Classmates form close-knit groups that give a sense of identity to their members. School friendships and loyalty to one's class often last a lifetime.

In contrast, Americans prize the self-made self-sufficient person. We measure a person by his or her accomplishments; Koreans look for success through connections with family, friends, classmates and co-workers. Instead of "spotlighting" the individual as Americans do, Koreans diffuse the light to honor the group.

RESPECT FOR SENIORS

Traditionally elders have always been honored in Korea. They are addressed courteously by those younger and are allowed many privileges due to their advanced age. In older days, a Korean was expected to retire and to be supported by his sons for his remaining years. (Normally this was the responsibility of the eldest son.) Today, retirement ages may vary according to occupation, employer or income, just as in the United States. Grandparents and other aged relatives often remain in the home, catered to and relatively pampered by other family members.

Although traditional respect for the old may be lessening slightly, due to Western influence and the change to urban living, it is still far greater than in the United States. Those Americans who observe courtesies and formalities with the elderly will be respected by the Korean people.

KIBUN

To a Korean, the word kibun includes all of our American expressions like "mood," "feelings," "frame of mind" and so on, but it is a much broader, far-reaching idea. The emphasis that Koreans put on kibun, or state of mind, shows their concern for the inner person. The importance of maintaining everyone's kibun at a good level sometimes causes Koreans to behave in ways incomprehensible to unaware Americans.

For example, while Americans may be more interested in meeting a deadline than in making sure everyone concerned feels good, the reverse is generally true for Koreans. Also, a Korean might nod his head and say yes to something you're suggesting or requesting just to keep from disturbing your kibun. He may not agree with what you say, but to refuse or to argue might ruin everyone's kibun that day.

Thus, many Koreans will avoid giving an outright "no" or disagreeing directly. They prefer to use indirect language or to go through a third party rather than cause any unpleasantness. Americans who understand this and try to avoid confrontations will get along well in Korea.

PUNCTUALITY AND PATIENCE

In the Korean countryside, man, not the clock, sets the pace of life and work. Hurrying, showing impatience, living by the clock and worrying about being on time are thought impolite or unbecoming. This makes for a gracious life-style, but again, one that is changing with increased industrialization and urbanization. Leaving enough time for delayed appointments, extended conversations, or lengthy preliminaries before getting down to business will help you adjust to and even enjoy the Korean time sense. It is also helpful to tactfully find out when one is actually expected to show up for a social function, regardless of the stated hour. In Korea time is enjoyed, not spent, wasted or killed.

UNIT 4. CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE

INTRODUCTIONS AND GREETINGS

First impressions are important, and especially so in Korea. Being introduced to someone is your first opportunity to show your knowledge of the culture as well as the language.

The most important part of a Korean greeting is the formal bow or more casual nod. (Since it is difficult for most Americans to do a Korean-style bow gracefully, it's best to simply nod your head rather than bow.) The age and status of the other person are the major factors that determine how deeply you should nod. If the person you are being introduced to is senior to you (in age, rank or status), you should nod your head more emphatically than he does. It's proper for the younger or junior person to initiate the greeting and to bow or nod first.

When a Westerner is involved, introductions may include a handshake, but even in this case a bow or nod is made as well. Normally it is up to the elder or higher-ranking person to initiate a handshake. Since men and women do not usually shake hands in Korea, you should simply nod your head when meeting someone of the opposite sex. However, if he or she offers to shake hands, do so.

Phrases you may use when being introduced include Annyōng-hashimnikka? "How do you do?" and Ch'ōm pwepkessūmnida. "Pleased to meet you." The other person's name is not usually mentioned in your greeting; however, you give your own name at this time, either before or after the phrase you have decided to use.

To greet people you already know, nod your head and say either Annyōnghaseyo or Annyōnghashimnikka. Either phrase can be used at any time of day, but the second phrase is a little bit more formal. A correct response to either greeting is a nod, ne and the same phrase that was said to you.

In meeting or greeting Koreans, remember:

- DO: Use a polite nod when greeting someone. When in doubt, just copy what the other person does.
- DON'T: Greet strangers on the street. As a general rule, this is not done in Korea.

NAMES AND TITLES

To the Korean people, names are very personal and sensitive matters. Names are to be honored and respected, not used casually or mentioned unnecessarily. In place of names, Koreans prefer to use titles, positions, military ranks or other courtesy titles when speaking to other people, and they expect the same formality in return. Whenever possible, names are left out of conversations; they are mentioned only when needed to specify a particular individual. Usually only the family name (or last name), along with the appropriate title or rank, is used in such instances.

Given names (first and middle names) are seldom used except within the family, among children or classmates, or between very close friends. Even at home, children refer to their siblings as "older brother," "younger sister" and so on, rather than by name. A Korean husband or wife will not use the spouse's name in front of others. Adults may even refer to others by describing a relationship for example, "the baby's father" or "that child's mother." The Korean language has an amazing number and variety of terms to identify each and every family member and relative without using given names.

According to Korean custom, the family name precedes the given name, so the order is last name, first name, middle name. If a Korean uses his full name to introduce himself, remember that the first name you hear is actually his family name, and the only one you should use. Never use a Korean's given name unless he or she has asked you to do so. However, Koreans, especially women, will not volunteer their full names at the first meeting.

The following are some polite expressions you may use to address Koreans, along with brief explanations of when to use them.

TITLES WITHOUT NAMES

- sōnsaengnim -- very respectful, similar to "sir" or "ma'am"; used to address a person of higher social status or position, or of advanced age. This is the best form to use when meeting someone for the first time.
- ajōssi -- less respectful than sōnsaengnim; used to address an older man of the same or lower social position.
- ajumōni -- same as above, but for an older woman.
- agassi -- same as above, but for a younger (unmarried) woman.

TITLES WITH NAMES

- last name
+ sōnsaengnim -- same as sōnsaengnim, above.
- last name
+ sōnsaeng -- roughly equivalent to the one above; slightly less formal but still a very polite form. This is probably used more often than last name + sōnsaengnim.
- misūt'ō or
misū +
last name -- "mister" or "miss"; polite ways to address men or women of the same or lower social position. (Note: Women in Korea keep their own names after marriage and do not take their husbands' names: a "miss" may actually be a "mrs.")

MILITARY RANKS

- last name +
rank + nim -- respectful form used to address those of higher rank (usually officers and senior NCOs).
- last name
+ rank -- used for those of equal or approximately equal rank, and below.

Be aware that the ending -nim is added only to other peoples' titles or ranks. Since its purpose is to honor and show respect for another, people do not add it to their own name or title. When telling someone your own name, it's best to use either "mr.," "miss" or your rank, since these are less formal titles.

When addressing Koreans, remember:

- DO: Use the appropriate title. When in doubt, use sōnsaengnim. It's better to be too polite than to be rude.
- DON'T: Use a name without a title. This is a serious social offense.
- DON'T: Call a Korean by his or her given name unless you have been asked to do so.
- DON'T: Use -nim to describe yourself.
- DON'T: Say "Mama-san" or "Papa-san" to a Korean. These are Japanese words. Use an appropriate Korean title instead.
- DON'T: Copy expressions used by other Americans until you are sure they are correct and appropriate. Some may say "adassi" for ajōssi, or "ajima" for ajumōni. Avoid these.

COURTESY TO SENIORS

A Korean is expected to show respect not only to elderly people (those over 60 years of age), but in many cases to those under 60 who are significantly older than himself as well. This last group includes one's teachers, supervisors, and so on. So when you see the word "seniors" in this section, remember that it includes those higher than you in rank or position as well as the elderly. In most cases, the same courtesies are extended to them also.

The following list gives some tips for dealing with seniors:

-- Always use both hands when handing something to or when receiving something from a senior. Using only one hand is considered very rude.

-- When sitting in the presence of a senior, don't cross your legs, prop your feet up, or slouch in your chair. It shows respect to sit properly with your feet on the floor, instead of lounging back casually.

-- As a general rule, do not smoke or drink when facing or speaking to a senior (unless you have been given permission to do so).

-- On crowded buses or subways, younger people usually offer their seats to the elderly.

-- When being introduced to or greeting another, the younger or junior person bows first. Handshaking is not done unless the senior initiates it.

-- Juniors do not pat or touch a senior, even as a friendly gesture.

-- Avoid prolonged, direct eye contact with seniors; in Korea, younger or junior persons tend to keep their eyes downcast to show respect and humility.

NONVERBAL ETIQUETTE

Nonverbal communication includes all the ways one expresses ideas or emotions without words--physical contact, gestures, posture, and so on. This section briefly discusses some types of nonverbal communication used by Koreans, as well as some types that should not be used.

Generally speaking, in Korean culture it is considered impolite to touch another person physically unless there is a well-established bond of close friendship, or childhood or family ties. (Probably the only exception to this occurs on overcrowded buses and subways, where Koreans pretend not to notice the elbows in their ribs or the bodies pushing past them to get on or off.)

Slapping someone on the back or putting an arm around someone's shoulders is improper unless the person is a close friend. Grasping someone by the arm or shoulder to get his attention is quite rude; it's much better to have to call him several times than to tap or slap his shoulder. Never touch or put your hand on someone's head. This is very offensive.

Showing affection in public for someone of the opposite sex, even one's spouse, embarrasses Koreans, and kissing in public is simply not done by Koreans. In the city, some young couples may be seen holding hands, but this is a fairly recent development. As a general rule, there is no physical contact between males and females in public in this country.

Because girls and boys of junior-high and high-school age are separated from each other in the classroom, same-sex friendships become very important. These friendships are usually very close and affectionate. As a result, you will see young people of the same sex holding hands or walking arm-in-arm in Korea. Also, you might see young men or women dancing with members of the same sex at clubs or discos. Remember that although behavior like this is considered strange in the United States, it is perfectly common and acceptable for younger Koreans.

Some gestures used by Koreans are similar to those Americans use. For example, while a "thumbs up" means "the boss" or "one's supervisor," it may also mean "good," "great" or "OK." Pointing a finger at the side of one's head and making a circle means someone is "out of his mind" or acting strangely. Waving one's outstretched arm from side to side means "good-bye." Others, however, can be confusing. For "come here," the Koreans wave the fingers of the right hand vertically, with the palm of the hand either down or facing out toward the other person. This looks like the American gesture "good-bye."

Some gestures you will see used may be easily understood; some may not. Some will be inappropriate for polite conversation or behavior (just as some American gestures are inappropriate). To play it safe, do not copy or imitate any Korean gesture unless you know its full meaning and purpose. Also, do not point your finger at a Korean; this is considered impolite by Koreans just as it is by Americans.

When giving a gift or any other object to a Korean, or when paying someone money, always use both hands. Use both hands when receiving something from a Korean as well.

Posture is also important to Koreans: don't prop your feet up on the furniture or cross your legs when seated, especially in front of elders.

When you wish to make someone aware of your presence without invading their privacy or embarrassing them, a discreet cough will usually suffice. This is especially useful in public restrooms, since they do not always have locks. One coughs to show he is approaching and wishes to enter; an answering cough shows the restroom is occupied. (Tapping or knocking on a door or partition is also used.)

One final note: In the United States, facial expressions play a large part in nonverbal communication. However, Koreans generally do not express emotions in front of others as readily as Americans do, especially negative emotions like disappointment or unhappiness. Without these "visual cues" to let you know when you have offended someone or hurt their feelings, understanding Korean etiquette becomes even more important.

HOSPITALITY AND HOME VISITS

Koreans are known for their hospitality; as a guest, you can expect a warm welcome from them. However, if an acquaintance arranges to meet you at a tea room or coffee shop, rather than at his family home, don't feel slighted or unwelcome. This is because of the crowded conditions in most Korean homes. In rural areas, where houses are roomier, Koreans may feel more comfortable inviting you home.

Regardless of the style of house, Western or traditional, you must take your shoes off at the entrance and leave them there before entering the living area. Since the Korean people sit, sleep, and eat on the floor, the floors are kept polished and spotlessly clean--and heated from underneath. Be prepared to sit cross-legged on a cushion on the floor to eat, drink, and talk with your friends.

When invited to a Korean home, one always brings a small wrapped gift, such as candy or chocolate, for the children to eat. If there are no children in the home, then a small gift, such as fresh fruit or a dessert, is offered to the host or hostess.

(Don't be surprised if the gift is not opened in front of you. Traditional Koreans will not open gifts in front of others; this is to prevent embarrassment or "loss of face" to the giver if the gift is small, humble or inappropriate.)

If you are invited for dinner, it may happen that your host will sit with you but not eat, and that your hostess will stay in the kitchen. If so, it's because they are concerned about treating you properly and making sure you have everything you want. Your host will say "There's nothing to eat" or "The food is not presentable." This shows he is humble, and honoring you. Traditionally, a guest always left a little food on his plate at the end of the meal. "Cleaning one's plate" was an insult to the host; it told him his guest was still hungry because he didn't prepare enough food. Nowadays, this practice is becoming less and less common. Your host will continue to urge you to eat more, but a firm refusal will be accepted.

In the United States, guests will often volunteer to help prepare food or wash dishes. However, in a Korean home, Americans should not offer to help--especially the men. (As a rule, Korean men do not go into the kitchen.)

When visiting, remember:

- DO: Take your shoes off at the door to a Korean home (and make sure your socks are in good repair to avoid embarrassment).
- DO: Bring a small gift for the children or for the host and hostess.

TABLE MANNERS

Mealtime in Korea is quite different from mealtime in America. First of all, Koreans sit cross-legged on the floor and eat from small, low tables. Second, all the dishes are served at the same time, not in separate courses. Third, food is eaten with chopsticks or a spoon for rice and soup. Eating with your hands is to be avoided whenever possible. Fourth, Koreans use their chopsticks to help themselves from communal dishes, instead of having their own plates. Everyone gets his or her own bowls of rice and soup, but all other dishes are shared.

At the beginning of the meal, wait for the senior person present (the highest-ranking guest or the eldest) to sit down at the table before you do, and wait for him to begin eating first.

If it's a formal occasion or a special dinner, start the meal by offering to pour sauce into a dish for the person next to you. This courtesy will be returned. Do not pour for yourself. The same holds true for beverages--pour tea or wine for your neighbor or for an elder, but never for yourself. Be sure to use both hands when pouring for someone--one hand holds the bottle or teapot, the other "supports" the hand or forearm from underneath. Also, use both hands to hold your cup or glass when someone is filling it for you. You may use the "support" method above if you're holding the cup above the table; if the cup is resting on the table, just touch it with your hands on both sides of the cup. Remember, if it's just a regular meal with friends, you won't be expected to perform all these little ceremonies.

Mealtime is a serious matter for Koreans, and "dinner conversation" is limited. When eating, Koreans talk less than Americans, except for the host, who will offer more food or apologize for its "poor quality." Conversation is saved for after dinner.

Setting your chopsticks or spoon on top of your dish or bowl shows that you're just resting; setting them on the table, however, shows you have finished eating. If you need to use a toothpick you may, provided you use your other hand to cover your mouth and hide the activity from the others' view. However, never blow your nose at the table or lick your fingers. Both are unacceptable.

You may notice some Koreans, probably older persons, eating noisily without excusing themselves. They are just showing their appreciation of the food. Don't be surprised or annoyed by this, but on the other hand, don't imitate it either.

Remember:

- DO: Try your best to learn to use chopsticks. (The squared-off wooden chopsticks used in restaurants are easier to use than the "knitting needle" type used in homes, so take a pair home to practice with. The paper they're wrapped in usually has pictures showing how to hold them.)
- DO: Pour beverages and sauces for guests or seniors.
- DON'T: Pour things for yourself, if it's a special occasion or a party.
- DON'T: Try to carry on a conversation at mealtime.
- DON'T: Blow your nose at the table or lick your fingers.

ENTERTAINING, DRINKING, AND PARTIES

When an American friend visits you, you probably offer him some kind of refreshment. Your friend may accept or not, but either way a decision is made and the subject is then dropped. However, this is not quite the way it's done in Korea.

You'll find that Koreans may hesitate to accept your hospitality or may turn you down--at least at first. This initial refusal is simply a sign of modesty and politeness on their part. Don't assume that they don't want what you offered; you should be aware that it is just good manners for them to say no at first. Offer again. Koreans expect to be asked two or three times to enter a home, take a seat, or accept food or drink. When playing the host in Korea, repeat an offer of hospitality several times until it is accepted.

Also be aware that as a rule, Koreans do not believe in "going Dutch." It's customary for the one who suggests going out for coffee, a drink, or even a meal, to treat the others. Keep in mind that if you make the suggestion, you will be expected to pay for your friends as well. To avoid embarrassment, first make sure that you have enough money or that you and your friends agree in advance on how to pay the check.

Going out for drinks or having a party where liquor plays a role are both normally male-only activities, at least for Koreans. Most drinking parties or other social entertaining is done outside the home at bars, restaurants or other public places. One popular place for parties is the kisaeng house. These houses provide a special form of relaxation for Korean men, especially businessmen. Here, young ladies known as kisaengs, wearing traditional Korean dresses (hanboks), entertain them with songs, dances and pleasant conversation.

At drinking parties it is customary for the guests to exchange glasses as a sign of friendship. During the course of the party, everyone passes his glass at least once (and usually several items) to everyone else. Refusing to go along with this custom is viewed as an insult to the other guests, so be prepared to trade glasses. If you don't drink alcohol, you can fill your glass with cola or some other soft drink, but you will still be expected to trade glasses with everyone present.

Korean males tend to get much more friendly and relaxed at such parties, especially after a few drinks. (You will too.) They may sit closer to you, or sit arm-in-arm with you, or put an arm around your shoulders as a gesture of friendship. This is completely acceptable (and probably inevitable) at a drinking party, so relax and don't give it a second thought.

As part of the fun at a drinking party, each guest usually sings a song or offers some kind of entertainment. Don't be an exception--be prepared. If you sing a song for the others, they will be very pleased with you. Even if it's in English, even if you think your voice is terrible, your contribution will be appreciated and applauded.

A special note for smokers: at a party or other gathering, don't just help yourself to a cigarette and put your pack back in your pocket or purse. It's much more polite to offer them around and light them for others (using both hands, of course); then leave the pack on the table so the others can help themselves.

Reminders for parties and other social affairs:

- DO: Offer drinks or food or other kinds of hospitality several times, not just once.
- DO: Realize you're expected to pay if you're the one to suggest going out.
- DO: Accept others' glasses graciously when you're at a drinking party.
- DO: Be prepared to perform at a party--a simple song will do.
- DON'T: Forget to bring extra cigarettes along if you smoke.

UNIT 5 TRAVEL, SHOPPING, AND RECREATION

WHERE TO GO: SEOUL

As one of the world's largest cities, Seoul has its share of skyscrapers and other modern facilities, but it is equally proud of its ancient heritage. Parks and palaces located in Seoul include Kyōngbok Palace, Ch'angdōk Palace, with its Secret Gardens the Ch'anggyōngwōn Gardens, and Dōksu Palace. Most palaces and gardens are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Entrance tickets must be purchased with Korean money, but usually cost between fifty cents and a dollar.

Kyōngbok ("Shining Happiness") Palace is Seoul's main palace. It is located near the Kwanghwamun Gate and the Naija Hotel. Kyōngbok has many buildings on its grounds, including two museums and an elegant banquet pavilion set in the middle of a small lake.

Ch'angdōk Palace, which is smaller, is located just a few blocks east of Kyōngbok. Behind the palace are the Secret Gardens (Piwōn). These beautifully-landscaped gardens cover almost 80 acres, and are dotted with pavilions used by the royal families. Tours in English are conducted regularly; check at the gate.

Adjacent to the Secret Gardens are the Ch'anggyōngwōn Gardens where you'll find a lake and botanical gardens.

Opposite Seoul's City Hall, right in the busy hotel district, is Dōksu Palace. Although surrounded by downtown skyscrapers and busy traffic arteries, this sixteenth-century palace is a popular spot for lunch breaks because of its tranquil and refreshing atmosphere.

Between Dōksu and Kyōngbok palaces is the Sejong Cultural Center where the Seoul Philharmonic and the National Symphony perform, as well as traditional Korean music and drama companies.

In Seoul, one can also find Chogyesa, a large, ornate Buddhist temple. This temple is rather unique because it is located right in the city; most temples are found in remote parts of the country, usually in the mountains, surrounded by nature.

Namdaemun, or South Gate, is Korea's Number One National Treasure. Along with Tongdaemun (East Gate), Namdaemun was part of the original wall built around Seoul in 1396. Both areas have large open-air markets nearby.

Near East Gate is Seoul Stadium, home of and soccer matches and other sports events. Located on the eastern edges of the city are the Children's Grand Park and the Seoul Horse Racing Course.

Namsan, or South Mountain, has a park, a conservatory, and at its peak, the huge Seoul Tower. The tower provides antennas for radio and TV broadcasting, but it also has a snack bar, a revolving restaurant, and an observation deck for a spectacular 360° view of the city. There's even a cable-car ride up the mountain. These facilities are open to the public, but you must follow the posted rules about cameras.

WHERE TO GO: OUTSIDE SEOUL

P'anmunjōm, located 35 miles north of Seoul, is the site where the 1953 armistice was signed, marking the end of the fighting between South and North Korea. Here you can see the "Bridge of No Return" and the conference room where Military Armistice Commission meetings are held between the two sides. (Half of the building is in South Korea, the other half in North Korea.) Due to security and uniform requirements, P'anmunjom visits must be made as part of an organized tour, so plan in advance.

Next is the port city of Inchōn, located just west of Seoul. Inchōn is famous for the U.N. forces' historical landing during the Korean War. Chayukongwōn, or "Freedom Park," was built to commemorate the landing and to honor General MacArthur. The Inchōn area is a popular resort area in the summertime, and at least one of the city's major hotels has a casino.

About half an hour south of Seoul is Suwōn, the capital of Kyōnggi-do Province. Suwon Castle with its massive fortress walls and gates is an important historical site. In the Yongin area near Suwōn is the Korean Folk Village (Minsokch'on), a functioning community, living and working in the traditional manner. Blacksmiths, potters, brassworkers and pipemakers can be seen at work in their shops, which are part of their homes. All the houses, artifacts, and implements seen and used here are authentic, and traditional dances and music are featured in the outdoor entertainment.

South of Seoul is Seoul Taegongwōn, a large family amusement park. The park also has a zoo and is open daily.

Kyōngju, located about 225 miles southeast of Seoul, was the capital of the Shilla Kingdom; today it is a "museum without walls, filled with the historical remains of ancient Shilla. Two of its treasures are Pulguksa Temple, with its beautiful buildings and pagodas, and the Sōkkuram Grotto, where a carved granite Buddha over 100 feet high looks out over the sea from the mountain top.

Kyōngju is also the site of Tumuli Park, the burial place of Shilla royalty; Ch'ōmsongdae, an ancient stone observatory; and the Kyōngju National Museum, which houses gold crowns, jewelry, and other artifacts from the tombs of the Shilla kings and queens. Just 15 minutes away from the city is the Pomun Lake resort area, which has hotels, a golf course, swimming pools and a casino.

South of Kyōngju is Pusan, Korea's second-largest city and principal seaport. The city is also the home of the U.N. cemetery, which flies the flags of the 16 nations that took part in the U.N. effort during the Korean War. Here at the tip of the peninsula the winters are mild, and the area is popular with beachgoers. At Haeundae, a suburban city, there is a long white sand beach edged with hotels and casinos. Just outside the Pusan area, within an hour's ride, are two of Korea's favorite temples, Tongdosa and Pōmōsa.

Cheju Island (Chejudo), a semi-tropical island off Korea's southwest coast, is the home of women ocean divers, waterfalls, lava formations, and clean sandy bathing beaches. On Cheju Island, you can enjoy hunting, fishing, scuba diving, golf, and mountain-climbing all year long.

Other places to see in Korea include Kanghwa Island, with its Yi dynasty fortresses; Chinhae, famous for its springtime Cherry Blossom Festival; and the east coast areas of Tonghae, Kangnūng, and Mt. Sōrak, for mountain scenery and snow skiing at Dragon Valley.

To help you in your sightseeing, here's a list of commonly-used suffixes (endings for place names) and their meanings:

- <u>do</u>	province; also island
- <u>gun</u>	county or district
- <u>up</u>	township; also town
- <u>ri</u> ; - <u>ni</u>	village
- <u>si</u>	city
- <u>gu</u>	major district of a city
- <u>dong</u>	sub-district (part of a - <u>gu</u>)
- <u>gung</u>	palace
- <u>won</u>	park or garden
- <u>kongwon</u>	public park

<u>-mun</u>	gate
<u>-ro</u> ; <u>-no</u>	street or avenue
<u>-sa</u>	temple
<u>-san</u>	mountain

HOW TO GET THERE

When you're new to Korea and still unfamiliar with the country, the best way to go sightseeing and traveling around is the organized tour. The Seoul USO (United Service Organization) offers all-day or half-day tours six days a week, overnight and weekend trips, and a variety of vacation tours around the Orient, ranging from four to 10 days in length. The Moyer Recreation Center at Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul also offers tours on weekends and on some weekdays. Recreation centers at most military bases conduct all-day or overnight tours on weekends as well. For those stationed at Pusan or Chinhae, check with the local USO Korea Fleet Center.

The USO and recreation center tours are all quite inexpensive, and use English-speaking Korean personnel as guides. Sightseeing tours are offered to all the areas mentioned earlier in this unit, plus many others. Shopping tours are extremely popular, especially before Christmas. These go to silk factories, crystal and celadon pottery companies, toy factories, fur shops, fishing rod and reel factories, and more. (See the section on shopping later in this unit.)

Once you're ready to try traveling on your own, you'll find that express train and bus service is quick and inexpensive. The Korean National Railroad operates an extensive network throughout the country. There are local trains, express trains, and the Saemaül-ho (the "Blue Train"). The locals stop at practically every village, the express only at main stations, but the Saemaül-ho is the long-distance champion; from Seoul to Pusan, for example, it makes only two stops, and takes just under five hours for the trip. The Saemaül-ho also serves the cities of Taejon, Taegu, Kyongju, Kwangju, and Chonju. If this train doesn't serve your destination, ask for the t'ūkkūp yōlch'a, or regular express train. If you need more information or assistance with train travel, your local Transportation Movement Office (TMO) will be able to help.

Just like the trains, buses in Korea come in different varieties--local and express. Local buses serve a limited area, stopping at practically every school, intersection, and bicycle path along their way. They are slow, and often extremely overcrowded, but very cheap. (There is no standard fare for local bus service; they charge for the distance traveled. The bus girl will ask your destination before collecting your fare.) For traveling

long distances, or between major cities, your best bet is an express or highway bus, known as a kosok bus. These are much more convenient and less crowded. Also, military-contracted buses, using Yongsan Garrison in Seoul as their center, provide quick and inexpensive transportation between most U.S. Army and Air Force bases. Since there are military bases located at or near Ch'unch'on, Taegu, and Pusan, as well as Seoul, travel between these cities is relatively simple. Finally, most of the larger bases have either a free military shuttle bus serving the post or else low-priced service provided by the local Korean buses.

Taxis in Korea cost more than buses, but compared to American taxis they are relatively inexpensive. In Seoul, there are regular taxis, usually yellow or green; the more expensive "call" taxis, which are tan or brown; and PX taxis, which are larger and more comfortable. "Call" taxis operate only in large cities, and PX taxis only on and around military bases, but regular taxis are found almost everywhere. CAUTION: Some Korean taxis will not accept U.S. money, and PX taxis cannot accept Korean money, so be sure to have the proper currency.

WHERE TO STAY

You will find basically two types of accommodations in Korea. First is the Western-style hotel, which provides private baths and central heating and cooling systems. Rooms in these hotels range from U.S. \$20 to \$45 a night. Seoul's downtown luxury hotels will run higher, but several offer substantial military discounts, depending on the season. Additionally, the U.S. Army operates one hotel in Seoul and contracts with another from time to time for use by military personnel.

Korean-style hotels, known as yōgwans, are not as luxurious as Western-style hotels but are much less expensive. Even in Seoul, a comfortable yōgwan can easily be found for less than \$20. In the countryside, prices will range from \$10 to \$15 per night.

If you stay at a yōgwan, remember to take your shoes off at the door because you will be sleeping on the floor. A small mattress, or yo, is placed on the floor, and a thick quilt or ibul is used as a covering. Pillows are usually thick and quite hard since they are filled with rice husks. Some yōgwans now have bathing facilities in the rooms or just down the hall. In most towns there will be a public bathhouse (mogyok-t'anq) nearby.

SHOPPING IN KOREA

Korea is, simply put, a shoppers' paradise. Here you'll find incredibly low prices on clothing and most manufactured items, as well as a variety of unique products that you'll buy as gifts and souvenirs.

There are probably hundreds of things you will want to purchase during your stay, either for yourself or for family and friends. Bargains in Korean artwork include celadon and porcelain pottery and vases, paintings, calligraphy, and handicrafts. Brassware ranges from small decorative items all the way up to king-size brass beds. Lacquerware with mother-of-pearl inlay is available in vases, jewelry boxes, and even furniture. Speaking of furniture, you can get good deals on copies of antique Korean chests, desks, and dressers. These are made of wood with brass trimmings and handles.

Other bargains include blankets and bedspreads (in fabrics like satin and velvet); silk and brocade fabrics; silk dresses, shirts, and blouses; sportswear and sweaters; and athletic shoes of all kinds--for basketball, racquetball, jogging, or just "hanging out." As for clothing, not only can you have suits or dresses custom-tailored, but you can also order leather boots, jackets or coats made to measure. Use your own design or copy another style; if you can sketch it, they can produce it.

You can also buy jewelry (jade, amethyst, and smoky topaz); sports and camping equipment; luggage of all sorts and sizes; eelskin belts, wallets, and handbags; and toys, dolls, and stuffed animals for children. Korean electronic items have become more and more popular lately, due to their improved quality, and you can find everything from personal radios to television sets for sale.

Just as there's a variety of things to buy, there is also a variety of places to shop, ranging from modern department stores to farmers' markets. Below is a general list of places to shop in the Seoul area, arranged roughly from the most expensive to the least expensive:

- hotel gift shops and duty-free shops
- high-fashion shops and boutiques (especially in the Myongdong and Insadong areas)
- major department stores
- small, independent shops and stores
- the It'aewon shopping district
- East Gate and South Gate markets

East Gate Market (Tongdaemun shijang) is the largest in Korea, and maybe the largest in all of Asia. It stretches indoors and outdoors for over two miles. The outdoor market is surrounded by shops, including a four-story building specializing in quilts, blankets, bedspreads, silks, satins, and other fabrics. At East Gate you can find everything from toys and sporting goods to clothing and furniture.

South Gate Market (Namdaemun shijang) is the second major market. Here you'll find a wholesale flower market; vases, pottery, porcelain; costume jewelry; children's clothing; and even camping equipment.

The It'aewon shopping district, though smaller, may be the best for American shoppers. Located near Yongsan Garrison, It'aewon's many shops offer almost everything listed above. This area caters to Americans: larger sizes in clothing and shoes may be found here, most of the salespeople speak at least a little English, and American money is accepted everywhere.

Like Seoul, other large Korean cities will have department stores and hotel shops, as well as the usual markets and small shops. Smaller cities will normally have "market days" once or twice a month, in addition to the shops. On these days, local farmers and tradespeople bring in everything from livestock and produce to handiwork such as sewing and knitting.

U.S. currency is readily accepted in towns around military bases, and in tourist hotels and shops. However, away from downtown Seoul and military camps you may find that some shopkeepers will not accept dollars. To avoid inconvenience, you should exchange money before going shopping in the marketplaces and department stores.

In department stores, hotel shops, and boutiques, prices are normally marked on each item. However, in individually-owned small shops and in marketplaces, goods for sale are not marked. This means you'll have to do a little bargaining with the owner to get the best price. Ask "How much?"; offer less than that (maybe half or two-thirds of his price), then let your finances and your acting ability dictate the rest. Don't be embarrassed about bargaining; the Korean people bargain when they shop too.

As a general rule, DON'T try to bargain when prices are posted or items are tagged. This includes department stores, grocery stores, restaurants, and bars and nightclubs. Feel free to bargain in small stores and open markets, and with pushcart vendors.

In the It'aewon area or in villages adjacent to military bases, you may be able to do most or even all of your shopping using English. However, you will probably have to use Korean in other areas.

RESTAURANTS AND FOOD

Dining out in Korea is, in many ways, similar to dining out in the States. You can go to Seoul for an expensive gourmet dinner, or go to a smaller, less fancy restaurant and spend less money, or pick up a quick snack from a street vendor or a fried-food stand on the street. Restaurants in Korea may be divided into four groups, in terms of the food they serve: Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and Western-style.

Western-style restaurants, if they are in the major tourist hotels, generally serve excellent (but expensive) meals. Others will be cheaper but may vary greatly in the food served. The "Italian" or "Mexican" dishes in some restaurants may be different from what you've been used to. (This is due to different cooking methods and the fact that some ingredients will be unavailable in Korea.) Your best bet for Western-style food at reasonable prices is the Naija Hotel restaurant. This hotel, located in Seoul, is an official R&R facility for U.S. Armed Forces personnel.

Korean, Chinese, and Japanese restaurants will also vary among themselves in price, just as a McDonald's, a Denny's and a Holiday Inn differ in price. The most expensive Oriental-style restaurants will be at the major hotels, with the least expensive being the small Korean restaurants known simply as shiktangs. It is safe to eat Oriental-style food in restaurants throughout Korea; however, two recommendations should be followed in the smaller restaurants. First, avoid Japanese-style dishes with raw fish, unless you know the fish is fresh. Second, you may want to order bottled beer or soda with your meal since not all areas have water approved for drinking. (However, these are not problems at the Naija Hotel or at the downtown hotels.)

Regardless of the type of food served, many Korean restaurants display plastic models of the food they serve with the prices clearly visible. All you have to do is point to whatever looks good. Or if someone else has ordered a dish that looks appetizing, just point to that and the waitress will understand. Later, write down the name of the food you like (or ask the waitress to) and soon you'll have your own list of familiar, favorite foods.

Some restaurants provide individual menus which may or may not have English translations. (Those near military bases usually do.) Some will have one large menu posted on the wall. Others will not have a menu, because they specialize in certain dishes. Here you'll just have to ask if what you want is available.

The traditional Korean meal includes rice and soup, each served in individual bowls, and a number of side dishes served in smaller bowls or dishes. Unlike American-style rice, the steamed rice eaten in Korea is moist and sticky. The side dishes are almost always different types of vegetables, but one side dish you

will always see is kimch'i. Kimch'i is usually made with cabbage, but radishes, turnips or cucumbers can also be used. The cabbage is mixed with red pepper, garlic and ginger, and pickled in salt brine. It's a peppery, spicy dish, ranging from merely hot to incredibly fiery. (Be warned: The redder the color, the hotter the kimchi will be.)

You can order the traditional meal of rice, soup, and side dishes simply by asking for paekban. If you order a main course of meat or fish, and want this combination too, just say paekban right after the name of the dish you've chosen.

NOTE: Tipping is not customary in Korea, and therefore not usually expected. However, in restaurants or clubs specifically for American service personnel, you're expected to tip as you would in the States. Restaurants in tourist hotels generally add a 10% gratuity tax (tip) to your bill when adding it up; if so, no additional tip is expected. Check first--there's no need to tip twice!

COFFEE SHOPS AND TEA ROOMS

In the cities, Koreans often use coffee shops as meeting places, either for business purposes or for pleasure. These shops are found almost everywhere in cities, and even small villages have one or two. A coffee shop, called a tabang or tashil, serves different kinds of nonalcoholic beverages, and generally plays a certain type of recorded music as a background. Some play classical, some Western rock and roll, some Korean pop music, and so on. You can spend time here drinking coffee, reading, talking, waiting, or just relaxing and listening to music. As long as you order something to drink when you first enter the coffee shop, you're usually welcome to stay as long as you like.

NIGHTLIFE

Whether you're stationed in the Seoul area or visit the city on your weekends or days off, be sure to check out the entertainment Seoul offers. There's a lot to do after the sun goes down. Nightlife possibilities range from concerts, dinner theater and discos to beer halls, stand bars and curbside tented stalls that serve food and alcohol. You can find almost every type in the Myongdong and Mugyodong areas of Seoul. These neighborhoods, both within walking distance of city hall and the downtown hotels, are very popular with college students and other young people.

Both Myōngdong and Mugyodong have beer halls that offer variety entertainment, including everything from traditional songs to pop music and rock and roll. Some of the entertainers move from club to club all evening long, so you can stay in the same club and still see several different acts. Beer is the main refreshment at these halls, but you can also get soft drinks or Western-style (Korean-made) liquor by the bottle. Most beer halls offer menus ranging from anju, which is snacks served with drinks (usually peanuts, dried fish or both), to complete dinners.

More stylish, and more expensive, are Seoul's discos. These are located in the city's major hotels, in the Myongdong area, and also in the Shinsadong area just south of the Han River. Some discos have Korean rock bands, but most have DJs playing recorded music. Korean discos usually have a substantial cover charge or a minimum, or both.

Mugyodong offers a theater restaurant, cabarets, and beer halls and taverns. Beer is available and cheap in stand bars, where you stand up at counters or at the bar to drink, and also at franchise shops run by the breweries.

If you prefer discos and clubs with more of an American atmosphere, the place to go is Itaewon. There are nightclubs on both sides of the main street and along the alleys running south from the street. The music here is loud and current, including country and western, soul, jazz and rock. The clubs have no cover charges or required minimums, and you can get mixed drinks as well as bottled beer.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Traditional forms of recreation in Korea include t'aekwōndo, the oldest of the martial arts, as well as the games of paduk, changgi, hwat'u, and yut. Brief descriptions of these last four games follow:

- paduk -- a board game played by two persons. Players take turns putting markers on the board, attempting to control territory by surrounding areas on the board.
- changgi -- a Korean chess game. Pieces represent kings, horses, elephants, and soldiers, and move in a manner similar to Western chess.
- hwat'u -- a popular card game played with small, brightly-colored flower cards. The 48 cards are divided into 12 suits, one for each month of the year. Hwat'u often involves gambling.

yut -- a game played with four small sticks, each round on one side and flat on the other. These are thrown like dice; how they land determines the number of moves a player makes. This can be played inside with a board or outside on the open ground.

Other Korean games include swinging, seesawing, and kite flying. These are usually seasonal games, and play a large part in traditional holiday celebrations.

Nontraditional sports are soccer, baseball, table tennis and volleyball. (Baseball is becoming increasingly popular: there are 11 semi-pro teams and a professional baseball league has been established.) Golf and tennis are also played by Koreans.

As for military facilities, most of the larger posts have full-size gymnasiums, tennis and racquetball courts, and even an outdoor swimming pool or two. Military units usually set up intramural football, softball, and basketball teams. Competition in these sports begins at unit levels and goes all the way to regional championships and all-Korea tournaments for U.S. military teams.

If sports are not for you, remember that even in Korea your recreational facilities will be very much like those Stateside. Barracks dayrooms and lounges offer pool and Ping-Pong tables. Craft shops provide equipment and instruction for your hobbies, and of course there are movie theaters and libraries. In addition to tours, recreation centers offer classes in the Korean language, in arts and crafts, and even in t'aekwōndo, kung-fu, and yoga.

The Korean countryside also offers many opportunities for recreation. In the winter there is ice skating, and skiing at the Dragon Valley resort. Mountain climbing and hiking are both popular with Koreans. You can rent or buy a bicycle to explore the countryside or get to your favorite fishing spot. Wherever you go, be sure to take your camera along!

UNIT 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFF-LIMITS AREAS

Certain areas or establishments may be designated as off-limits areas by military commanders. Specific off-limits establishments include all Korean drugstores, barbershops, and beauty parlors. In the case of the last two, this is due to possible health and sanitation problems. Korean drugstores may dispense medicines that are unapproved or unsafe. Do not use these establishments.

Other areas or businesses may be placed off-limits on a temporary basis by the local commander. These are usually bars or restaurants that have impure water or unsanitary conditions or are guilty of discriminatory practices. Off-limits areas are established as a form of protection, not as a restriction, and must be strictly observed.

IF YOU NEED HOUSING

If you are military and serving an accompanied tour, you will receive an appropriate housing allowance while in Korea. Government quarters are limited, although large complexes have recently been built near Yongsan Garrison in Seoul and at Osan AFB to the south. Nongovernment housing available includes Western-style apartments, Korean-style homes, and smaller, more primitive dwellings called "hooches" by Americans.

Finding quarters on the Korean economy is best accomplished by word-of-mouth. Friends or coworkers can tell you about vacancies near them, and those people preparing to leave Korea will create vacancies. They can recommend landlords, give estimates on the cost of utilities, and provide other information. Take advantage of what they already know.

Renting will take one of several forms: you may make regular monthly payments, you may give the landlord "key money" and pay no monthly rent at all, or you may combine a small "key money" payment with reduced rent. "Key money" consists of a large, one-time payment made when you move in. When you move out, your key money is returned.

The landlord uses the key money as he pleases, usually investing it rather than banking it. Since a bad investment could delay or even prevent repayment to you, paying rent regularly may be more attractive.

FAMILY MEMBERS: FACILITIES AND SERVICES

If you are military and serving a command-sponsored (accompanied) tour, you are authorized to have your family members with you in Korea. This means they will be flown to Korea at government expense and will be allowed all their regular privileges, such as the use of commissaries, exchanges and health-care facilities.

A noncommand-sponsored tour is without family members. If you will be serving this kind of tour (unaccompanied), you are strongly discouraged from bringing your family to Korea. First, you will not be reimbursed for their travel costs; you have to pay this yourself. Second, due to the limited facilities and the ceiling placed on the family member population they will not be authorized commissary, exchange, housing and other privileges.

A FEW FINAL TIPS

Of course, a book like this cannot possibly cover everything you will need to know about Korea. Fortunately, you will receive several required briefings upon your arrival in that country. The subjects will range from personal health to exchange rates to ration control procedures. Additionally, your legal status as a guest and as a soldier in Korea will be explained to you.

If you wish to learn more about Korea, the next page lists several books that may be helpful. Also, be sure to check with your local transportation office before you go overseas; they will have information packets on Korea that you may keep.

Remember that you are a guest in Korea; if you act like a good guest, you will be treated as one. Get to know your host country, but play it safe and avoid discussing politics or criticizing the country. Use your off-duty time to travel, shop, try new foods and pursue your hobbies and interests. The more you take advantage of your free time, the more you'll enjoy Korea and your tour of duty there.

Good luck and annyōnghi kaseyo!

SOME BOOKS OF INTEREST

FOR HANDY REFERENCE

Adams, Edward B. Korea Guide. Seoul, Korea: Seoul International Tourist Publishing Company, 1983.

Bunge, Frederika M., ed. South Korea: A Country Study. Prepared by Foreign Area Studies (FAS) of The American University. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975.

Crane, Paul S. Korean Patterns. Seoul, Korea: Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch, Handbook Series, Number 1, 1976.

Facts about Korea. Seoul, Korea: Korean Overseas Information Service, Ministry of Culture and Information, 1976.

A Pocket Guide to Korea. Published by U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Information for the Armed Forces. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974.

FOR IN-DEPTH STUDY

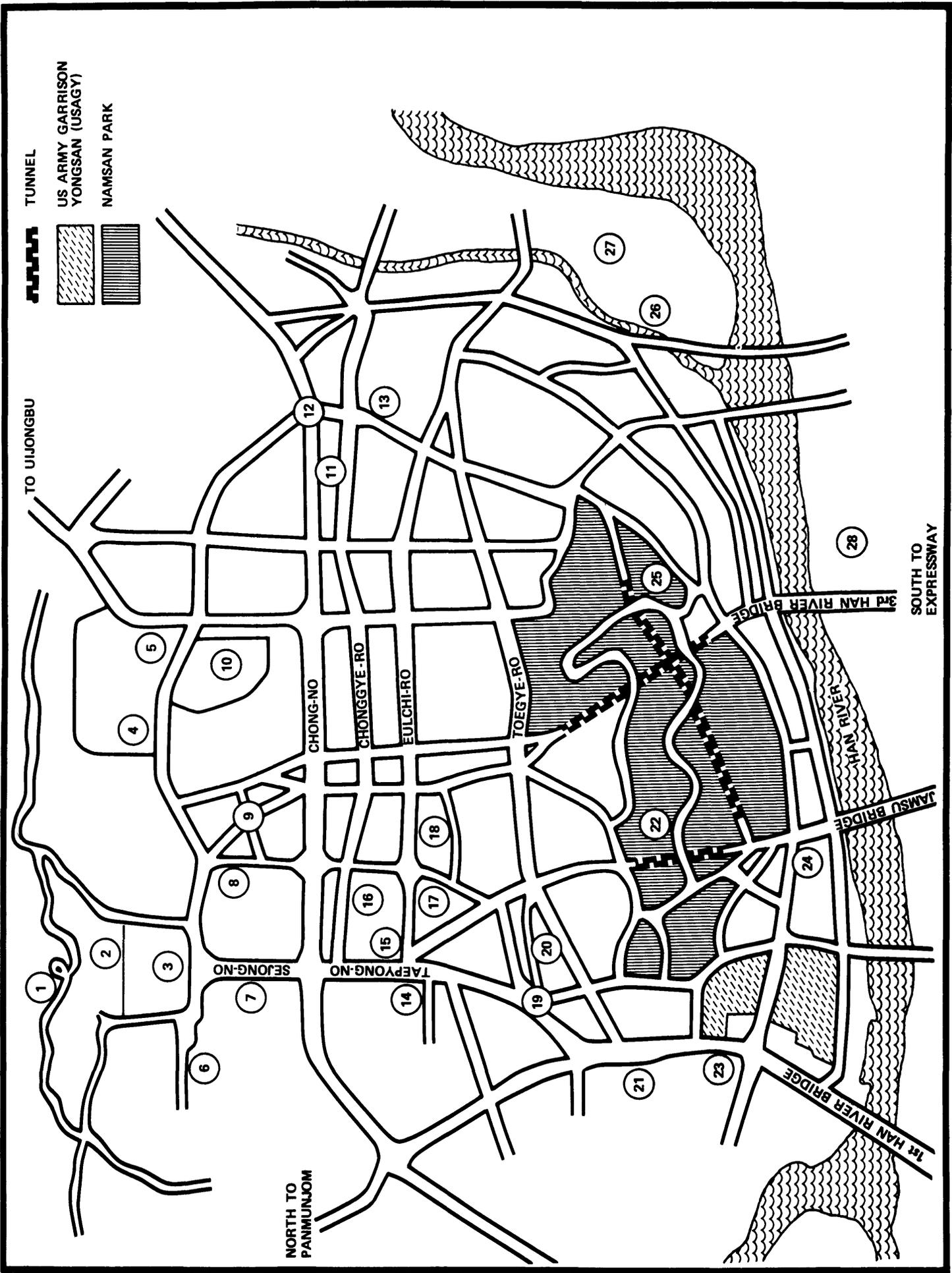
Barnds, William J., ed. The Two Koreas in East Asian Affairs. New York: New York University Press, 1976.

Choy, Byong-youn. Korea, a History. Rutland, Vermont: Tuttle, 1971.

Han Woo-Keun. The History of Korea. Seoul, Korea: Eul-yoo Publishing Company Ltd., 1970.

Keon, Michael. Korean Phoenix, a Nation from the Ashes. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, 1977.

Rutt, Richard. Korean Works and Days. Seoul, Korea: Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch, 1964.



TUNNEL

US ARMY GARRISON
YONGSAN (USAGY)

NAMSAN PARK

TO UJONGBU

NORTH TO
PANMUNJOM

SOUTH TO
EXPRESSWAY

KEY TO SEOUL CITY MAP

<u>Placename</u>	<u>Korean Pronunciation</u>
1. Bugak Skyway (scenic drive)	<u>Boo-gak Sky-way</u>
2. Kyongbok Palace (with the National and Folk Museums)	<u>Kyung-boke-goong</u>
3. The Capitol Building and Kwanghwa Gate	<u>Joong-ang-chong and Kwang-hwa-mun</u>
4. Changdok Palace and the Secret Gardens	<u>Chang-doke-goong and Pee-wahn</u>
5. Changgyong Gardens	<u>Chang-gyung-wahn</u>
6. Naija R&R Hotel	<u>Nay-jah Hotel</u>
7. Sejong Cultural Center	<u>Say-jong mun-hwa hway-gwan</u>
8. Chogye Buddhist Temple	<u>Cho-gyay-sah</u>
9. Shopping area for art, antiques, handicrafts	<u>Een-sah-dong</u>
10. Yi dynasty royal shrine	<u>Chong-myo</u>
11. East Gate Market	<u>Tong-day-mun she-jang</u>
12. East Gate	<u>Tong-day-mun</u>
13. Seoul Stadium	<u>Soul oon-dong-jang</u>
14. Duksoo Palace	<u>Duck-soo-goong</u>
15. Seoul City Hall	<u>She-chong</u>
16. Nightclub and disco area	<u>Moo-gyo-dong</u>
17. Downtown hotel area	<u>So-gong-dong</u>
18. Nightclub, disco, and boutique area	<u>Myung-dong</u>
19. South Gate	<u>Nam-day-mun</u>
20. South Gate Market	<u>Nam-day-mun she-jang</u>
21. Seoul Railroad Station	<u>Soul-yoke</u>

- | | |
|--|---|
| 22. Seoul Tower (with restaurants and cable car) | <u>Soul Tau-wah</u> |
| 23. U.S.O. (tour office, lounge, and snack bar) | <u>U.S.O.</u> (you may have to repeat this a few times for Koreans) |
| 24. Shopping area most popular with Americans | <u>Ee-tay-wahn</u> |
| 25. National Theater | <u>Goong-neeep-gook-jang</u> |
| 26. Seoul (Horse) Racecourse | <u>Soul Kyung-mah-jang</u> |
| 27. Children's Grand Park | <u>O-rin-ee tay-gong-wahn</u> |
| 28. Disco and nightclub area | <u>Shin-sah-dong</u> |

NOTE: The pronunciation shown above is not the official way Koreans would write words in our alphabet; however, saying the placenames this way should get you where you want to go without too much trouble.