

WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE

Dozens of Korean Words Added to OED

14/10/21 / Keyword: Korean

New additions such as K-beauty, hallyu and mukbang highlight Korean culture wave as interest in the country's food, fashion and entertainment spreads



The Korean culture wave has **swept through** the editorial offices of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), which has added more than 20 new words of Korean origin to its latest edition.

The “definitive record of the English language” includes words **alluding to** the global popularity of the country's music and **cuisine**, plus one or two whose roots in the Korean language may be less obvious.

The K- prefix is prominently featured, as you might expect, given that so many people outside of South Korea now listen to K-pop (which was added to the OED in 2016), watch K-dramas or use K-beauty products.

The new words include *hallyu* - the Korean original for the wave of pop culture that has made BTS one of the world's most popular bands, and *Squid Game* the Netflix sensation of 2021.

This South Korean thriller, which reached No 1 in 90 countries in 10 days – with 95% of viewers outside of Korea – is on track to be Netflix's biggest hit ever. Written and directed by Hwang Dong-hyuk, the premise is simple enough: hundreds of desperate, debt-laden contestants compete for a huge jackpot – more money than they could ever dream of. All they have to do is survive a series of disturbingly cruel, win-or-die, kill-or-be-killed children's games.

“The increase in international interest in South Korea and its popular culture, especially as represented by the global success of South Korean music, film, television, fashion, and food,” the dictionary says in its

definition. “Also: South Korean popular culture and entertainment itself. Frequently used as a **modifier**, as in *hallyu* craze, *hallyu* fan, *hallyu* star.”

But as the dictionary's new additions make clear, there is much more to Korean **cuisine** than its spicy **staple**, *kimchi*, which appeared in the OED as long ago as 1976. New food-related entries include *bulgogi* – thin slices of beef or pork – and *chimaek* – Korean-style fried chicken and beer. Traditional culture is represented by *hanbok* – formal **attire** worn by both men and women – and *Hangul*, the Korean alphabet **devised** by King Sejong in 1443.

Aegyo, a certain kind of **cuteness** or charm considered characteristically Korean, and similar to the Japanese word *kawaii*, has been included as both a noun and adjective. There is room, too, for *mukbang*, or **live streams** of people eating extraordinary amounts of food while talking to the online audience.

The inclusion of “skinship” is more surprising. Commonly used in South Korea, where it is **rendered as** *seukinsip*, and Japan, (*sukinshippu*) it captures the emotional bond that comes from close physical contact between a parent and child, lovers, and friends, the dictionary said. The OED said the inclusion of so many Korean words was recognition of a shift in language usage beyond the English-speaking world. **Turn to page 2**

Useful vocabulary

to sweep through: to affect quickly and widely

to allude to: to bring attention to something indirectly

cuisine: synonym cooking/cookery
modifier: a word that changes the meaning of a noun

staple (noun, in context): a main element of something

attire: clothes, especially formal ones

to devise: to invent
cuteness: the quality of being attractive in an endearing way

live stream: a live transmission of an event on the internet

to be rendered as: to be represented or expressed as...

thus: as a result

to ripple: to spread through s.t.

Let's chat about that!

1. What words do you know in English that come from other languages? (see page 2)
2. Do you like these Korean words being used in English? Why/not?
3. How many Spanish words are used in English? What are they?
4. Do you think changes in language use are good? Why/not?
5. Do you like Korean/foreign cuisine? Why/not?
6. What's your favourite word from this text? Explain why.

LIVE! English Events

Come and socialise in English!

Coffee Saturdays

2021-22

11:00-12:30

Panadería Bertiz C/Francia 10

2nd October	5th March
6th November	2nd April
4th December	7th May
5th February	4th June



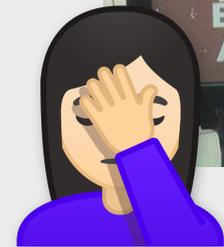
Look at these international words



Common Foreign Words in English

<https://www.adducation.info/lifestyle/common-foreign-words/>

“The adoption and development of these Korean words in English also demonstrate how lexical innovation is no longer confined to the traditional centres of English in the United Kingdom and the United States,” it said.
 “They show how Asians in different parts of the continent invent and exchange words within their own local contexts, then introduce these words to the rest of the English-speaking world, **thus** allowing the Korean wave to continue to **ripple** on the sea of English words.”
 Adapted from theguardian.com by ECP coach Darren “Kez” Kurien



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- Follow the link below to see the definitions.
- 1) How many of them do you know?
 - 2) How many words in your language are ‘international’?