

KOREAN

Conversation 1

Chun-Ye Kim



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한글 자모 입문

Introduction to Korean Alphabet



Learning Objectives

- 1 Students will be able to identify and distinguish the 19 Korean consonants.
- 2 Students will be able to identify and distinguish the 21 Korean vowels.
- 3 Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the structural and phonological features of the Korean writing system.

PART 1. 19 Consonants

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Sound¹ | <i>k</i> | <i>n</i> | <i>t</i> | <i>r/l</i> | <i>m</i> | <i>p</i> | <i>s</i> | <i>ŋ</i> | <i>tɕ</i> | <i>tɕʰ</i> | <i>kʰ</i> | <i>tʰ</i> | <i>pʰ</i> | <i>h</i> |
| symbol | ㄱ | ㄴ | ㄷ | ㄹ | ㅁ | ㅂ | ㅅ | ㅇ | ㅈ | ㅊ | ㅋ | ㅌ | ㅍ | ㅎ |
| | 고 ² 가 | | | initial /r/ 라면 final /l/ 알 | | | | | | | 코 ³ 카 | | | |
| Consonant + ㅏ (vowel /a/) | 가 | 나 | 다 | 라 | 마 | 바 | 사 | 양 (아 +o) | 자 | 차 | 카 | 타 | 파 | 하 |
| Sound | <i>k*</i> | | <i>t*</i> | | | <i>p*</i> | <i>s*</i> | | <i>tɕ*</i> | | | | | |
| symbol | ㄱ | | ㄷ | | | ㅂ | ㅅ | | ㅈ | | | | | |
| Consonant + ㅏ (vowel /a/) | 까 | | 따 | | | 빠 | 싸 | | 짜 | | | | | |

¹ The romanization of sounds of Korean followed IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet).

² The shape of ㄱ should be written in a slightly different way. When it is placed on the upper part of the syllable it should be written straight down, while placed on the left it should be written in a curved shape.

³ The same writing rule of ㄱ should be applied to ㅋ.

The pronunciation of syllable-final consonants

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Final Consonant | ㄱ | ㅋ | ㆁ | ㄴ | ㄷ | ㅅ | ㅆ | ㅈ | ㅊ | ㅌ | ㅎ | ㄹ | ㅁ | ㅂ | ㅍ | ㅇ |
| Example | 악 | 악 | 악 | 안 | 안 | 앗 | 앗 | 앗 | 앗 | 알 | 앙 | 알 | 암 | 압 | 앞 | 양 |
| Pronunciation | ㄱ | | | ㄴ | ㄷ | | | | | | ㄹ | ㅁ | ㅂ | | ㅇ | |

An important feature in Korean is a phonological constraint on the final phoneme (coda): only seven phonemes (ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ, ㅁ, ㅂ, ㅇ) are allowed as the final phonemes, whereas 18 consonants (consonant ㅇ/ŋ/ is excluded) are allowed in the initial phoneme (onset) (C-Y, Kim, 2022). Therefore even though 악 and 악 have different final consonants, they are pronounced as the same sound [악]. In a same way, 안, 앓, 앓, 앓, 앓, 앓, 알 and 앙 should be pronounced as [안]. 압, 앞 should be pronounced as [압].

The classification of 3 categories of consonants

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lenis | ㄱ | ㄷ | ㅂ | ㅅ | ㅈ |
| Aspirated | ㅋ | ㅌ | ㅍ | | ㅊ |
| Fortis | ㆁ | ㄸ | ㅃ | ㅆ | ㅉ |

PART 2. 21 Vowels

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|---------|------|---------|-------------------|----------------|------------|
| sound | a | ja | ʌ | jʌ | o | jo | u | ju | ʊ | i | |
| symbol | ㅏ | ㅑ | ㅓ | ㅕ | ㅗ | ㅛ | ㅜ | ㅠ | ㅡ | ㅣ | |
| word | 아이 | 야구 | 어머니 | 여자 | 오이 | 요리 | 우유 | 유리 | 으뜸 | 이사 | |
| IPA | ai | jaɡu | ʌmʌni | jʌdʒa | oi | jori | uju | juri | ut*ʊm | isa | |
| meaning | kid | baseball | mother | woman | cucumber | cooking | milk | glass | the best | move a house | |
| sound | e | je | ɛ | jɛ | wɛ | wa | wɛ | wi | wʌ | wɛ | ɯji |
| symbol | ㅔ | ㅖ | ㅞ | ㅘ | ㅚ | ㅜㅓ | ㅜㅕ | ㅛ | ㅜㅓ | ㅜㅕ | ㅚ |
| word | 에너지 | 예스 | 애기 | 얘기 | 외식 | 와우 | 왜? | 위로 | 워크숍 | 웨이터 | 의자 |
| IPA | ɛ n ʌdʒ i | jɛsw | ɛ g i | jɛ g i | wɛ s i k | wa u | wɛ | wir o | wʌ kʰw sjop | wɛ i tʰʌ | ɯji dʒa |
| meaning | energy | yes | baby | story | eat out | wow | why? | comfort | workshop | waiter | chair |

PART 3. Four Types of Syllable Construction

- 1) **Vowel:** A vowel alone can construct a syllable. e.g., 아
- 2) **Vowel+Consonant:** The combination of a vowel and a consonant can construct a syllable. e.g., 악
- 3) **Consonant+Vowel:** The combination of a consonant and a vowel can construct a syllable. e.g., 가
- 4) **Consonant+Vowel+Consonant:** The combination of a consonant and a vowel and a consonant can construct a syllable. e.g., 각

PART 4. Correct Korean Writing & Pronunciation

1) How can we write Korean sentences properly?

When you write a syllable, try to write **from left to right** and **from top to bottom**. And try to leave space between words while markers and particles stay together.
e.g.) I am Thai.----> 저는 태국 사람이에요.

2) How can we pronounce Korean correctly?

When a vowel comes after the final consonant, the final consonant moves over to the second syllable and is pronounced accordingly.

e.g.) 할아버지 [하라버지]⁴

독일 [도길]