

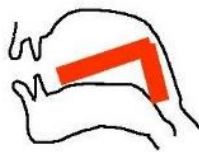
Learn How to read  
**Korean Characters**  
**Hangul** (Han-Geul)  
in just **Ten minutes**  
with **One-page manual**

**Consonants** are from the **shapes of sound organs** and  
**Vowels** are from the ancient **Korean Philosophy** of  
**Heaven(•), Human(I), and Earth(—)**

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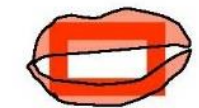
# KOREAN Characters "Hangul": Consonants and Vowels



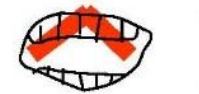
ㄱ = **g** or **k** beginning of a word;  
 after non-vocal sound;  
 last sound of a syllable  
 ㄲ = **k'**  
 ㅋ = **k**



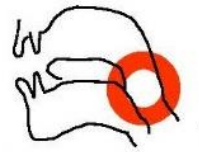
ㄴ = **n** beginning of a word;  
 after non-vocal sound;  
 last sound of a syllable  
 ㄷ = **d** or **t**  
 ㄸ = **d'**  
 ㅌ = **t**



ㅁ = **m** beginning of a word;  
 after non-vocal sound;  
 last sound of a syllable  
 ㅂ = **b** or **p**  
 ㅃ = **p'**  
 ㅍ = **p**



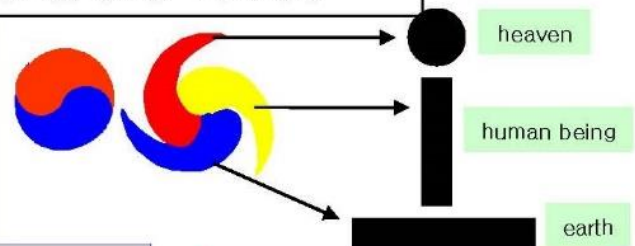
ㅅ = **s**  
 ㅆ = **s'**  
 ㅈ = **j**  
 ㅉ = **j'**, **ts**  
 ㅊ = **ch**, **ts** } **t** last sound of a syllable



ㅇ = **no sound** first sound of a syllable  
 ㅇ = **ng** last sound of a syllable  
 ㅎ = **h** or **t** last sound of a syllable

KOREAN syllables

Se jong Dae wang  
 King Sejong the Great, inventor of Hangul



Mnemonic for vowels

- ㅏ = dot **A**fter the bar (German A)
- ㅓ = dot **O**ccUrs before the bar
- ㅗ = dot **O**ver the bar (German O)
- ㅜ = dot **U**nder the bar (German U)
- ㅣ = like **I**
- ㅑ = ya; 2 dots for **Y** sound

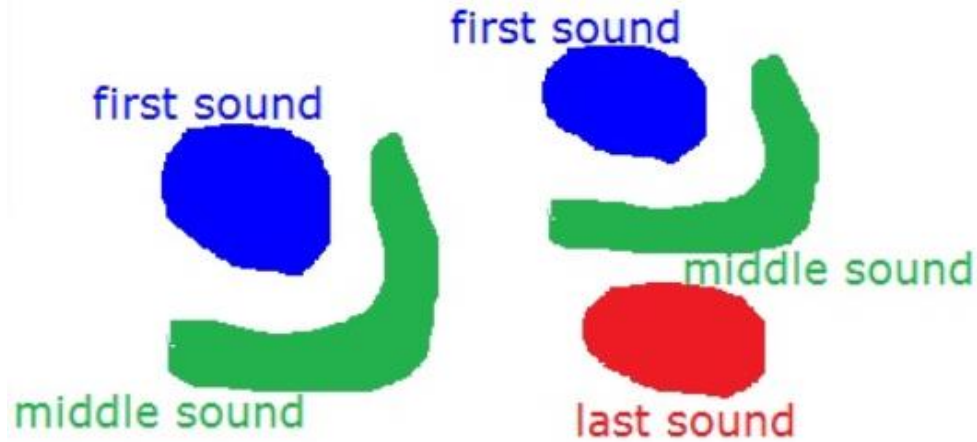
ㅏ	a	ㅓ	ae
ㅑ	ya	ㅕ	yae
ㅓ	eo	ㅖ	e
ㅕ	yeo	ㅗ	ye
ㅗ	o	ㅛ	wa
ㅛ	yo	ㅜ	wae
ㅜ	u,oo	ㅠ	ye
ㅠ	yo	ㅡ	we
ㅡ	u,oo	ㅣ	wee, ue
ㅣ	yu,yoo		
ㅡ	eu, u(short)	ㅣ	eui, ui
ㅣ	i, ee		



Thank you. = 감사합니다 (kam sa hap ni da > kam sa ham ni da)  
 고맙습니다 (ko map sup ni da > ko map sum ni da)  
 greetings = 안녕하세요 (an nyeong ha se yo)  
 good bye = 안녕히 계세요 (an nyeong hi gye se yo) (Stay with peace.)  
 안녕히 가세요 (an nyeong hi ga se yo) (Go with peace.)

Write your name here.  
 Your name in Hangul.

## KOREAN syllables



- Korean sound characters (Hangul) are grouped together to make a syllable in the form of
  - ✓ [beginning consonant] + [vowel] or
  - ✓ [beginning consonant] + [vowel] + [closing consonant].
- Each syllable must have formally beginning consonant as first sound and vowel as middle sound.
- Closing consonants as last sound could be pronounced differently from the beginning consonant, which is similar to German.  
Cf: 'd' of German 'God' sounds [t].
- Just combining **14 basic consonants** and **10 basic vowels**, more than ten thousand syllables can be made, but about three thousand syllables are usually used.

# Five fundamental Consonants are from the Shapes of Sound Organs

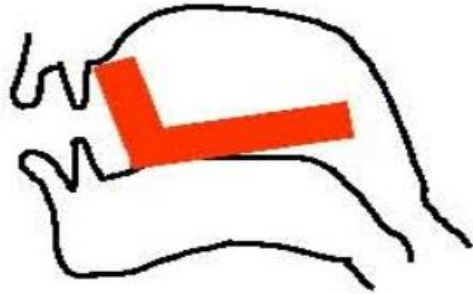


└ = g or k  
┘ = k'  
≠ = k

beginning of a word;  
after non-vocal sound;  
last sound of a syllable

- When you make the [g] sound, rear part of your tongue bends upwards to touch the roof of the mouth. That is the shape of '└' [g] sound.
- '└' is pronounced [k] in the beginning of words , after nonvocal consonant, and in the end of a syllable.
  - ✓ Cf. 'g' in German word 'Tag' sounds [k].
- '┘' (double-└) is similar to [k] in English word 'sky' or Spanish 'Que'.
- '≠' (stroke-added └) is always [k].

# Five fundamental Consonants are from the Shapes of Sound Organs



L = n

┌ = d or t

┌┌ = d'

E = t

≡ = r or l

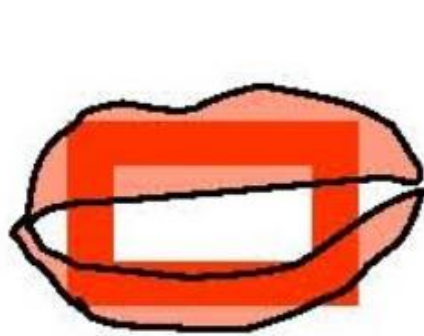
beginning of a word;  
after non-vocal sound;  
last sound of a syllable

last sound of a syllable

- When you make the [n] sound, tip of your tongue touches the rear part of upper front teeth. That is the shape of 'L' [n].
- '┌' (stroke-added L) is usually pronounced as [d], but sounds [t] in the beginning of words , after nonvocal consonant, and in the end of a syllable.
  - ✓ Cf. 'd' in German word 'God' sounds [t].
- '┌┌' (double-┌) is similar to 't' in English word 'stay' and sounds more intensely than '┌'.
- 'E' (stroke-added ┌) is always [t].
- '≡' sounds like Italian 'r' in the beginning of a syllable, and sounds [l] in the end of a syllable. Some Koreans have difficulties to distinguish 'r' and 'l' because of this.



# Five fundamental Consonants are from the Shapes of Sound Organs



□ = m

⏏ = b or p

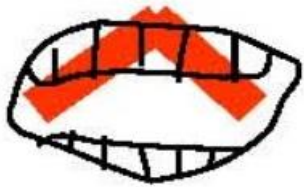
⏏⏏ = p'

⏏ = p

beginning of a word;  
after non-vocal sound;  
last sound of a syllable

- [m] sound is from the lips and '□' mimics the shape of lips.
- '⏏' (upward extended □) is usually pronounced as [b], but sounds [p] in the beginning of words, after nonvocal consonant, and in the end of a syllable.
  - ✓ Cf. 'b' in German word 'Tab' sounds [p].
- '⏏⏏' (double-⏏) is similar to 'p' in English word 'speed' and sounds more intensely than '⏏'.
- '⏏' (horizontally extended □) is always [p].

# Five fundamental Consonants are from the Shape of Sound Organs

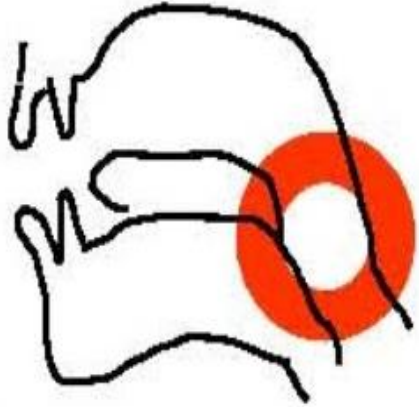


人 = s  
从 = s'  
丩 = j  
双 = j', ts  
天 = ch, ts

t last sound of a syllable

- [s] sound comes through between the teeth and the tongue and ‘人’ mimics the shape of teeth.
- ‘从’ (double 人) is similar to [s] in English word ‘say’ and sounds more intensely than ‘人’.
- ‘丩’ (stroke-added 人) is similar to English ‘j’ in ‘jeep’.
- ‘双’ (double 丩) sounds similar to ‘tch’ in English ‘stretching’, more intensely than ‘丩’.
- ‘天’ (stroke-added 丩) sounds similar to ‘ch’ in English ‘cherry’.
- All of these sound [t] when they are used in the end of a syllable.

# Five fundamental Consonants are from the Shape of Sound Organs

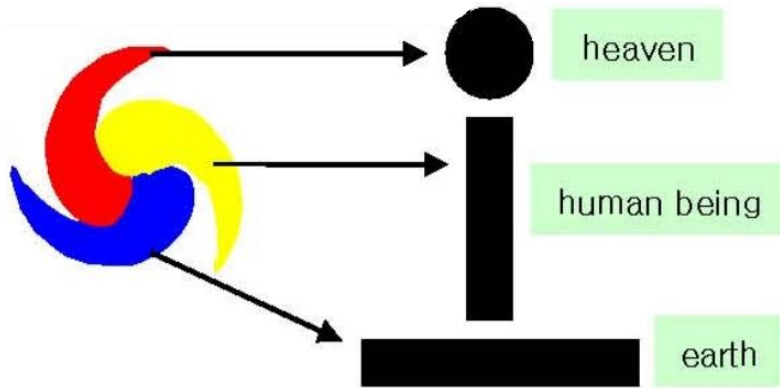


○	=	<u>no sound</u>	first sound of a syllable
○	=	ng	last sound of a syllable
o	=	h or t	last sound of a syllable

- ‘○’ is the shape of throat. ‘○’ opens throat and makes no sound (like zero) when it comes to the first position of a syllable.
- ‘○’ closes throat, blocks the airway, and makes [ng] sound when it comes to the last position of a syllable.
- ‘o|’ (strokes-added ○) makes friction in the airway and sounds [h]. It sounds [t] when it becomes the last consonant of a syllable.



# Vowels are from the Symbols of Korean Ancient Philosophy; Heaven(•), Human Being(I), and Earth(—)



Mnemonic for vowels

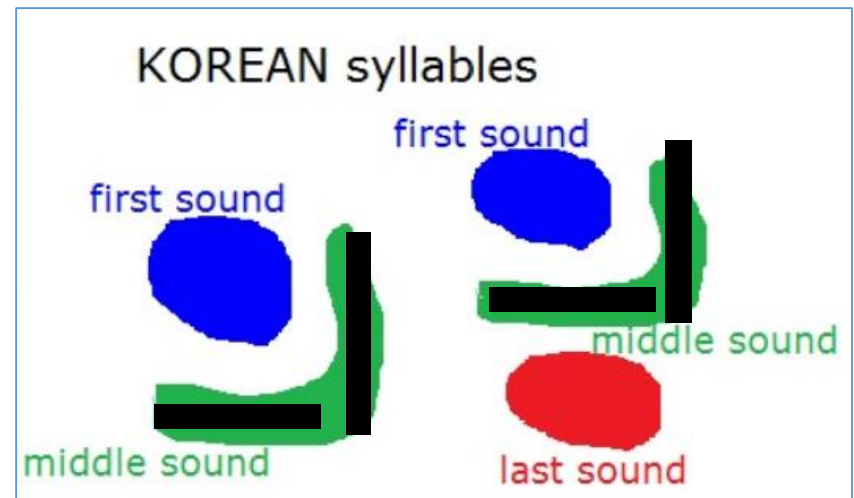
- ‡ = dot **A**fter the bar (German A)
- ‡ = dot **O**cc**U**rs before the bar
- ⊥ = dot **O**ver the bar (German O)
- ⊥ = dot **U**nder the bar (German U)
- | = like **I**
- ‡ = ya; 2 dots for **Y** sound

Dots became short strokes.

- To write '‡', you put a dot **A**fter the (vertical) bar, where **A** should be pronounced as German **A**.
- In '‡', a dot **O**cc**U**rs before the (vertical) bar, where the sounds of **O** and **U** are similar to '‡'.
- To write '⊥', you put a dot **O**ver the (horizontal) bar, where **O** is pronounced as German **O**.
- To write '⊥', you put a dot **U**nder the (horizontal) bar, where **U** is pronounced as German **U**.
- ' | ' sounds similar to English 'I' in 'In' or more similar to 'ee' in 'keen'.
- If you see two dots, just add 'y' sound in front of the vowel.

# Vowels are from the Symbols of Korean Ancient Philosophy: Ten Basic Vowels

dot <b>A</b> fter the bar	ㅏ	a
two dots for y sound	ㅑ	ya
dot <b>O</b> cc <b>U</b> rs before the bar	ㅓ	eo
two dots for y sound	ㅕ	yeo
dot <b>O</b> ver the bar	ㅗ	o
two dots for y sound	ㅛ	yo
dot <b>U</b> nder the bar	ㅜ	u, oo
two dots for y sound	ㅠ	yu, yoo
sounds like 'oo' in good	ㅡ	eu, u(short)
just like i	ㅣ	i, ee



When you write a syllable,  
horizontal bar comes under  
the first consonant and  
vertical bar comes to the  
right of the syllable.

# Combinations of Vowels and Diphthongs

ㅏ	a	ㅑ	ae				
ㅓ	ya	ㅕ	yae				
ㅗ	eo	ㅛ	e				
ㅛ	yeo	ㅜ	ye				
ㅜ	o	ㅠ	wa	ㅟ	wae	ㅝ	oe
ㅠ	yo						
ㅟ	u,oo	ㅠ	wo	ㅞ	we	ㅞ	wee, ue
ㅞ	yu,yoo						
ㅡ	eu, u(short)	ㅣ	eui, ui				
ㅣ	i, ee						

- ‘ㅏ’+ ‘ㅣ’ = ‘ㅑ’ became a sound similar to German ‘ä’ or ‘ae’.
- ‘ㅓ’+ ‘ㅣ’ = ‘ㅕ’ became a sound similar to English ‘e’.
- ‘ㅜ’+ ‘ㅣ’ = ‘ㅠ’ became a sound similar to German ‘ö’ or ‘oe’.
- ‘ㅟ’+ ‘ㅣ’ = ‘ㅞ’ sounds sometimes ‘wee’, sometimes ‘ü’ or ‘ue’.

Hangul (한글) was invented by King Sejong (세종대왕) and published in 1446.

Birthday of Hangul is October 9<sup>th</sup>.

세    조    대    왕  
Se   jong   Dae   wang

First sound 'ㅇ' (zero) opens throat and indicates 'no sound'.

Last sound 'ㅇ' closes throat and sounds 'ng'.