Korean Pronunciation Rules & More

Korean vowels are named after their sound. Korean constants are named below.

Consonant Letter	Consonant Name
ㄱ	기역
ㄴ	니은
ㄷ	디귿
ㄹ	리을
ㅁ	미음
ㅂ	비읍
ㅅ	시옷
ㅇ	이응
ㅈ	지읒
ㅊ	치읓
ㅋ	키읔
ㅌ	티읕
ㅍ	피읖
ㅎ	히읗

Korean double constants are named below.

Consonant Letter	Consonant Name
ㄲ	쌍기역
ㄸ	쌍디귿
ㅃ	쌍비읍
ㅆ	쌍시옷
ㅉ	쌍지읒

1) Syllables ending in consonants that are followed by ㅇ cause a change in pronunciation.

Syllable beginning in:	Pronounced as:
ㅇ	Previous Consonant

- **<u>Example:</u>** 교실에 (in the classroom) is pronounced 교시레

2) Certain constants are pronounced differently when ending a syllable.

Syllables ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㅃ ㅂ ㅍ	ㅂ
ㄲ ㄱ ㅋ	ㄱ
ㄸ ㄷ ㅌ ㅉ ㅈ ㅊ ㅆ ㅅ ㅎ	ㄷ

- **<u>Example:</u>** 그렇지만 (but) is pronounced like 그런지만

3) Certain constants are pronounced differently when ending a syllable when followed by ㄴ,ㅁ.

Syllables ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㅂ	ㅁ
ㄱ	ㅇ
ㄷ	ㄴ

- **<u>Example:</u>** 합니다 (does it) is pronounced like 함니다

4) Syllables ending in ㅁ or ㅇ AND followed by ㄹ there is a cause a change in pronunciation.

Syllable beginning in:	Pronounced as:
ㄹ	ㄴ

- **<u>Example:</u>** 심리 (psychology) is pronounced like 심니

5) Certain consonants in syllables that follow syllables ending in ㅎ are pronounced differently.

Syllables beginning in:	Pronounced as:
ㅂ	ㅍ
ㄷ	ㅌ
ㅈ	ㅊ
ㄱ	ㅋ

- **Example:** 넣다 (to enclose) is pronounced like 너타

6) Certain constants are pronounced differently when ending a syllable that is followed by ㅎ.

Syllables endings below go silent:	ㅎ pronounced as:
ㅂ	ㅍ
ㄷ	ㅌ
ㅈ	ㅊ
ㄱ	ㅋ

- **Example:** 각하 (dismissal) is pronounced like 가카

7) Syllables containing ㄴ that is before or after ㄹ there is a change in pronunciation.

Syllable containing:	Pronounced as:
ㄴ	ㄹ

- **Example:** 일 년 (one year) is pronounced like 일 련

8) Syllables ending in ㄹ AND followed by ㄷ, ㅈ, ㅅ there is a change in pronunciation.

Syllable beginning in:	Pronounced as:
ㄷ	ㄸ
ㅈ	ㅉ
ㅅ	ㅆ

- **Example:** 철도 (railway) is pronounced like 철또

9) Syllables ending in ㅂ, ㄱ, ㄷ followed by ㅂ, ㄷ, ㅈ, ㄱ, ㅅ there is a pronunciation change.

Syllable beginning in:	Pronounced as:
ㅂ	ㅃ
ㅈ	ㅉ
ㄷ	ㄸ
ㄱ	ㄲ
ㅅ	ㅆ

- **Example:** 약방 (drugstore) is pronounced like 약빵

10) Syllables ending in ㅌ AND followed by 이 causes a change in pronunciation.

Syllable ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㅌ	ㅊ

- **Example:** 같이 (together) is pronounced like 가치

11) Syllables ending in ㅎ AND followed by any vowel there is a change in pronunciation.

Syllables ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㅎ	SILENT – No sound

- **Example:** 좋아 (good) is pronounced like 조아

12) Syllables ending in ㅎ that are followed by ㄴ cause a change in pronunciation.

Syllables ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㅎ	ㄴ

- **Example:** 닿니 (touch) is pronounced like 단니

13) Syllables ending in certain constants that are followed by ㅅ cause a change in pronunciation.

Syllables endings below have ㅎ go silent:	ㅅ pronounced as:
ㅎ ㄴㅎ ㄹㅎ	ㅆ

- **<u>Example:</u>** 싫소 (hate) is pronounced like 실쏘

14) Syllables ending in certain constants that are followed by ㄴ cause a change in pronunciation.

Syllables endings below have ㅎ go silent:	Pronounced as:
ㄴㅎ	ㄴ
ㄹㅎ	ㄹ

- **<u>Example:</u>** 않네 (no) is pronounced like 안네

15) Syllables ending in certain complex consonants are pronounced using the first consonant.

Syllables ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㄱㅅ	ㄱ
ㄴㅈ	ㄴ
ㄹㅂ	ㄹ
ㄹㅅ	ㄹ
ㄹㅌ	ㄹ
ㅂㅅ	ㅂ

- **<u>Example:</u>** 값 (value) is pronounced like 갑

16) Syllables ending in certain complex consonants are pronounced using the second consonant.

Syllables ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㄹㄱ	ㄱ
ㄹㅁ	ㅁ
ㄹㅂ	ㅂ

- **<u>Example:</u>** 읽다 (read) is pronounced like 익따

17) Syllables ending in complex consonants followed by any vowel are pronounced differently.

Syllables ending in:	Pronounced as:
ㅂㅅ	ㅆ
ㄹㅅ	ㅆ
ㄱㅅ	ㅆ

- **Example:** 값이 (value) is pronounced like 갑씨

18) Syllables ending in complex consonants that are followed by ㅇ are pronounced differently.

Syllable beginning in:	Pronounced as:
ㅇ	Second Ending Consonant

- **Example:** 앉아 (sit down) is pronounced like 안자