

# Korean Consonants

printed <sup>1</sup>	[ ]	mnemonic
written	pronunciation	

ㄱ or ㄲ	[k,g]	cut, gash; corner	
ㄱ or ㄲ	between k and "hard g"		

ㅋ or ㆁ	[k']	
ㅋ or ㆁ	aspirated k (extra air)	

ㄲ or ㆁ	[kk]
ㄲ or ㆁ	tense k/g

ㄴ	[n]	knee	
ㄴ	exactly as n		

ㄷ	[t,d]	door	
ㄷ	between t and d		

ㅌ	[t']	trap door
ㅌ	aspirated t (extra air)	

ㄸ	[tt]
ㄸ	tense t/d

ㄹ	[r,l]	eel	
ㄹ	"Spanish r"; l at end of word <sup>2</sup>		

ㅁ	[m]	mouth; mail	
ㅁ	exactly as m		

ㅂ	[p,b]	bucket, pail	
ㅂ	between p and b		

ㅃ	[p']	pow!	
ㅃ	aspirated p (extra air)		

ㅍㅍ	[pp]
ㅍㅍ	tense p/b

ㅅ	[s,sh]	skating	
ㅅ	a soft s, sh before i or y		

ㅆ	[ss]
ㅆ	sharp s

ㅇ	[ng]	gong g	
ㅇ	ng at end of syllable <sup>3</sup>		

ㅎ	[h]	hat	
ㅎ	as h		

ㅈ	[j, ch]	jump	
ㅈ	between j and ch		

ㅊ	[ch']	a-choo!	
ㅊ	aspirated ch (extra air)		

ㅉ	[jj]
ㅉ	tense j/ch

<sup>1</sup>Gothic typeface (고딕체)

<sup>2</sup>at the beginning of syllable or between two vowels, a single tongue flap [r] as in Spanish (r, not rr), or as in the American pronunciation of "city."

<sup>3</sup>silent at the beginning of a syllable

The direction and order of strokes in writing the characters is generally top to bottom and left to right:

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
		ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
			ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
				ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
					ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
						ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
							ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
								ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ	
									ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ

- by Stephen Wright, Ph.D.  
Originally created for teaching children,  
but mnemonics may be helpful for all ages.