city guide

일상화 한국어

a survivalist language
guide to a life in seoul

vertical vowels

ㅣㅏㅑㅓㅕ

horizontal vowels

ㅜㅗㅡㅠㅛ

Korean characters can be split into three different alphabet sets. These alphabets set compose 24 elements. Korean characters always combine atleast one consonant and one vowel. to create a character.

consonants

ㄱㄴㄷㄹㅁ
ㅂㅅㅇㅈㅊ
ㅋㅌㅍㅎ

ㅅ ㅈ

The Korean language was a designed language, and so it has many constructs in its design that was made to make learning Korean easier. The consonants have five main groupings. These characters look similar, and also sound similar. Some of these characters create only slightly different sounds than the other, and show a level of accent.

consonants

ㄱ ㅋ
ㅁ ㅂ ㅍ
ㅇ ㅎ
ㅅ ㅈ ㅊ
ㄴ ㄷ ㅌ ㄹ

combining alphabet

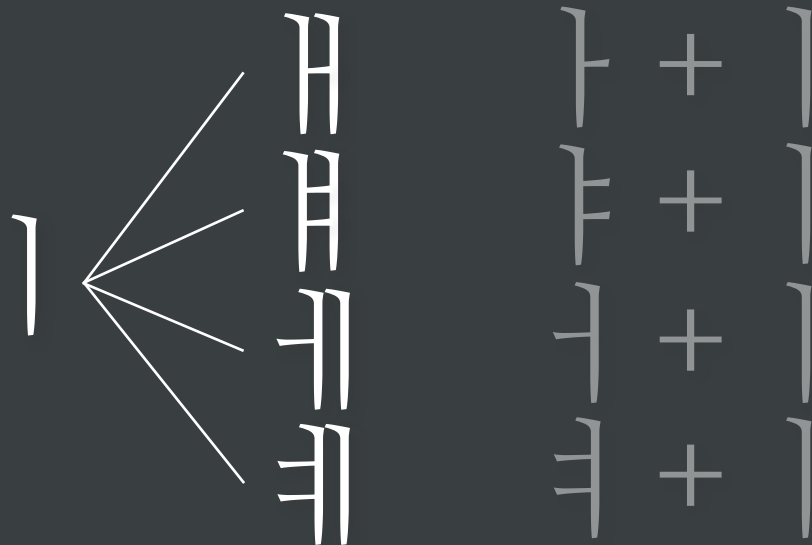Some consonants can be doubled to create more accute versions of the base consonant

doubling consonants

ㄲ

sound becomes more accute

consonants that double

ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ
ㅅ ㅈ

combining vowels

ㅣ ＜ ㅐ ／ ㅒ ／ ㅔ ／ ㅖ

ㅏ + ㅣ

ㅑ + ㅣ

ㅓ + ㅣ

ㅕ + ㅣ

These vertical vowels can also be combined to create a more accented sound, off of their base sound. They are all combined with the [ㅣ] vowel to create a total of 9 vertical vowels in the Korean language.

top consonant

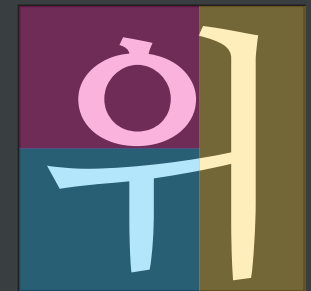bottom consonant

vertical vowel

horizontal vowel

To create one Korean character, you combine the vowels and consonants in this order:

    top consonant
    horizontal vowel
    vertical vowel
    bottom consonant

to create one, flowing sound in one syllable.

Six character types

비 닐 봉 투

막 내 네 례

작 살 당 했

Here's a few korean charac-
ters. First try to pronouce these
words using the information
from what you know about the
Korean alphabet, then click on
the character to get the sound.

Korean	Romanization	Meaning
네	nae	yes
아니요	ani-yo	no
하고	ha-go	and
안	gwen-chan-a-yo	Not (ahn-jo-a-yo - "I don't like," ahn-mat-is-seo-yo - "not tasty")
괜찮아요	gwen-chan-a-yo	okay (as in, "okay, yes please," "yes, it's okay," "that's okay, no thank you.")