

한글 – part 2 (The Korean alphabet)

1) Three-stroke consonants

We have already learnt 5 simple consonants. Today we are going to see the rest. They are also simple but have additional strokes and derive from the consonants previously studied.

Derivation of →	Consonants	Pronunciation
ㄷ	ㄴ	<i>d/t</i> as in “down” as in “kettle”
	ㄹ	<i>r/l</i> as in “right” as in “light”
ㅁ	ㅂ	<i>b/p</i> as in “brother” as in “portrait”
ㅅ	ㅈ	<i>j</i> as in “jam”
ㅇ	ㅎ	<i>h</i> as in “hall”

Here again, to combine those consonants with vowels, you need to look at whether the vowels are horizontal or vertical ones:

Vertical vowels → Consonant on the left:
다 더 디 ; 라 러 리 ; 바 버 비 ;
자 저 지 ; 하 허 히

Horizontal vowels → Consonant on top:
도 두 드 ; 로 루 르 ; 보 부 브 ;
조 주 즈 ; 호 후 흐

✚ Exercises: 1/ Copy the following words

- The sea* → 바다 →
- frequently* → 자주 →
- The rain* → 비 →
- Soju* → 소주 →
- Australia* → 호주 →

2) Combined vowels

There are four combined vowels. They derive from the vowels we previously studied but are used to make the sound [y] →

야 [ya] ; 여 [yeo] ; 요 [yo] ; 유 [yu]

as in: yard yacht yogurt you

2/ Copy the following words

- Milk → 우유 →
- free → 무료 →
- No → 아니요 →
- Baseball → 야구 →

3/ Practise the writing of the following syllables

가	갸	거	겨	고	교	구	규	그	기
나									
다									
라									
마									
바									
사									

자									
하									



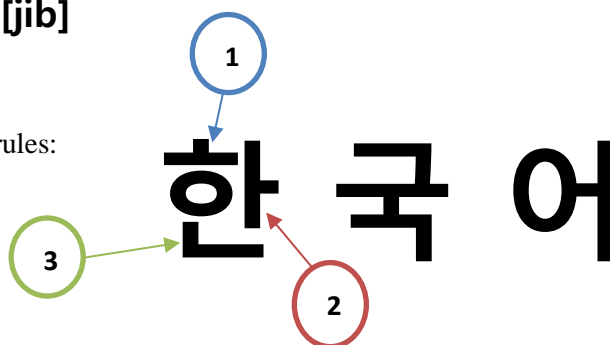
3) Syllable construction : 2 consonants + 1 vowel

Now, we are going to see how you should write a syllable that contains 2 consonants (1 initial and 1 final) + 1 vowel. Consonants are always combined before and after a vowel; they are spelled together and for this purpose are pronounced as one sound →

ex: 한 [han] ; 눈 [nun] ; 물 [mul] ; 집 [jib]

When writing a syllable, you should always follow 2 rules:

- write from top to bottom first
- then from left to right

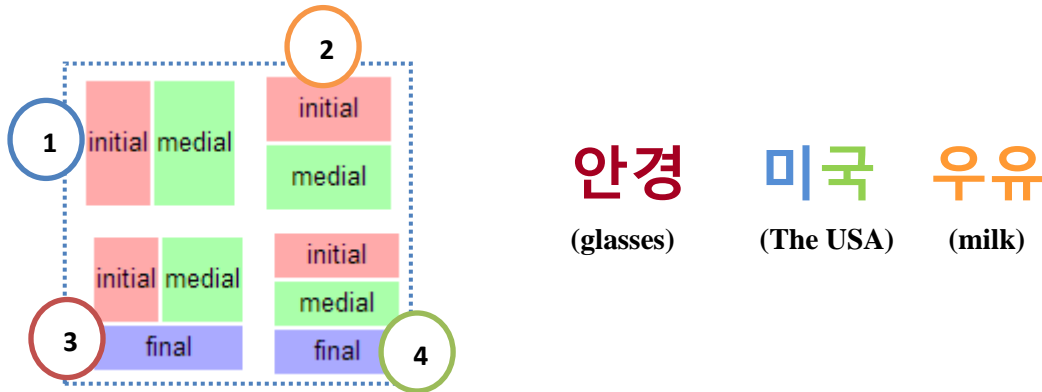


[han – gug –eo] = the Korean language

An initial consonant is the first consonant you write and a final consonant is the last letter you write to form the syllable. In our example *han*, *h* is an initial consonant and *n* a final one. In *kuk* - pronounced here *gug* - *K* is both an initial and a final consonant as there are two of them. In *eo*, there is no consonant.

한국 = South Korea (literally the country of the Han people)

You will find below the different possibilities of the writing of a syllable and their examples in colour; each colour representing a different position. (On this diagram, "medial" refers to vowels.)



In most cases, the pronunciation of a final consonant is the same as its initial sound; however,



some consonants change often → ㅇ which is normally silent becomes « ng » as a final: **안경**

[ankyeong = glasses], and ㄷ, ㅈ, ㅎ and ㅅ become « t » as finals: **옷** [ot = clothes];

낮잠 [natjam = nap]; **맛** [mat = taste]; **곧** [kot = soon]

연습 (Exercise): Read the following words and decipher them into Latin letters:

-사랑

-돈

-요즘

-사람

-요가

-언니

-여기

-휴지

-누구

-고기

-오늘

-강남