



KOREAN PHONEMIC INVENTORY

Please remember that dialectal differences exist for each language and should be considered when using the phonemic charts.

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b p ^h			t d t ^h			c c ^h k g k ^h		
Nasal		m			n				
Trill									
Tap or Flap									
Fricative				s				h	
Affricate									
Glides (Approximant)							j		
Liquid (Lateral Approximant)				l					

Reference:

Cheng, L. (1991). *Assessing Asian language performance: Guidelines for evaluating limited-English proficient students* (2nd ed.). Oceanside, CA: Academic Communication Associates.



Facts on Korean Phonology

- Common characteristics of Korean speakers learning English include the following:¹
 - nasalized final stops if appears prior to a nasal sound,
 - /r/ and /l/ are often interchangeable, and
 - monotone stress.
- There are no consonant clusters in word-initial or word-final positions.²
- Fricatives and affricates do not appear in word-final position.³
- Phonemes in English that are not found in Korean include the following:
 - /ŋ/, /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ɹ/, and /w/.

¹ Cheng, L. (1991). Assessing Asian language performance: Guidelines for evaluating limited-English proficient students (2nd ed.). Oceanside, CA: Academic Communication Associates.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*