

An Overview of the Pronunciation of Korean Speakers of English

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English Consonants

- **24 English consonants**

**: p, b, t, d, k, g, ts, dz, f, v, θ, ð, s, z, l,
m, n, ŋ, w, r, y, h**

Example of Korean Consonants

19 Korean consonants

: ㄱ(g), ㄴ(n), ㄷ(d), ㄹ(r), ㅁ(m), ㅂ(b),
ㅅ(s), ㅇ(ng), ㅈ(j), ㅊ(ch), ㅋ(k), ㅌ(t),
ㅍ(p), ㅎ(h), ㄱㄱ(gg), ㄷㄷ(dd), ㅂㅂ(bb),
ㅅㅅ(ss), ㅈㅈ(jj)

Example

dal (달) 'moon' [tal]

ddal (딸) 'daughter' [ttal]

tal (탈) 'mask' [thal]

Intervocalic Voicing Rule

- **salam -> saram** ‘human being’
- **tuteci -> tudeji** ‘mole’
- **Sokoki -> sogogi** ‘beef’
- **Kutu-> kudu** ‘shoes’

Examples from Lee (2002)

Target	Korean	English
base	[peis]	[peis]
dog	[dogu]	[togu]
go	[kow]	[kow]

Examples from Lee (2002)

English

Korean

bus

[bbaswu]

dance

[ddancwu]

golf

[ggolpwu]

Korean Consonant /s/

■ English Korean

sky [swukhai]

speak [swupeak]

speech [swupheech]

Korean Voiceless Stops

■ English

Korean

stop

[stopwu]

went

[wentwu]

night

[nightwu]

Pronunciation of Fricatives

English	Korean
think	sink ([θ] -> s)
bath	bas ([θ] -> s)
bathe	bade ([ð] -> d)
the	dhe ([ð] -> d)

Pronunciation of Liquids

English

Korean

light

[laithwu]

play

[phrei]

pray

[phrei]

clap

[khwullapwu]

tray

[twurei]

Korean Vowels

■ 21 Korean vowels

(monophthongs: 10, diphthongs: 11)

: 아(a), 야(ya), 어(eo), 여(yeo), 오(o),
요(yo), 우(u), 유(yu), 으(eu), 이(i), 의(yi),
애(ae), 얘(yae), 에(e), 예(ye), 외(e), 위(wi),
와(wa), 웨(weo), 왜(wae), 웨(we)

Pronunciation of High Vowels

■ English

/i/ , /ɪ/

/e/ , /æ/

Korean

/i/

/ea/ (merger)

Example

English

bed [bed]

bad [baed]

Korean

[bead]

[bead]

Pronunciation of Vowel Mergers

English

Korean

ball [bol]

[bol]

boat[bowt]

[bothwu]

blow [slou]

[swulowu]

moral[moral]

[moral]

law[lo]

[lo]

Pitch Accent in Korean Speakers

- **Korean speakers**

- : '*dark (adjective) suit*'

- : highest pitch on the first word

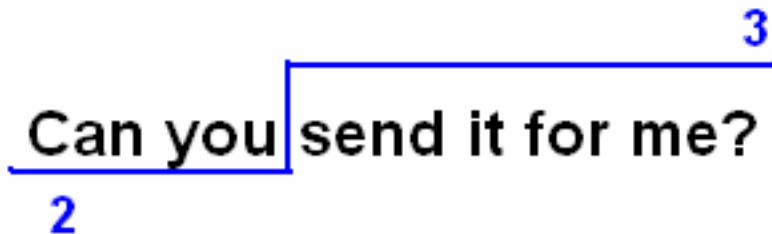
- **Native English speakers**

- : '*dark suit (noun)*' :

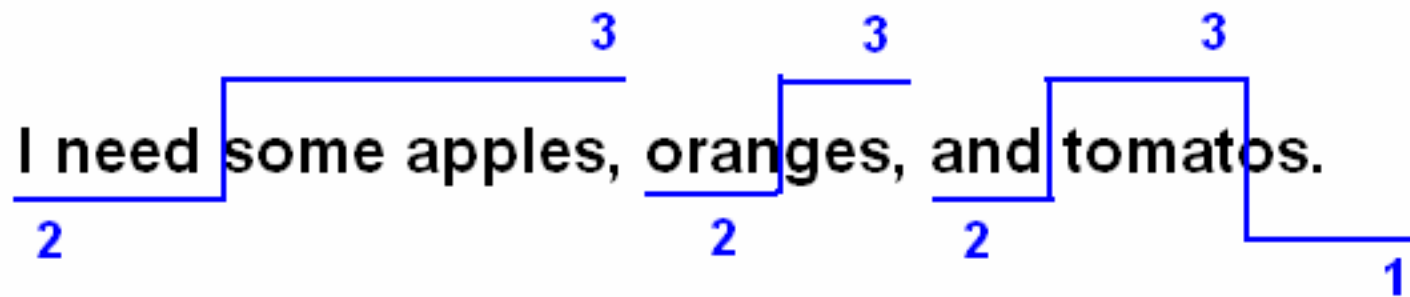
- : highest pitch on the second word

English Intonation Examples

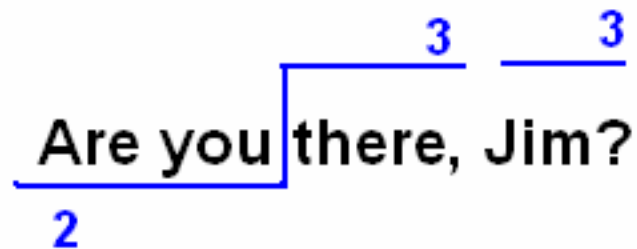
Can you send it for me?



I need some apples, oranges, and tomatoes.



Are you there, Jim?



Conclusion

- **Pronunciation differences in varieties of World Englishes arise because of different first language backgrounds.**
- **Need for both native and non-Korean non-native English speakers to be aware of Korean English pronunciation.**