

# **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)

<b><u>Target</u></b>	<b><u>Korean</u></b>	<b><u>English</u></b>
<b>base</b>	<b>[peis]</b>	<b>[peis]</b>
<b>dog</b>	<b>[dogu]</b>	<b>[togu]</b>
<b>go</b>	<b>[kow]</b>	<b>[kow]</b>

# 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

<b>English</b>	<b>Korean</b>
<b>think</b>	<b>sink ([θ] -&gt; s )</b>
<b>bath</b>	<b>bas ([θ] -&gt; s )</b>
<b>bathe</b>	<b>bade ([ð] -&gt; d )</b>
<b>the</b>	<b>dhe ([ð] -&gt; d )</b>

# 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)*' :

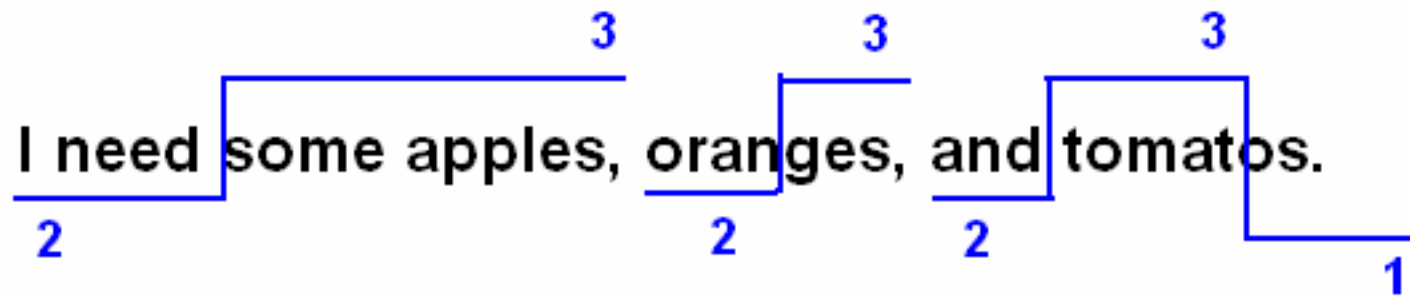
- : highest pitch on the second word

# English Intonation Examples

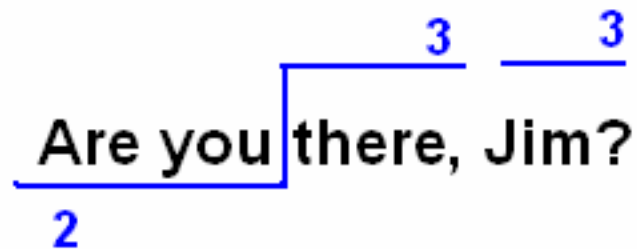
Can you send it for me?



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.**