

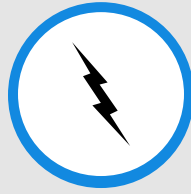


Korean Learners of English

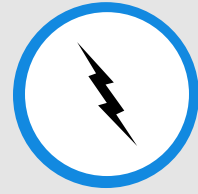
Typical Problems Korean learners have with English pronunciation (data from: Lee Jung-Ae, *Learner English*, Cambridge University Press)

Vowels

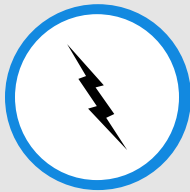
Korean has 8 simple vowels,
13 diphthongs
English has 12 simple vowels
and 8 diphthongs



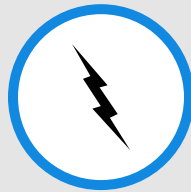
/ɔ:/ and /əʊ/ are typically pronounced /o/



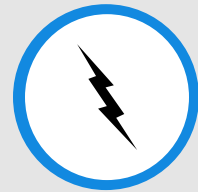
/ʌ/ is produced as the Korean /a/



/æ/ (as in 'hat') is often produced as /e/



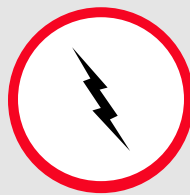
There is no Korean equivalent for /ɜ:/ which is often produced as /ə/ or /ɔ:/



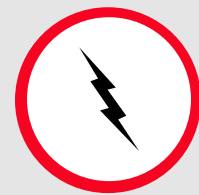
Instead of a short/long vowel distinction, Korean uses rising and falling intonation or a pause

Consonants

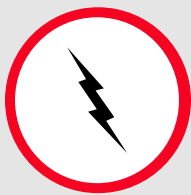
Korean has 19 consonants
English as 24 consonants



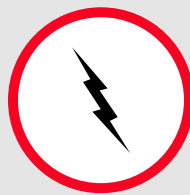
/r/ and /l/ are represented by the same character in Korean - /r/ is a particular problem



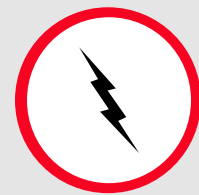
/f/ is commonly produced as /p/



/z/ is often produced as /dʒ/



/f/ is found in Korean, but not in end positions - so there is a tendency to add a /ɪ/ or /ə/ vowel



/θ/ can be produced as /s/ and /ð/ as /d/

Stress and Intonation

Korean employs neither syllable stress nor word stress. In almost all polysyllabic English words, one sound is emphasised, whereas in Korean, stressing is more equal.

In Korean sentences, particular words are not stressed through pronunciation in relation to other words, as they are in English.

To Koreans, English native speaker speech can sound exaggerated, while a Korean speaking English can often sound too flat to native speakers of English.

Like English, Korean has generally falling intonation on statements and questions other than 'yes/no' questions, and rising intonation on 'yes/no' questions.