



Korean Ladder Study Note

기역 / 니은 / 디귤

The Names of the Korean Consonant Letters

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	기역 / 니은 / 디귤 The Names of the Korean Consonant Letters

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-007>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubQqfpJifyM>

Visit [koreanladder.com](https://www.koreanladder.com) for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real question. I know ㄱ makes a 'g' sound, but when my Korean friend spelled a word out loud, she didn't say 'geu' — she said 기역. What is 기역?

좋은 질문이에요. Every Korean letter has two things — a sound, and a name. The name of ㄱ is 기역. When you spell out loud, you use the name.

오늘의 핵심은 자음의 이름이에요. Today we learn the NAMES of the consonants, so you can spell aloud, use a dictionary, and read acronyms.

예를 들어 ㄴ은 니은이에요. Hear it — 니, then 은. The 'n' opens the name and closes it.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	'강'을 자음과 모음으로 말해 볼까요? —	Shall we say '강' letter by letter?



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	기역, 아, 이응 — 강이에요. —	giyeok, a, ieung — that spells 강.
Junho	네, 이름으로 말하니까 분명하죠. —	Yes — using the names makes it clear.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
자음의 이름 jaeum-ui ireum	the names of the consonants	오늘의 핵심은 자음의 이름이에요. Today we learn the NAMES of the consonants, so you can spell aloud, use a dictionary, and read acronyms.
니은 ni-eun	the name of ㄴ (front 니 + back 은)	이름에는 규칙이 있어요. The name shows the letter twice — first with 이, then with 은. So the letter comes at the front, and again at the back.
ㄴ → 니은 ni-eun	the name of ㄴ	예를 들어 ㄴ은 니은이에요. Hear it — 니, then 은. The 'n' opens the name and closes it.
ㅁ → 미음 mi-eum	the name of ㅁ	ㅁ은 미음이에요. 미, 음 — same shape. The 'm' at the front and the back.
ㅂ → 비읍 bi-eup	the name of ㅂ	ㅂ은 비읍이에요. 비, 읍.
ㄹ → 리을 ri-eul	the name of ㄹ	ㄹ은 리을이에요. 리, 을. The pattern holds again.
예외 세 개 yeoe se gae	three exceptions	그런데 세 글자는 특별해요. But three letters break the rule — you just memorize these three.
ㄱ → 기역 gi-yeok	the name of ㄱ (irregular)	ㄱ은 기역이에요. 기, 역 — not 기웁. This one is irregular.



Grammar / Structure Notes

자음의 이름

자음의 이름 — the names of the consonants

Every 자음 has an official name.

니은

니 + 은 — the name of ㄴ (front 니 + back 은)

이름에는 규칙이 있어요. The name shows the letter twice — first with 이, then with 은. So the letter comes at the front, and again at the back.

ㄴ → 니은

ㄴ → 니은 — the name of ㄴ

예를 들어 ㄴ은 니은이에요. Hear it — 니, then 은. The 'n' opens the name and closes it.

ㅁ → 미음

ㅁ → 미음 — the name of ㅁ

ㅁ은 미음이에요. 미, 음 — same shape. The 'm' at the front and the back.

ㅂ → 비읍

ㅂ → 비읍 — the name of ㅂ

ㅂ은 비읍이에요. 비, 읍.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
기억	gi-yeok
디글	di-geut

Self-Check

- 1 Say 기억 / 니은 / 디글 three times: slow, natural, then inside a short sentence.
- 2 Write one original sentence that was not in the video.
- 3 Rewatch the YouTube lesson and pause when the same pattern appears.

Related / Subsequent Studies



Lesson	Why study it next	Link
ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅌ The Three Korean D/T Sounds	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄷ / ㅌ / ㅌ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-006
ㄹ 발음 The Korean R/L Sound at the Start and Middle of Words	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄹ 발음 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-002
ㅇ의 두 얼굴 첫소리 묵음과 받침 받침 'ㅇ'	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅇ의 두 얼굴 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-004
ㅈ / ㅊ / ㅉ The Three Korean 'J/Ch' Sounds	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅈ / ㅊ / ㅉ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-003

My Notes

Your ladder to fluent Korean. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.