



Korean Ladder Study Note

키읔 · 티읕 · 피읖 · 치읓

Naming Korea's Aspirated Consonant Letters

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	키읔 · 티읕 · 피읖 · 치읓 Naming Korea's Aspirated Consonant Letters

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-012>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4czoG44k-xw>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

My question today is embarrassingly simple. If I see 카, do I call that letter 카, or is the letter called something else?

좋은 질문이에요. 카는 음절이에요. The letter name is 키읔. And it has a clear puff of air.

Today's pattern is simple: name the letter, then hear the 거센소리. In English, 거센소리 means an aspirated, stronger breathy consonant sound.

So the letter name is 키읔, but 카 is what happens when ㅋ meets ㅏ?

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	커피의 첫 자음 글자 이름은 뭐예요? —	What is the first consonant letter name in 커피?
Junho	키읔이에요. 거센소리예요. —	It's 키읔. It's an aspirated sound.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	치킨의 첫 자음 글자 이름은 뭐예요? —	What is the first consonant letter name in 치킨?
Junho	치웁이에요. 지웁이 아니에요. —	It's 치웁. It's not 지웁.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㅋ = 키웁 ㅋ = kieuk	ㅋ is named 키웁	좋은 질문이에요. 카는 음절이에요. The letter name is 키웁. And it has a clear puff of air.
글자 이름 + 거센소리 geulja ireum + geosensori	letter name + aspirated sound	Today's pattern is simple: name the letter, then hear the 거센소리. In English, 거센소리 means an aspirated, stronger breathy consonant sound.
키웁 · 티웁 · 피웁 · 치웁 kieuk · tieut · pieup · chieut	Naming Korea's Aspirated Consonant Letters	먼저 네 글자 이름이에요. Listen first: 키웁, 티웁, 피웁, 치웁.
ㅋ → 카, 커, 코 ㅋ → ka, keo, ko	Naming Korea's Aspirated Consonant Letters	키웁 has a strong puff at the beginning when it makes a sound, like 카 or 커.
카 = ㅋ + ㅏ —	카 is a syllable: ㅋ plus the vowel letter ㅏ.	Exactly. 카, 타, 파, 차 are syllables: consonant plus the vowel letter ㅏ. The letter names are different.
ㅌ = 티웁 ㅌ = tieut	The letter ㅌ is named 티웁.	Now 티웁. The letter shape is ㅌ, and the name is 티웁.
ㅌ → 타, 토 ㅌ → ta, to	Naming Korea's Aspirated Consonant Letters	티웁 makes an aspirated sound, like 타 or 토. It is stronger and airier than 디귤.
티웁 → 타 tieut → ta	Naming Korea's Aspirated Consonant Letters	Let me try: 티웁. 타. The name is 티웁, the syllable is 타.



Grammar / Structure Notes

ㅋ = 키읓

ㅋ = 키읓 — ㅋ is named 키읓

카 is a syllable, not the letter name.

글자 이름 + 거센소리

글자 이름 + 거센소리 — letter name + aspirated sound

Use names for spelling; use sounds for pronunciation.

ㅋ = 키읓

ㅋ + = + 키읓 — The letter ㅋ is named 키읓.

The first one is 키읓. The letter shape is ㅋ, and the name is 키읓.

카 = ㅋ + ㅏ

카 + = + ㅋ + + + ㅏ — 카 is a syllable: ㅋ plus the vowel letter ㅏ.

Exactly. 카, 타, 파, 차 are syllables: consonant plus the vowel letter ㅏ. The letter names are different.

ㅌ = 티읓

ㅌ + = + 티읓 — The letter ㅌ is named 티읓.

Now 티읓. The letter shape is ㅌ, and the name is 티읓.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
키읓 · 티읓 · 피읓 · 치읓	kieuk · tieut · pieup · chieut
카, 커, 코	ㅋ → ka, keo, ko
타, 토	ㅌ → ta, to
티읓 → 타	tieut → ta
파, 포, 피	ㅍ → pa, po, pi
파 vs 바	pa vs ba
차, 초, 치	ㅊ → cha, cho, chi
키읓, 티읓, 피읓, 치읓	kieuk · tieut · pieup · chieut

Self-Check

1 Say 키읓 · 티읓 · 피읓 · 치읓 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
ㄴ / ㄷ / ㅎ The Soft Korean Consonants Beginners Overlook	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄴ / ㄷ / ㅎ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-008
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

My Notes

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