



Korean Ladder Study Note

ㅌ · ㅊ를 영어

Korean Aspirates with a Flat Tongue Tip

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Pronunciation Consonants	ㅌ · ㅊ를 영어 Korean Aspirates with a Flat Tongue Tip

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-018>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ur9THXGcPYg>

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

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Why does my Korean 티을 sometimes come out like the th in think, and my 치웃 like my English ch?

That is a very common question. The th in think is a fricative, but Korean 티을 is a brief stop with a puff of air.

오늘은 단어 첫소리의 티을과 치웃을 연습해요. We will use tongue placement and short practical phrases.

티을 is not the th in think. Keep your tongue inside your mouth, make a short closure, and release it.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	차 한 잔 주세요. —	One cup of tea, please.
Hana	네, 따뜻한 차 한 잔 드릴게요. —	Sure, I'll bring you a hot tea.
Junho	탄산수도 주세요. —	Sparkling water too, please.



Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
ㅌ · ㅊ —	Korean aspirated consonants at the start of a word	오늘은 단어 첫소리의 티을과 치읓을 연습해요. We will use tongue placement and short practical phrases.
탈 tal	mask	먼저 탈이에요. 탈. For 티을, hear one brief stop, then a puff of air.
ㅌ: 탈 tal	tal	티을 is not the th in think. Keep your tongue inside your mouth, make a short closure, and release it.
차 cha	tea	이제 차예요. 차. 치읓 also has air, but its tongue shape is different from 티을.
자 · 차 ja · cha	ja · tea	자, 차. First, 지읓. Then, 치읓, with a stronger puff of air.
ㅈ → ㅊ —	less air → more air	자보다 차에서 공기가 더 세게 나와요. In Korean, that air difference helps listeners hear a different consonant.
탈 · 달 tal · dal	mask · moon	좋아요. Compare 탈 and 달. 티을 has a clearer puff of air than 디글 here.
탄 tan	Korean Aspirates with a Flat Tongue Tip	좋아요. Keep the first closure brief. The air comes after you release it, not as a long fricative before the vowel.



Grammar / Structure Notes

ㅍ · ㅑ

ㅍ · ㅑ — Korean aspirated consonants at the start of a word

Brief closure, then a clear release of air.

탈

탈 — mask

먼저 탈이에요. 탈. For 티을, hear one brief stop, then a puff of air.

ㅌ: 탈

ㅌ: 탈 — tal

A brief stop and release, not an English th fricative.

차

차 — tea

이제 차예요. 차. 차읏 also has air, but its tongue shape is different from 티을.

자 · 차

자 · 차 — ja · tea

ㅑ has a stronger puff of air than ㅑ.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
탈	tal
차	cha
차 한 잔 주세요.	cha han jan juseyo.
탄산수 주세요. 차 한 잔 주세요.	tansansu juseyo. cha han jan juseyo.
탄산수 주세요.	tansansu juseyo.
탄	tan
자, 차	ja · cha

Self-Check

- 1 Say ㅌ · ㅑ를 영어 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 / ㄴ / ㅎ The Soft Korean Consonants Beginners Overlook	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㄴ / ㄴ / ㅎ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-008
ㅁ · ㅂ · ㅅ · ㅈ Feeling Korea's Four Lip Consonants	A1 Pronunciation: compare ㅁ · ㅂ · ㅅ · ㅈ with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-PRON-CNS-016

My Notes

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