UNIT 07

Korean Pronunciation Rules

Goal: notice the four basic sound changes (link, nose, tight, soft ㅎ), read the spelling, and say it smoothly. The spelling never changes.

We spell it one way. We say it a little differently. The spelling never changes.

LINK: a bottom letter hops onto a silent ㅇ.

NOSE: a stop ending (ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ) before ㄴ or ㅁ turns into its keeps-going partner (ㅇ ㄴ ㅁ).

TIGHT: after a stop ending, the next sound can turn tight.

SOFT ㅎ: a bottom ㅎ is usually quiet.

Exercise 1 · LINK: where does the bottom letter hop?

Read the spelling. Then write how it sounds. The bottom letter hops onto the silent ㅇ of the next block.

Spelling	Sounds like	Meaning
발음	_____	pronunciation
음악	_____	music
한국어	_____	Korean language
단어	_____	word

An empty seat (silent ㅇ) is waiting. The bottom letter of the block before it hops in.

Exercise 2 · Hop or stay?

Does the bottom letter hop to the next block? Write **hop** or **stay**. Remember: the “ng” letter stays put.

음악	영어	단어	한국어

Exercise 3 · NOSE: the stop puts on its partner

Same spot in the mouth. Write the keeps-going partner of each stop ending (ㅇ · ㄴ · ㅁ).

ㄱ → _____

ㄷ → _____

ㅂ → _____

Now write how each word sounds. A stop ending meets a nose sound (ㄴ ㅁ).

Spelling	Sounds like	Meaning
국물	_____	broth
한국말	_____	Korean (spoken)
감사합니다	_____	thank you

The mouth stays in the same spot. The sound just keeps humming through the nose. That is why 감사합니다 sounds the way it does.

Exercise 4 · TIGHT: a little clench

After a stop ending, the next plain sound can turn tight. Write how each word sounds.

Spelling	Sounds like	Meaning
학교	_____	school
식당	_____	restaurant
약속	_____	promise
국밥	_____	rice soup

This is a pattern to notice, not a law. You do not need to force the tight sound. Clench a little and it comes naturally.

Exercise 5 · SOFT ㅎ: the shy letter

A bottom ㅎ is usually quiet. Write how each word sounds.

Spelling	Sounds like	Meaning
좋아요	_____	good · I like it
좋다	_____	good

In 좋아요 the shy letter fades. In 좋다 it joins the next sound and turns into a puff sound. On a Korean video, 좋아요 is the Like button.

Exercise 6 · Which rule changed it?

Write the rule: **LINK** · **NOSE** · **TIGHT** · **SOFT ㅎ**.

한국말	식당	음악	좋다
감사합니다	단어	국밥	좋아요

Exercise 7 · Meaning match

Read each word out loud, then write the English meaning. Word bank: **pronunciation · music · Korean language · English · word · broth · Korean (spoken) · thank you · school · restaurant · promise · rice soup · good · I like it**.

발음	_____	음악	_____
한국어	_____	영어	_____
단어	_____	국물	_____
한국말	_____	감사합니다	_____
학교	_____	식당	_____
약속	_____	국밥	_____
좋아요	_____	좋다	_____

Exercise 8 · Try four new words

These four words are not in the video. Guess how each one sounds, then write the rule (**LINK** or **TIGHT**).

Word	Sounds like	Rule
직업	_____	_____
먹어	_____	_____
입구	_____	_____
낙엽	_____	_____

Every letter here is one you already know. 먹어 is only a reading drill. The grammar comes later.

Exercise 9 · Read out loud (no romanization!)

Read each row out loud, then tick the boxes. Read the spelling and say it smoothly.

Words 1	발음 음악 한국어 영어 단어	☐☐
Words 2	국물 한국말 감사합니다	☐☐
Words 3	학교 식당 약속 국밥	☐☐
Words 4	좋아요 좋다	☐☐
Words 5	직업 먹어 입구 낙엽	☐☐

Exercise 10 · Quick quiz

1. Do pronunciation rules change the spelling?

A Yes **B** No, the spelling stays the same **C** Only sometimes

2. What happens when a bottom letter comes before a silent ㅇ block?

A It hops to the next block **B** It disappears **C** Nothing

3. Does the “ng” bottom letter hop?

A Yes **B** No, it stays **C** Only in 영어

4. In which word does a stop sound turn into a nose sound?

A 음악 **B** 식당 **C** 국물

5. In which word does the next sound turn tight?

A 약속 **B** 영어 **C** 발음

6. How does a bottom ㅎ usually sound before a vowel?

A Loud **B** Almost silent **C** Like ㅋ

Unit 07 Master Check

- ☐ I know the spelling never changes, even when the sound does
- ☐ I know a bottom letter hops onto a silent ㅇ (발음 → 바름), but “ng” stays
- ☐ I know a stop ending before ㄴ or ㅁ turns into its partner (감사합니다 → 감사함니다)
- ☐ I know the next sound can turn tight after a stop ending (학교 → 학꾜)
- ☐ I know a bottom ㅎ is usually quiet (좋아요 → 조아요)
- ☐ I can read the fourteen video words smoothly
- ☐ I treat these as patterns to notice, not rules to memorize

Keep going: Read the words out loud once a day and listen to real Korean. Your ears will catch more every time. Next up is Unit 08: the last letters.

Answer Key

Check your work. Then read every answer out loud once more.

Exercise 1

발음 = 바름 · 음악 = 으막 · 한국어 = 한구거 · 단어 = 다너

Exercise 2

음악 = hop · 영어 = stay · 단어 = hop · 한국어 = hop
(영어 sounds the same as it is spelled.)

Exercise 3

ㄱ → ㅇ · ㄷ → ㄴ · ㅂ → ㅁ
국물 = 궁물 · 한국말 = 한궁말 · 감사합니다 = 감사함니다

Exercise 4

학교 = 학꾜 · 식당 = 식땅 · 약속 = 약쏙 · 국밥 = 국빱

Exercise 5

좋아요 = 조아요 · 좋다 = 조타

Exercise 6

한국말 = NOSE · 식당 = TIGHT · 음악 = LINK · 좋다 = SOFT ㅎ · 감사합니다 = NOSE · 단어 = LINK · 국밥 = TIGHT · 좋아요 = SOFT ㅎ

Exercise 7

발음 = pronunciation · 음악 = music · 한국어 = Korean language · 영어 = English · 단어 = word · 국물 = broth · 한국말 = Korean (spoken) · 감사합니다 = thank you · 학교 = school · 식당 = restaurant · 약속 = promise · appointment · 국밥 = rice soup · 좋아요 = good · I like it · 좋다 = good

Exercise 8

직업 = 지겁 · job · LINK
먹어 = 머거 · eat (a form) · LINK
입구 = 입꾸 · entrance · TIGHT
낙엽 = 나겹 · fallen leaf · LINK

Exercise 10

1. B (the spelling stays the same) · 2. A (it hops) · 3. B (“ng” stays) · 4. C (국물 → 궁물) · 5. A (약속 → 약쏙) · 6. B (almost silent)

Some answers depend on your own pronunciation. Compare your voice with the native-speaker audio in the video.