

(In North Korea, different conventions are used.) The names of the vowels are their pronunciations in isolation.

(1) The Hangŭl Letters (Basic Letters)

<i>Consonants</i>							
Symbol:	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ
	k	n	t	l	m	p	s
	[k/g]	[n]	[t/d]	[l/r]	[m]	[p/b]	[s]
Name:	기역	니운	디귄	리울	미움	비읍	시옷
	(kiyek)	(niun)	(tikut)	(liul)	(mium)	(piup)	(sios)
Symbol:	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
	(∅/-ng)	c	ch	kh	th	ph	h
	[∅/ŋ]	[tʃ/j]	[tʃʰ]	[kʰ]	[tʰ]	[pʰ]	[h]
Name:	이응	지읒	치읓	키읔	티읕	피읖	히읇
	(iung)	(ciuc)	(chiuch)	(khiukh)	(thiuth)	(phiuph)	(hiuh)
<i>Vowels</i>							
Symbol:	ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	
	a	ya	e	ye	o	yo	
	[a]	[ya]	[ɛ]	[yɛ]	[o]	[yo]	
Symbol:	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ			
	wu	yu	u	i			
	[u]	[yu]	[i]	[i]			

As can be seen from the above chart, the consonant names were made up by using the consonant in question at the beginning and end of the word, as syllable onset and syllable coda. The system by which the names are constructed is regular and predictable, except for the consonants 기역 (*kiyek*), 디귄 (*tikut*), and 시옷 (*sios*).

The modern letter names, as well as their order in the alphabet, are based upon the 1527 Chinese-Korean glossary *Hunmong chahoe* (訓蒙字會, “Collection of Characters for Training the Unenlightened”). This glossary, a pedagogical work compiled by the famous teacher and language scholar, Ch’oe Sejin,² is the direct source for the modern names of eight of the consonants, including the three irregular ones. In the introduction to the glossary, Ch’oe arranged the Korean letters in what was to become the standard alphabetical order³ and illustrated the pronunciation of each letter with one or more Chinese characters. For the eight consonants in question, he used two Chinese characters formulaically; *p*, for example, was illustrated with the two characters 非 *pi* and ㅂ *up*. The combined reading of the two characters became the letter’s name, *piup*. The same character formula produced the