



Book: K-POP Now!: The Korean Music Revolution

- Do you know anything about K-pop?
- Have you ever heard any Korean song?
- Do you like Asian music?
- Have you ever felt that the obsession with Korean pop music is a waste of time?
- Do you think you can learn anything from Korean Music?
- Are you interested in their culture?

The Korean Music Revolution

Have you ever felt that the obsession with Korean pop music is a waste of time? Maybe it is, but that doesn't mean you can't learn something at the same time!

If you've had the chorus of a song stuck in your head composed mostly of words you don't understand, then you have already started studying.

The Korean Alphabet: Consonants
(¼)

한글 (han geul) is the name for the Korean alphabet, while the Korean language itself is known as 한국어 (han guk eo).

It is important to note that in Korean, an individual character represents a single sound unlike other languages like Chinese where a complex character may represent a symbol. So, just like in English, you can put different “letters” together and build syllables, words, and sentences!

The Korean language has 14 basic consonants, each that correspond to a single sound.

Let's take a look:

1. ㄱ (g/k sound) g as in gold
2. ㄴ (n sound) n as in north
3. ㄷ (d sound) d as in door
4. ㄹ (r/l sound)*
5. ㅁ (m sound) m as in mother
6. ㅂ (b sound) b as in balloon
7. ㅅ (s sound) s as in sail
8. ㅇ (no sound/ ng)*
9. ㅈ (j sound) as in joy
10. ㅊ (ch sound) and in chat
11. ㅋ (k sound) as in kayak
12. ㅌ (t sound) as in tomato
13. ㅍ (p sound) as in pet
14. ㅎ (h sound) as in house

*it is important to note that the pronunciation of “ㄹ” and “ㅇ” depends on the placement of the character in a given word. The pronunciation of “ㄹ” is in between the “r” and “l” sounds and emphasis varies depending on how the word is spoken. The rule for “ㅇ” on the other hand is pretty simple. When placed at the beginning of the word, “ㅇ” makes no sound, and when placed at the end of a word makes an “-ng” sound.

Source: <http://languageofkpop.tumblr.com>