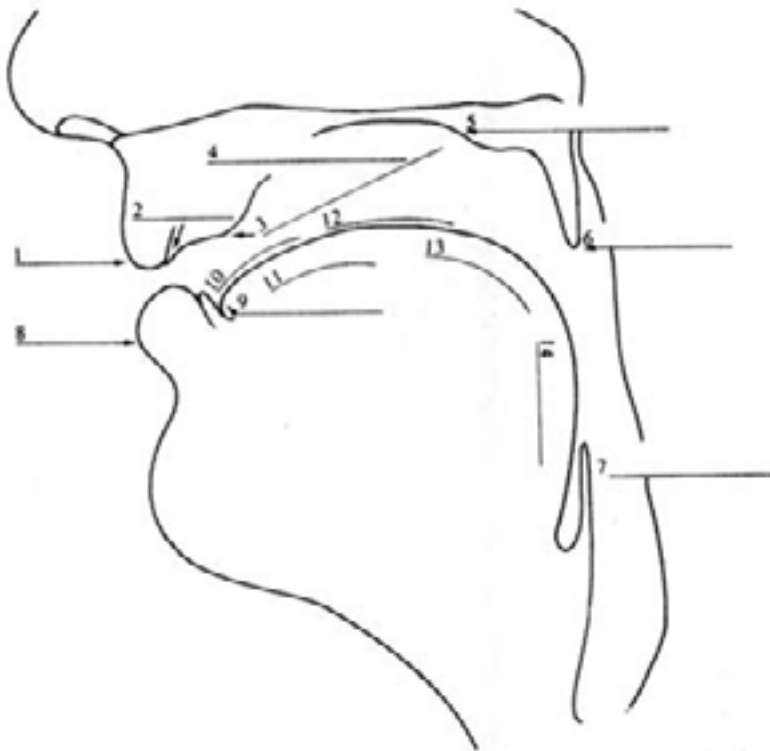


## Phonetics Assignment 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Label the different parts of our vocal tract in this side view.



2. Define the following words, using complete sentences:

phonetics \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

vocal chords \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

vocal tract \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

dentals \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

labials \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

alveolar ridge \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

hard palate \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

soft palate \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

consonants \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

vowels \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

glottal stops \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

fricative \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

voiced \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

aspirated \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Write example words that have the following sounds.** Do not use examples straight from the reading. Figure out some new examples!

voiced:        may        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

aspirated:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

unaspirated:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

fricative:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Now, find words that fit these criteria:**

bilabial:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

dental:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

alveolar:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

velar:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

labiodental:        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_        \_\_\_\_\_

## Phonetics Assignment 2

Describe in words what your mouth or tongue looks like when you make the following sounds. The first two have been done for you.

The Sound	In this column, write the description of what your mouth and tongue are doing.	these are the approximate <b>shapes</b> of the tongue and mouth.
"n"	(example) The tip of my tongue is up and touching the alveolar ridge. Then, the tongue goes down-and is straight all the way to the back (root).	
"m"	(example) My lips are touching each other, and no air is coming out. My lips and tongue make a "square" shape in the middle of my mouth. My teeth are the left side of the square.	
"k" or "g"	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
"l"	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
"d"	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
"s"	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

**Table of Selected English Consonants and Their Characteristics**

	d (t)	r	z	s	l	m	b (p)	g (k)	v (f)
lung air	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
voicing	y (no)	y	y	no	y	y	y (no)	y (no)	y (no)
air through mouth	y	y	y	y	y	no	no	y	y
air through nose	n	n	n	n	n	yes	n	n	n
tip articulation	y	n	y	y	y	n	n	n	n
bilabial	n	n	n	n	n	y	y	n	y
fricative	n	n	y	y	n	n	n	n	y
alveolar	y	n	y	y	y	n	n	n	n
stop	y	n	n	n	n	n	y	y	n
nasal	n	n	n	n	n	y	n	n	n

This unit does not describe any of the characteristic of vowels, and skips some of the more difficult consonant sounds, such as those depicted by "w, r, h, x, ch, sh." To describe all of the sounds we make in English speech would require much more time and space. For more information on vowels and these consonants, see a beginning linguistics or phonetics book.

## Hangul Handout

**I. Introduction: What is a writing system?** In English (as with French, German, Croatian, Dutch, and many other languages), we use the LATIN alphabet as our writing system. Each of the symbols in our language have long histories. Some have been derived from "pictograms" (pictures that depict things). The letter "N", for example, is similar to the Egyptian hieroglyph for "water," which sounds like "n".

The numbers we use, however, are ARABIC. The numbers do not represent sounds, as our alphabetical letters do. Instead, numbers represent IDEAS (the idea of zero, or one, or two). These are IDEOGRAMS.

Most writing systems around the world are based on alphabets or ideograms. Japanese, Korean, Thai and Cambodian are all writing systems that show symbols for sounds: however, alphabets and Chinese are based on pictograms.

## II. The Korean writing system: Hangul.

Below, you will see the 14 consonants from the **Korean writing system**, called **Hangul**. Hangul is the name of the alphabet and way of writing, but the language is called Korean.

### 14 Consonants from Hangul, the Writing System for Korean (and the sounds they represent, in the Latin alphabet)

ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅇ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
k/g	n	d	l/r	m	b	s	ng	j	ch	kh	t	p	h

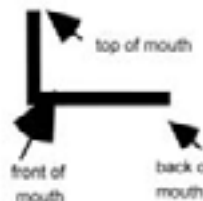
In the lessons about phonetics from the past few days, you already learned that consonants are created when parts of our vocal tract touch each other as air is being released from our lungs. You also learned about the shapes of our mouth for some consonants.

Can you see from the Korean consonants above that some of the shapes Korean uses are similar to the shapes of our tongue or mouth when we say those sounds?

The first letter, for example:



stands for the sound "k" or "g," when the back of our tongue is touching the soft palate.



The second letter represents the sound "n." Do you see how? The tip of our tongue is touching the alveolar ridge, which is

at the top of our mouth.

These and some of the other letters in Korean are based on the shape of the mouth. This is also known as the **morphology** of the mouth.

### III. Origins of the Korean writing system

Unlike most writing systems, Hangul is relatively new. It was invented in the year 1443 by scholars who were working under the Korean ruler, King *Sejong*. This ruler, who is one of the most widely respected leaders in all of Korean history, decided that his people needed their own way to write their language. Previously, they had used Chinese characters.

King *Sejong* said,

*"The speech sounds of our language are so different from those of Chinese that we cannot communicate well using Chinese characters. Therefore, many illiterate people, although they have something to say, cannot express it in writing. Feeling pity for this, I have newly devised twenty-eight letters. My desire is that people will find them easy to learn and convenient to use in every-day life."*

From "The proclamation" at  
<<http://www.teleport.com/~napoleon/korean/index.html>>

To do this, King *Sejong* had learned men research into what type of writing system in different parts of Asia they should use. Today, some scholars believe that Hangul has some connections to the shapes of letters in Mongolia, but others disagree. In any case, the final creation of Hangul combines several different ideas.

King *Sejong* had the script written in to a document that was copied and then sent all around his kingdom. This document is called the *Hunminjeongeum*, and was published on October 9, 1446. In addition to wanting his people to write the sounds correctly and become more literate, King *Sejong* probably had other reasons to stop using Chinese characters.

One scholar of Korean language writes:

Additionally, loyalty of the ruling class no doubt came into question by the common Koreans as they spoke, wrote, administered and essentially governed the nation in an alien script - Chinese. The common people may well have perceived that the men who were supposed to be protecting and preserving the Korean culture were essentially abandoning it. It would be quite well to presume that in response to the sentiment of this public opinion King *Sejong* set about to devise a written script, essentially from scratch, for the liberation of Korean language.






From "The reality of events" at  
<<http://www.teleport.com/~napoleon/korean/index.html>>

Even today, Korean's celebrate October 9th as Korean Language Day to commemorate the efforts of King *Sejong* in creating the native Korean script.

### IV. Characteristics of Hangul: Consonants

As previously mentioned, the **consonants** in Hangul generally depict the shape of the tongue or mouth. In other words, they are MORPHOLOGICALLY BASED. In the

*Hunminjeongeum*, King *Sejong* writes that the five basic forms of consonants are meant to show the shape of the mouth:

 depicts the root of the tongue blocking the throat. ("k")  
 depicts the outline of the tongue touching the upper palate (alveolar ridge). ("n")  
 depicts the outline of the mouth. ("m")  
 depicts the outline of the incisor (tongue touching middle teeth). ("s")  
 depicts the outline of the mouth. ("ng")

From "Modern Korean: A Contrast of Scripts" at  
<http://www.teleport.com/~napoleon/korean/index.html>

## V. Characteristics of Vowels

The **vowels**, however, are an entirely different matter! They are written with the combination of three symbols, one for heaven, one for earth, and one for man. These symbols are based on IDEAS, not morphology. For those of us from a Western society, having things based on "heaven, earth and man" may seem strange. But, from an Asian, and particularly, a Confucian perspective, heaven, earth and man are the basic building blocks of everything. So, King *Sejong* had his language scholars build him vowels out of these building blocks:

### Vowel Symbols

- is a depiction of Heaven.
- is a depiction of Earth.
- | is a depiction of man.

On the next page, see how these three symbols have been formed into 10 basic vowels.

### Basic Vowel Table

k	i	j	u	h	y
a	ya	a(u)	you	o	yo
as in father	yarn	upon	young	home	yoke

n	b	m	l
oo	yoo	u	ee
mood	youth	put	bee

## VI. Putting vowels and consonants together to make syllables

When a person looks at a word in Hangul, he or she can see that the consonants and vowels are arranged into syllables. Each syllable can be written in a square shape. (That's why Hangul looks similar to Chinese for people who don't know the difference. Chinese characters fit into square shapes, too.)

Look at the following words written in Hangul.