

3. THE KOREAN ALPHABET

Sounds and First Words

GRADES: 1-3

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SUBJECT: Language Arts

TIME REQUIRED: One class period

OBJECTIVES:

As a result of this lesson, students will:

1. Learn the sound for each letter of the Korean alphabet (*han'gul*).
2. Sound out simple words and phrases written in *han'gul*.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Handout of the Consonants of *Han'gul*
- Vowels of *Han'gul*
- Sample Korean Words in *Han'gul*
- Large “flash cards” of the Korean alphabet

BACKGROUND:

The Korean alphabet was developed by a team of scholars at the bidding of King Sejong in the 15th century. King Sejong wanted to bring literacy to the common people, so he asked his scholars to develop an alphabet that would be so simple that a bright person could memorize the sounds of the letters and begin reading in less than half a day. Today the Korean alphabet, called *han'gul*, is composed of 10 vowels and 14 consonants. The vowels and consonants may be blended to form many different sounds.

PROCEDURE:

1. Distribute the handout Consonants of *han'gul* and go over each consonant with the class. Review the list to make sure that all students have heard and reproduced the sounds of each Korean letter at least twice.
2. Use flash cards to drill the students in matching the sound to the proper letter of the Korean alphabet.
3. Repeat the process using the vowels.
4. Try out the sample words in the handout.
5. Try reading and saying the given sample phrases.

EVALUATION:

- Were the children able to learn the letter sounds in the Korean alphabet?
- Were they able to sound out simple words and phrases written in *han'gul*?

ENRICHMENT:

- Label items around the room in *han'gul*.
- Invite a Korean speaking guest to lead simple songs and language lessons.
- Purchase one of the many Korean language learning tapes and begin learning the language.

Consonants of Hangul

ㄱ	“k” or “g” as in <u>k</u> ite or g <u>o</u>
ㄴ	“n” as in <u>n</u> umber
ㄷ	“t” or “d” as in <u>t</u> wo or d <u>o</u>
ㄹ	“r” or “l” as in <u>r</u> un or pull <u>l</u>
ㅁ	“m” as in <u>m</u> ap
ㅂ	“p” or “b” as in p <u>a</u> t or b <u>i</u> t
ㅅ	“s” as in <u>s</u> ong
ㅇ	“ng” when appearing as a medial or ending letter; silent if in the initial position
ㅈ	“ch” or “j” as in <u>c</u> hoose or j <u>o</u> in
ㅊ	“ch” as in <u>ch</u> ease
ㅋ	“k” as in <u>c</u> ross
ㅌ	“t” as in <u>t</u> ell
ㅍ	“p” as in p <u>l</u> ace
ㅎ	“h” as in <u>h</u> at

Vowels of Hangul

ㅏ “ä” as in father

ㅑ “yä” as in yard

ㅓ “ô” as in son

ㅕ “yô” as in yawn

ㅗ “ō” as in oak

ㅛ “yō” as in yolk

ㅜ written “u” but pronounced “ōō” as in spoon

ㅠ written “yu” but pronounced “yōō” as in yoo

ㅡ “û” as in took

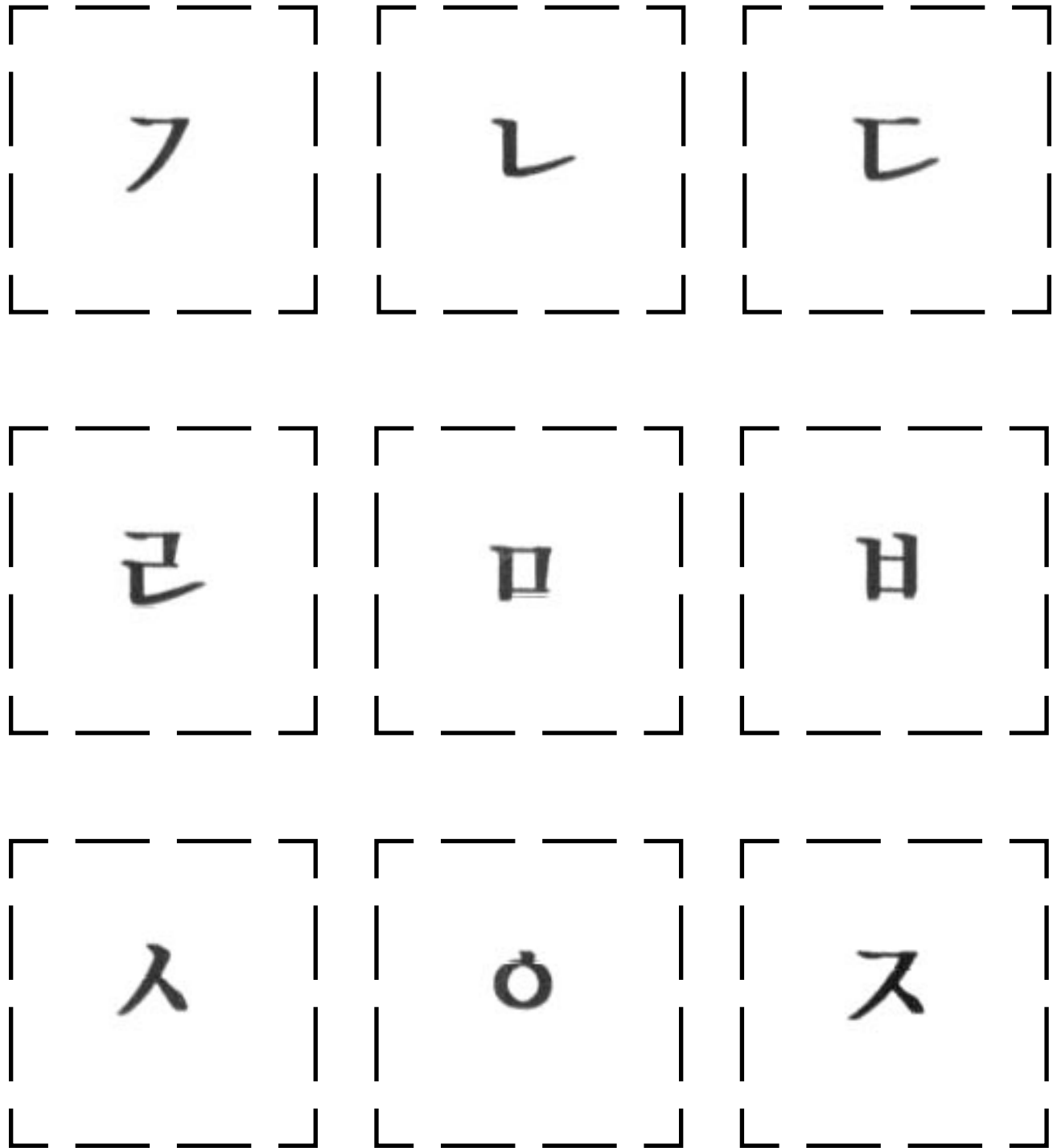
ㅣ written “i” but pronounced “ē” as in beet

Sample Words

Korean	Pronounced	English
이	“ē”	tooth
아이	“ä ē”	child
오이	“ō ē”	cucumber
고기	“kō gē”	meat

Flash Cards - Consonants of Han'gul

(can be enlarged on a copier)



Flash Cards - Consonants of Han'gul (continued)

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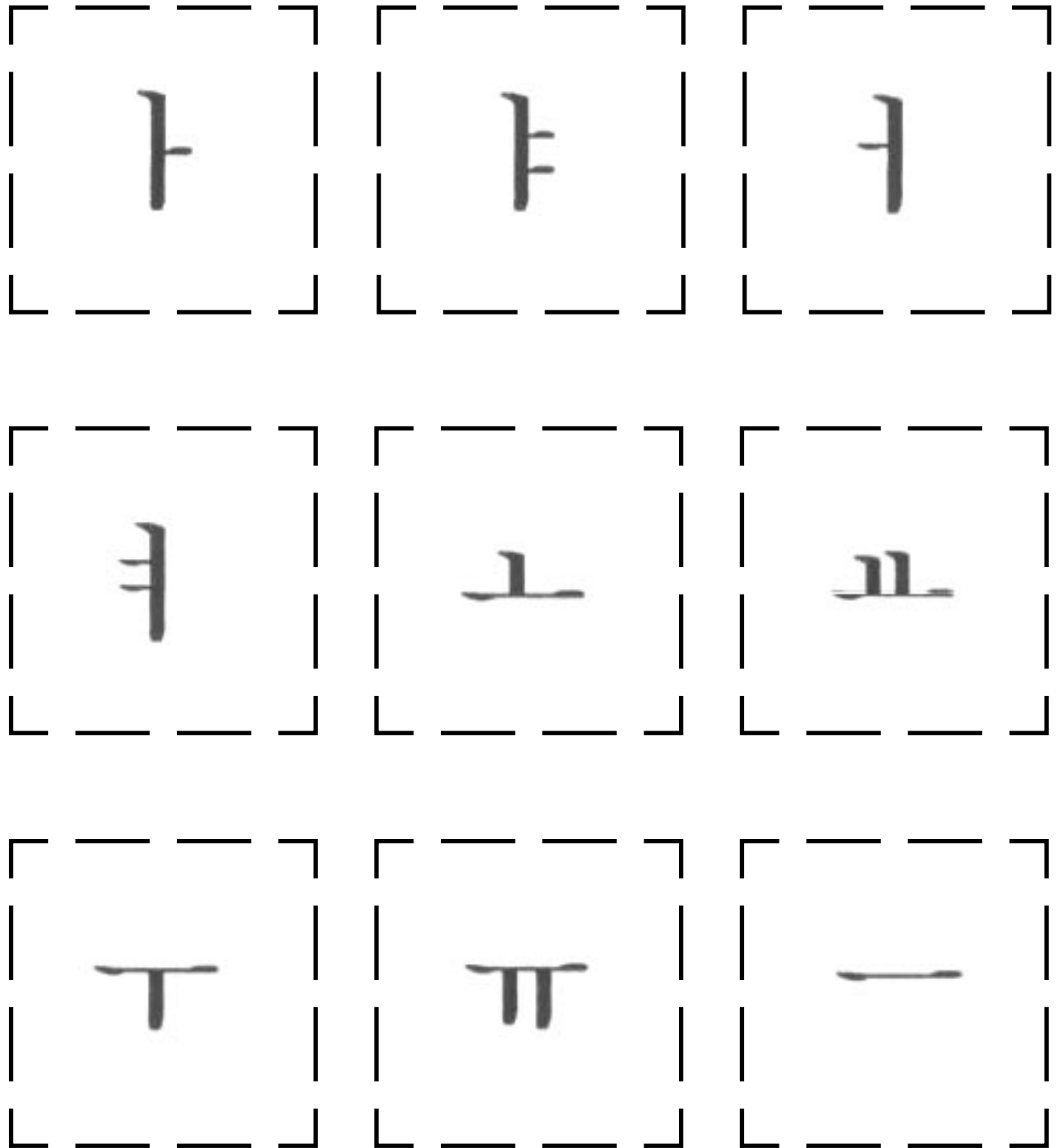
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Flash Cards - Vowels of Han'gul

(can be enlarged on a copier)



Flash Cards - Vowels of Han'gul

(continued)

