

Batchim Cheat Sheet — Korean Sound Changes

Free from batchim.com · the Korean reading app

Batchim (받침) is the final consonant of a Korean syllable block. When it meets the next syllable, its sound changes by six predictable rules — the reason 입니다 sounds like [임니다] and 학교 like [학꼬]. This sheet is everything on one page.

Step 1 — The 7 Final Sounds (27 letters collapse into 7 sounds)

Batchim letters	Sound	Example	Batchim letters	Sound	Example
ㄱ ㅋ ㆁ	[k]	밖 [bak]	ㅁ	[m]	밤 [bam]
ㄴ	[n]	눈 [nun]	ㅂ ㅍ	[p]	밥 [bap]
ㄷ ㅌ ㅅ ㅆ ㅈ ㅊ ㅎ	[t]	꽃 [kkot]	ㅇ	[ng]	강 [gang]
ㄹ	[l]	말 [mal]			

Step 2 — The 6 Sound-Change Rules

1 Liaison · 연음

WHEN: batchim + syllable starting with ㅇ (vowel)

The final consonant slides over to start the next syllable.

음악 → [으막]	music · eu-mak
먹어요 → [머거요]	eat · meo-geo-yo

2 Nasalization · 비음화

WHEN: stop (ㄱ ㅋ ㅂ) + nasal (ㄴ ㅁ)

The stop becomes its nasal partner: ㄱ→ㅇ, ㄷ→ㄴ, ㅂ→ㅁ.

입니다 → [임니다]	is/am · im-ni-da
감사합니다 → [감사함니다]	thank you

3 Tensification · 경음화

WHEN: stop batchim [k/t/p] + ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㅅ ㅈ

The second consonant doubles up: ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㅅ ㅈ.

학교 → [학꼬]	school · hak-kkyo
식당 → [식땅]	restaurant · sik-ttang

4 Aspiration · 격음화

WHEN: ㅎ meets ㄱ ㄷ ㅂ ㅅ (either order)

They fuse into the aspirated version: ㅋ ㅌ ㅍ ㅊ.

축하해요 → [추카해요]	congrats · chu-ka
좋다 → [조타]	good · jo-ta

5 Palatalization · 구개음화

WHEN: batchim ㄷ / ㅌ + the vowel 이

ㄷ→ㅈ and ㅌ→ㅊ before the [i] sound.

같이 → [가치]	together · ga-chi
굳이 → [구지]	insistently · gu-ji

6 Liquid Assimilation · 유음화

WHEN: ㄴ meets ㄹ (either order)

Both become [ㄹ].

연락 → [열락]	contact · yeol-lak
설날 → [설랄]	Lunar New Year

Step 3 — Read These Out Loud (rules in combination)

Written	Pronounced	Rules	Written	Pronounced	Rules
국물 (broth)	[궁물]	nasalization	읽어요 (read)	[일거요]	liaison
한국말 (Korean)	[한궁말]	nasalization	숙제 (homework)	[숙쨌]	tensification
입학년도 (enrollment yr)	[이팡년도]	aspiration + nasal.	못 잊어 (can't forget)	[몬니저]	nasal. + liaison