

**Thought this might be of interest (definitely of relevance) to CESL faculty
-Brecht Welch**

Koreans are just cute. Hands down. Whether they're avoiding direct eye-contact or sporting odd, unisex backpacks, Koreans are just great to have around. That is, until they say "Really?"

It is a common misconception that the Korean language has both [l] and [r]. What Korean *does* have is an [l] which changes to a "flap" sound (shown as [ɾ] below) at the *beginning of syllables* (i.e. "onset position" for my linguist homies out there, you know who you are). This flap sound is understood as an "r" in Korean. In English, this flap sound is a variety (an allophone) of [t]:

English data (the period shows syllable divisions)

/time/ → [t^hajm.]
/water/ → [wa.ɾə^r.]

Korean data

/mul/ → [mul.] "water"
/mul-e/ → [mu.ɾe.] "of the water"

/kil/ → [kil.] "road"
/kili/ → [ki.ɾi.] "of the road"

/ɾ/ in onset positions of syllables

ma.ri. "head; hair"
ru.pi. "ruby"
sa.ram. "person"

/l/ at the end of syllables (i.e. "coda position")

il.kop. "seven"
i.pal.sa. "barber"
mal. "horse"

So, when teaching a Korean speaker how to pronounce/discriminate between certain words in English, keep this info in mind. Bring this contrast to their attention, as they're unaware of the alternation in their language.

<u>English word</u>	<u>Korean enunciation and aural perception</u>
[far.] "far"	*[fal.]
[sɪ.lɪj.] "silly"	*[si.ɾi.]
[ri.lɪj.] "really"	*[ɾi.ɾi.]
[le.ɾɪj.] "Larry"	*[ɾe.ɾi.]
[ɾe.ɾə ^r .] "rarer"	*[ɾe.ɾel.]