

Why Korean sounds different from how it's spelled

Seven rules that cover almost every mismatch between the subtitle and the sound.

1 · Liaison

A final consonant slides onto the next syllable when it starts with a vowel.

밥을 → **바블** babeul

3 · Nasalization

A stop becomes a nasal before ㄴ or ㅁ.

국물 → **궁물** gungmul

5 · Aspiration

ㅎ does not disappear — it fuses with the next consonant.

좋다 → **조타** jota

7 · Contraction

Casual speech drops syllables. This is where drama dialogue lives.

그런 거야 → **그런 거야 / 그런 겨** geureon geoya

2 · Tensification

A plain consonant hardens after a stop. Nothing in the spelling warns you.

학교 → **학교** hakgyo

4 · Lateralization

ㄴ and ㄹ next to each other both become ㄹ.

신라 → **실라** Silla

6 · Palatalization

ㄷ and ㅌ turn into ㅈ and ㅊ before ㅛ.

같이 → **가치** gachi

How to use this

Read the subtitle, then close your eyes and replay the line. The gap you hear is one of the seven. Name it, then move on — you do not need to memorise the table.