

Korean Pronunciation Problems

The following sounds sometimes cause problems for Korean speakers. Make sure you can pronounce the difference in these pairs of words.

| /i:/ | /ɪ/ |
|-------|------|
| sheep | ship |
| feet | fit |
| cheap | chip |
| leek | lick |

| /p/ | /f/ |
|------|------|
| plan | flan |
| pin | fin |
| post | host |
| past | fast |

| /æ/ | /e/ |
|-----|-------|
| jam | gem |
| bat | bet |
| pan | pen |
| gas | guess |

| /r/ | /l/ |
|--------|-------|
| right | light |
| wrist | list |
| pirate | pilot |
| pray | play |

| /əʊ/ | /ɔ:/ |
|---------|----------|
| explode | explored |
| coat | court |
| hole | hall |
| woke | walk |

| /ʃ/ | /s/ |
|-------|------|
| shoe | sue |
| shoot | suit |
| shave | save |
| short | sort |

| /-ʃi:/ | /-ʃ/ |
|--------|-------|
| fishy | fish |
| pushy | push |
| flashy | flash |
| trashy | trash |

| /-s/ | /-z/ |
|-------|-------|
| ice | eyes |
| niece | knees |
| rice | rise |
| spice | spies |

| /d/ | /ð/ |
|------|--------|
| dare | their |
| day | they |
| doze | those |
| load | loathe |

| /θ/ | /t/ | /s/ |
|--------|--------|-------|
| thin | tin | sin |
| fourth | fought | force |
| thigh | tie | sigh |
| path | part | pass |

| /z/ | /dʒ/ |
|---------|---------|
| zoo | jew |
| pays | page |
| zealous | jealous |
| ways | wage |

The information here is taken from a combination of my own experience and observations made in Swan, M. & Smith, B. (1994). *Learner English*. Cambridge University Press.

