

Phonetics Lecture 5

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Chapter TWO

The Organs of Speech

Part 4

The Lips

- **The Lips:** they are two, upper and lower, each attached to a jaw. They are rubbery, made of soft tissue and therefore moveable and very flexible.
- They are important throughout speech, closing and opening; and changing shape depending on the sound being produced.

- The lips are directly important in the production of sounds /p, b, m, w, f, v/, where the lips are used to produce them (place of articulation)
- Also in the production of all vowel sounds where the lips are shaped differently for each vowel.
- The shaping of the lips in vowel sounds is divided into ***spread***, ***rounded*** and ***neutral***.

The Teeth



- There are two sets of teeth, one on each jaw.
- **The upper set of teeth** are fixed to the upper jaw.
- **The lower set of teeth** are fixed to the lower jaw.
- The teeth are fixed, and only the lower set move when the lower jaw moves.

- **The upper front teeth** are used in producing 4 consonants: /f, v/ with the lower lip, and /θ, ð/ with the tongue. Also, if they are missing (have fallen out), consonants /s, z/ are changed into /θ, ð/.
- **The lower front teeth** are not used in producing any consonants. But when they are missing some sounds are affected and changed.

(Q) What happens if the Upper Front Teeth Fall Out?

(Answer)

- If they are missing (have fallen out), consonants /s, z/ are changed into /θ, ð/.
- That happens because the sounds /s, z/ are produced by making a narrow passage between the tongue and the alveolar ridge.
- When doing so, the upper front teeth tend to form a barrier or wall which prevents the tongue from moving too much forward.

- But when the upper front teeth fall out, the tongue is no longer prevented from moving forward and moves until it reaches a place that stops it.
- That place is the gum where the teeth used to be.
- And because in that place we produce the sounds /θ, ð/.
- Therefore, instead of /s, z/, one produces the sounds /θ, ð/.