

# Speech Sounds

**Speech Sounds** are divided into two types:

- 1. Consonant Sounds:** sounds produced with an obstruction to the air-flow.
- 1. Vowel Sounds:** sounds produced with no obstruction to the air-flow.

**Vowel Sounds** are divided into two types:

- 1. Simple (Pure) Vowels:** vowel sounds produced with one part of tongue moving, one position of tongue in the mouth, and one shape of lips.
- 2. Complex Vowels:** vowel sounds produced with more than one part of tongue moving, more than one position of tongue in the mouth, and more than one shape of lips.

**Simple (Pure) Vowels are divided into two types:**

- 1. Short Vowels**
- 2. Long Vowels**

**Short vowels** differ from Long vowels in **length** and in **quality**. **Quality** means the features of vowels. Therefore, they differ in at least one of the features of vowels.

**Complex Vowels are divided into two types:**

- 1. Diphthongs**
- 2. Triphthongs**

**Diphthongs** differ from **Triphthongs** in the number of vowel sounds combined together to make them and in the number of glides. In **Diphthongs** there are *two vowel sounds* and *one glide*. In **Triphthongs**, there are *three vowel sounds* and *two glides*.

# Features of Describing and Classifying Vowel Sounds are:

- 1. The part of tongue moving:** *front, centre, back.*
- 1. The position (height) of tongue in the mouth:** *close, mid, open.*
- 1. The shape of lips:** *spread, neutral, rounded.*

# Features of Describing and Classifying

Consonant Sounds are:

- 1. The Manner of Articulation:** the way consonant sounds are produced.
- 2. The Place of Articulation:** the articulators (organs of speech) responsible for producing consonant sounds.
- 3. Voicing:** whether or not there is voicing in the vocal cords.

**The Manner of Articulation:** according to this feature, consonant sounds are divided into:

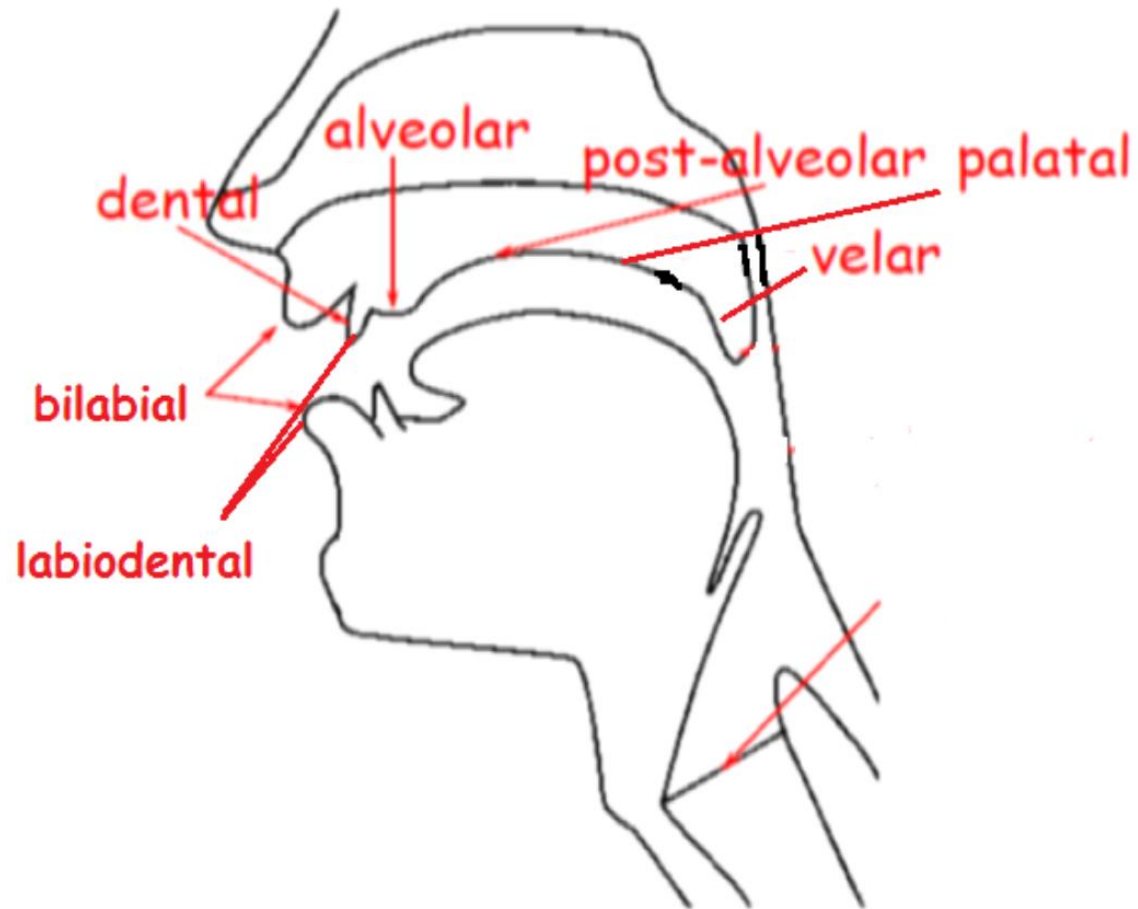
- 1. Fricatives (Friction Consonants):** /f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h/
- 2. Plosives (Stop Consonants):** /p, b, t, d, k, g/
- 3. Affricates:** /tʃ, dʒ/
- 4. Nasals:** /m, n, ŋ/
- 5. Lateral:** /l/
- 6. Approximants: which are divided into two types:**
  - a- Retroflex:** /r/
  - b- Semi-Vowels:** /w, j/

**The Place of Articulation:** according to this feature, consonant sounds are divided into:

1. **Bilabial:** the two lips: /p, b, m, w/
2. **Dental:** the teeth + tongue: /θ, ð/
3. **Labiodental:** the teeth + lower lip: /f, v/
4. **Alveolar:** the alveolar ridge + tongue: /s, z, t, d, n, l/
5. **Palatal:** the hard-palate + tongue: /j/
6. **Post-Alveolar (Alveolar-Palatal / Palato-Alveolar):** the area between the alveolar-ridge and tongue: /ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ, r/
7. **Velar:** the velum (soft-palate) + tongue: /k, g, ŋ/
8. **Glottal:** the glottis (vocal cords): /h/



# Places of articulation



**Voicing:** according to this feature, consonant sounds are divided into:

**1. Voiced:** /v, ð, z, ʒ, b, d, g, dʒ, m, n, ŋ, l, r, w, j/

**1. Voiceless:** /f, θ, s, ʃ, h, p, t, k, tʃ/