

Phonetics

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Fricative (Friction) Consonant Sounds

Fricatives (Friction Consonants): are consonant sounds produced by making a narrow passage between two organs of speech enough to make friction.

- English has 9 Fricatives (Frictions): **/f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h/**
- They have the velum raised, so no air goes out of the nasal cavity and all goes out of the mouth.
- They are continuous.
- Each two fricatives have the same manner of articulation and the same place of articulation, but differ in voicing (one is voiced and the other is voiceless); except for sound **/h/** which is the only glottal fricative and is voiceless.

/f/: consonant sound, fricative, labiodental, voiceless, so is fortis (strong).

e.g.: **feet /fi:t/, offer /ɒfə/, half /hɑ:f/**

/v/: consonant sound, fricative, labiodental, voiced, so is lenis (weak).

e.g.: **vet /vet/, ever /evə/, love /lʌv/**

/θ/: consonant sound, fricative, dental, voiceless, so is fortis (strong).

e.g.: **think /θɪŋk/, nothing /nʌθɪŋ/, breath /breθ/**

/ð/: consonant sound, fricative, dental, voiced, so is lenis (weak).

e.g.: **that /ðæt/, brother /brʌðə/, bathe /beɪð/**

/s/: consonant sound, fricative, alveolar, voiceless, so is fortis (strong).

e.g.: sea /si:/ , messy /mesɪ/ , bus /bʌs/

/z/: consonant sound, fricative, alveolar, voiced, so is lenis (weak).

e.g.: zoo /zu:/ , buzzer /bʌzə/ , breeze /bri:z/

/ʃ/: consonant sound, fricative, post-alveolar, voiceless, so is fortis (strong).

e.g.: shy /ʃaɪ/ , brushing /brʌʃɪŋ/ , mash /mæʃ/

/ʒ/: consonant sound, fricative, post-alveolar, voiced, so is lenis (weak).

****/ʒ/** No words of English origin contain this sound in initial or final positions. It occurs in these positions only in borrowed words. However, it can occur in medial position in English origin words.

e.g.: genre /ʒɒnrə/ , pleasure /pleʒə/ , rouge /ru:ʒ/

/h/: consonant sound, fricative, glottal, voiceless, so is fortis (strong).

******It does not occur in final position because it is not pronounced in that position in English words.

e.g.: hint /hɪnt/ , ahead /əhed/

******There are also cases where (h) is not pronounced when in initial position in some words as (hour /aʊə/ , honour /ɒnə/ , honest /ɒnəst/ , heir /eə/).

******In words like (high /haɪ/) only the first (h) is pronounced).