

Phonetics

First year

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Plosive (Stop) Consonant Sounds

Plosives (Stop Consonants): consonant sounds produced by bringing the two organs of speech together to close the air-passage while no air comes out of the nose, so all air is trapped behind or under the closure. Then the **closure** is opened and all air is released with an **explosion**.

- ❖ English has 6 Plosives (Stops): **/p, b, t, d, k, g/**
- ❖ The velum is raised, so no air goes out of the nasal cavity, and all goes out of the mouth.
- ❖ They are not continuous and can only be produced when opening the closure.
- ❖ Each two plosives have the same manner of articulation and the same place of articulation, but differ in voicing; one is voiced and the other is voiceless.

Phases (Steps):

Plosive (Stop) consonants are produced through the following phases:

1- Closure: two organs of speech come together to close the air passage so no air comes out of the mouth.

2- Hold (Stop): the air stops (is held) behind or under the closure. It would be under pressure because it has no way to go out as both the mouth and nasal cavity are closed.

3- Release: the trapped air is released by moving the two organs of speech away from each other (by opening the closure).

4- Plosion: the released air comes out of the mouth with an explosion.

5- Aspiration: this phase **only happens in the three voiceless plosives**. It is a puff of air following the plosion of **/p, t, k/** and is symbolised as a small **(^h)** sound as: **[p^h, t^h, k^h]**

Plosives:

/p/: consonant sound, plosive, bilabial, voiceless, so is fortis (strong), long, and has aspiration (is aspirated).

e.g.: **part /pɑ:t/, upper /ʌpə/ , up /ʌp/**

/b/: consonant sound, plosive, bilabial, voiced, so is lenis (weak), short, and does not have aspiration (is not aspirated).

e.g.: **bad** /bæd/ , **rubber** /rʌbə/ , **rob** /rɒb/

/t/: consonant sound, plosive, alveolar, voiceless, so is fortis (strong), long, and has aspiration (is aspirated).

e.g.: **tip** /tɪp/ , **better** /betə/ , **meat** /mi:t/

/d/: consonant sound, plosive, alveolar, voiced, so is lenis (weak), short, and does not have aspiration (is not aspirated).

e.g.: **dog** /dɒg/ , **boarding** /bɔ:dɪŋ/ , **card** /kɑ:d/

/k/: consonant sound, plosive, velar, voiceless, so is fortis (strong), long, and has aspiration (is aspirated).

e.g.: **call** /kɔ:l/ , **making** /meɪkɪŋ/ , **lack** /læk/

/g/: consonant sound, plosive, velar, voiced, so is lenis (weak), short, and does not have aspiration (is not aspirated).

e.g.: **gone** /ɡɒn/ , **legging** /legɪŋ/ , **dig** /dɪg/