

Phonetics

First year

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Nasal Consonant Sounds

Nasal Consonants:

Consonant sounds produced by making a closure somewhere in the mouth between two organs of speech; while at the same time the soft-palate is lowered, so the nasal cavity is open, allowing all the air to go out of the nose.

- ❖ Because the mouth is closed, so no air goes out of it and all goes out of the nose.
- ❖ There are three nasals and all are continuous: /m, n, ŋ/
- ❖ All three nasals are voiced.
- ❖ Each has a different place of articulation.

- ❖ All THREE nasals are **similar in manner of articulation and voicing**, but **differ in place of articulation**.

/m/: consonant sound, nasal, bilabial, voiced, so is lenis (weak) and short.

e.g.: **most /məʊst/** , **coming /kʌmɪŋ/** , **broom /bru:m/**

/n/: consonant sound, nasal, alveolar, voiced, so is lenis (weak) and short.

e.g.: **near /nɪə/** , **dinner /dɪnə/** , **fine /faɪn/**

/ŋ/: consonant sound, nasal, velar, voiced, so is lenis (weak) and short.

- ❖ This nasal does not occur in initial position, so no English word contains it at the beginning of a word.

e.g.: **hanger /hæŋə/** , **song /sɒŋ/**