

University of Basrah
College of Arts
Dept., of Translation

Course Title: English Phonetics
and phonology
Level: One (Morning Studies)

Nasal & Lateral Consonants

By

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Nasal Definition

- There are 3 nasal consonants /m ,n , ŋ /.
- In the production or articulation of nasal sounds, **the soft palate is lowered** and at the same time the mouth passage is blocked at some point, so the air is pushed out of the nose

/ŋ/

- This is the third nasal consonant that cause trouble, because many languages do not have a consonant formed like /ŋ/.
- /ŋ/ does not occur at the beginning of words in English .But, it does occur between vowels.
- -In some words /g/ is normally pronounced after/ŋ/ before a following vowel, for example, the words " anger, and finger ". A useful rule for that is if the word is formed from a verb, no /g/ is pronounced as in " singer and hanging "
- But , if not /g/ is pronounced as in " stronger", formed from the adjective "strong" .

Lateral Consonants

- There is one lateral sound in English. It is formed laterally .i.e., the air passes round the sides of an obstruction set up in the centre. Instead of the breath passing down the centre of the mouth.

Pronunciation of lateral sound

- There are two pronunciations for the sound /l/ in English, namely: clear /l/ and dark /l/. When /l/ occurs before vowels, it is called the clear /l/. The /l/ sound when it occurs before consonants and in final positions, as in filled, it is called dark /l/.
- -/l/ is syllabic as in (parcel, level, puzzle, lethal, and ruffle.) /l/ becomes syllabic if it is preceded by a stop consonant as in (trouble, bottle, middle, eagle). Syllabic /l/ is often dark. For more examples see page 56 in your textbook).

The End•

