

## Nasal Consonants

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 .

p

**/m, n/**

**All languages have consonants which are similar to /m ,n/ in English.** So, these two sounds cause no trouble. The position of the organs of speech is as follows:

1-The soft palate is lowered for both /m/and /n/.

2-For /m/ the mouth is blocked by closing the two lips, for /n/ by pressing the tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge, and the sides of the tongue against the sides of the palate .

3-Both sounds/m ,n/ are voiced in English .

**/ŋ/**

**This is the third nasal consonant that cause trouble, because many languages do not have a consonant formed like / ŋ/.** The position of the organs of speech is as follows:

1- The soft palate is lowered and all the air passes out through the nose .

2-The mouth is blocked by the back of the tongue pressed against the soft palate.

3- The sound is voiced.

**/ 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. The position of the organs of speech is as follows:

1-The soft palate is raised.

2-The tongue-tip and the sides of the tongue-blade are in firm contact with alveolar ridge , obstructing the centre of the mouth.

3-The sides of the remainder of the tongue are not in contact with the sides of the palate, so air can pass between the sides of the tongue and the palate.

4- The sound is voiced and there is no friction .

**-There are two pronunciation for the sound /l/ in English, namely: clear /l/ and /dark /l/. When /l/ occur before vowels , it is called the clear/l/ .The /l/ sound when 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 preceded by stop consonant as in (trouble , bottle, middle, eagle). Syllabic /l/ is often dark. For more example see page 56 in your textbook).**

## Gliding consonants/j, w, r/

There are only 3 gliding consonants in English, they are /j, w , r/ . They consist of a quick, smooth, non-friction glide towards a following vowel sound.

## **/j/**

This consonant is a quick glide from the position of the vowel /i:/ or /ɪ/ to any other vowel. When /j/ follows /p , t, k/ , it loses the voice which it usually has and it is made voiceless. This , in turn, causes some friction to be heard and it is important to do this because otherwise the stop consonants may be heard as /b, d, g/.

## **/w/**

This consonant consists of a quick glide from the vowel /u:/ or /u/ to whatever vowel follows. It is more difficult than /j/ because many languages do not have an independent /w/.

**/w/** when follows **/t/ or /k/** , the glide is not voiced. It becomes voiceless.

**/w/** does not occur in final position .

## **/r/**

It is third gliding consonant .It does not resemble one of the English vowels as /j , w/ do .The position of the organs of speech is as follows:

- 1-The tongue has a curved shape with the tip pointing towards the hard palate at the back of the alveolar ridge.
- 2-The tongue-tip is not close enough to the palate to cause friction.
- 3-The lips are rather rounded, especially when /r/ is at the beginning of words.
- 4-The soft palate is raised and voiced air quietly between the tongue-tip and palate with no friction.

In R.P. /r/ only occurs before vowels. At the end of words R.P., has /r/ only if the immediately following words begins with a vowel. The /r/ is pronounced .But, /r/ is not pronounced if it occurs before a pause or before a word beginning with a consonant as in " never better".

When /r/ occur at the end of the word and followed by a vowel sound at the beginning of the second , this /r/ is pronounced and called "**linking/ r/** " as in ( **never again**).It is usual to hear **linking g/r/ following the vowel /ə/ even if there is no letter r in the spelling as in Africa and Asia .This kind of /r/ is called intrusive /r/.**

**/r/ is called intrusive /r/ because it is not exist in original form of the word .The speaker added it to avoid the pronunciation of two approximating vowels as in :**

**Linda and Ann( intrusive r).**

**After /p ,t ,k / there is no voice in /r/.**