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**Consonants: Manner of Articulation**

## Consonants: Manner of Articulation

**The manner of articulation** is the way the airstream is affected as it flows from the lungs and out of the mouth and nose

- **Voiceless sounds** are those produced with the vocal cords apart so the air flows freely through the glottis
- **Voiced sounds** are those produced when the vocal cords are together and vibrate as air passes through.

The voiced/voiceless distinction is important in English because it helps us distinguish words like: rope/robe fine/vine seal/zeal  
[rɒp]/[rɒb] [faɪn]/[vaɪn] [si:l]/[zi:l]

But some voiceless sounds can be further distinguished as aspirated or unaspirated aspirated unaspirated pool [phul] spool [spul] tale [thel] stale [stel] kale [khel] scale [skel]

- **Oral sounds** are those produced with the velum raised to prevent air from escaping out the nose
- **Nasal sounds** are those produced with the velum lowered to allow air to escape out the nose

So far we have three ways of classifying sounds based on phonetic features: by voicing, by place of articulation, and by nasalization – [p] is a voiceless, bilabial, oral sound – [n] is a voiced, alveolar, nasal sound

- **Stops:** [p] [b] [m] [t] [d] [n] [k] [g] [ŋ] [tʃ][dʒ] [ʔ] – Produced by completely stopping the air flow in the oral cavity for a fraction of a second

- All other sounds are consonants, meaning that the airflow is continuous through the oral cavity
- **Fricatives:** [f] [v] [θ] [ð] [s] [z] [ʃ] [ʒ] [x] [χ] [h] – Produced by severely obstructing the airflow so as to cause friction
- **Affricates:** [tʃ] [dʒ] – Produced by a stop closure that is released with a lot of friction
- **Liquids:** [l] [r] – Produced by causing some obstruction of the airstream in the mouth, but not enough to cause any real friction
- **Glides:** [j] [w] – Produced with very little obstruction of the airstream and are always followed by a vowel
- **Approximants:** [w] [j] [r] [l] – Sometimes liquids and glides are put together into one category because the articulators approximate a frictional closeness but do not actually cause friction

- **Trills and flaps:** [r]\* [ɾ] – Trills are produced by rapidly vibrating an articulator – Flaps are produced by a flick of the tongue against the alveolar ridge

- **Clicks:** – Produced by moving air in the mouth between various articulators – The disapproving sound tsk in English is a consonant in Zulu and some other southern African languages – The lateral click used to encourage a horse in English is a consonant in Xhosa

\*The textbook uses [r] to represent the central liquid as in the word ready rather than as a trill.