

WHERE CLASSICAL WISDOM MEETS INTELLIGENT LEARNING

9. Consonants & Consonant Sounds Practice

BVPT-104: English & Communication

Unit 2: Fundamentals of English Communication

Chapter: Consonants & Consonant Sounds Practice

Topic: Practice in Articulating Consonant Sounds

□ What Are Consonant Sounds?

Consonant sounds are speech sounds made by **partially or completely blocking the airflow** through the mouth, throat, or nose using the **tongue**, **lips**, **teeth**, **or vocal cords**.

Unlike vowels (which flow freely), consonants require contact or friction between organs of speech.

There are 24 consonant sounds in English, even though there are only 21 consonant letters in the alphabet.

☐ Classification of Consonants

Consonants are classified based on three criteria:

- 1. Place of articulation where the sound is formed
- 2. Manner of articulation how the airflow is affected
- 3. **Voicing** whether the vocal cords vibrate

Place of Articulation

Place	Description		Example Sounds
Bilabial	Both lips touch	/p/, /b/, /m/	

Labiodental Bottom lip touches upper teeth /f/, /v/

 $\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{Dental} & \text{Tongue touches teeth} & \textit{/θ/ (thin), /δ/ (this)} \\ \textbf{Alveolar} & \text{Tongue touches ridge behind teeth} & \textit{/t/, /d/, /s/, /z/, /n/, /l/} \\ \end{array}$

Palatal Tongue touches hard palate /ʃ/ (she), /ʒ/ (vision), /tʃ/ (chip), /dʒ/ (jam), /j/ (yes)

Velar Tongue touches soft palate (velum) /k/, /g/, /ŋ/ (sing)

Glottal Sound made in throat using vocal cords /h/

2 Manner of Articulation

Manner	Description	Example Sounds
Plosives (Stops)	Complete stop and release of air	/p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/
Fricatives	Continuous airflow with friction	/f/, /v/, /s/, /z/, /θ/, /ð/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/
Affricates	Combination of stop + fricative	/tʃ/ (church), /dʒ/ (judge)
Nasals	Air flows through the nose	/m/, /n/, /ŋ/

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Manner Description Example Sounds

Approximants Narrow but no friction (smooth gliding) /l/, /r/, /j/, /w/

Glottal Air passes through glottis /h,

3 Voicing

Voiced (vocal cords vibrate) /b/, /d/, /g/, /v/, /z/, /3/, /d3/, /m/, /n/, /n/, /1/, /r/, /w/, /j/

Voiceless (no vibration) /p/, /t/, /k/, /f/, /s/, / \int /, / θ /, /t \int /, /h/

☐ Pronunciation Practice: Minimal Pairs

Minimal pairs are word pairs that differ in only one sound—great for consonant sound practice.

Voiceless Voiced Example Words

pat - bat	/b/	/p/
ten - den	/d/	/t/
coat - goat	/g/	/k/
fan – van	/v/	/f/
sip - zip	/z/	/s/
she - genre	/3/	/ʃ/

☐ Consonant Sound Practice Table

Sound	Word Examples	Voicing	Place	Manner
/p/	pen, cap	voiceless	bilabial	plosive
/b/	bat, cab	voiced	bilabial	plosive
/t/	top, mat	voiceless	alveolar	plosive
/d/	dog, mad	voiced	alveolar	plosive
/k/	cat, back	voiceless	velar	plosive
/g/	go, bag	voiced	velar	plosive
/f/	fan, leaf	voiceless	labiodental	fricative
/v/	van, leave	voiced	labiodental	fricative
/s/	see, bus	voiceless	alveolar	fricative
/z/	zoo, buzz	voiced	alveolar	fricative
/ʃ/	ship, rush	voiceless	palatal	fricative
/3/	measure, vision	voiced	palatal	fricative
/tʃ/	chair, catch	voiceless	palatal	affricate
/dʒ/	jump, badge	voiced	palatal	affricate
/m/	man, ham	voiced	bilabial	nasal
/n/	net, sun	voiced	alveolar	nasal
/ŋ/	sing, king	voiced	velar	nasal
/\/	lip, ball	voiced	alveolar	lateral
/r/	red, sorry	voiced	alveolar	approximant
/j/	yes, yellow	voiced	palatal	approximant
/w/	win, away	voiced	bilabial	approximant
/h/	hat, behind	voiceless	glottal	fricative

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☐ Self-Practice Exercises

1. Mirror Practice

Observe your **lip, tongue, and jaw** position while making sounds.

2. Read Minimal Pairs Aloud

Create lists like:

- pig big
- tie die
- fail veil
- sip zip

3. Voice-Test Trick

Put your fingers on your throat:

- If you feel vibration → the sound is **voiced**
- If not → it's voiceless

4. Record and Replay

Read a word list. Record yourself. Listen for:

- Clarity
- Voicing
- Accuracy of sound production

□ Take-Home Summary

- Consonants are sounds with **obstructed airflow**.
- They are classified by where, how, and whether vocal cords vibrate.
- Clear consonant articulation is vital for professional speech clarity.
- Practice using minimal pairs, mirror work, and recordings.

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