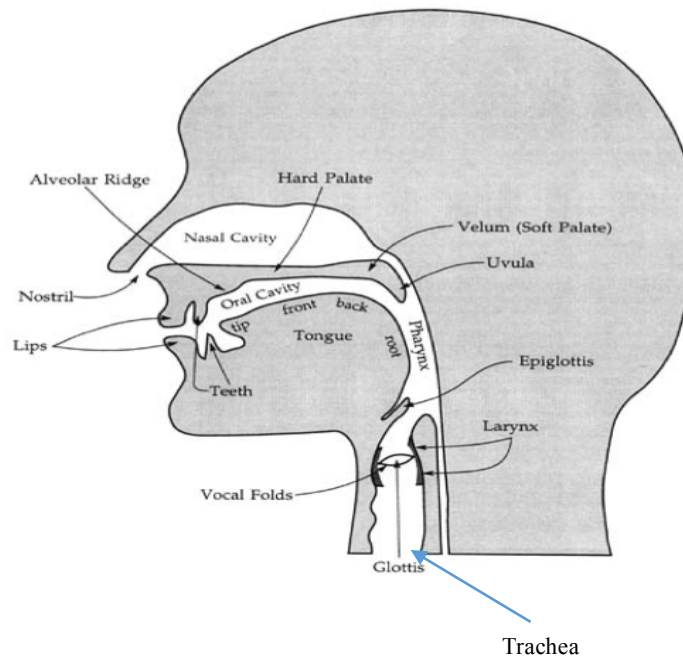


Lesson 03:

The Speech Organs

Objectives: The main aim of this lesson is to help learners recognize the articulators and the points of articulation, and also to differ between active and passive articulators.



1. **The Alveolar Ridge:** It is the bony prominence immediately behind the upper teeth.
2. **The Hard Palate:** The arched (curved) immobile bony structure, which forms the roof of the mouth, and located immediately behind the alveolar ridge.
3. **The Velum:** Also known as the soft palate; it is a tissue at the back of the roof of the mouth. The velum can be lowered to allow airflow through the nose, or raised to seal off (close) the nasal cavity.
 - a. The soft palate may be lowered to some extent such as in the case of normal breathing, which allows the airstream to escape from both the oral and nasal cavities. In other words, its position is in midway between high and low, allowing air to pass through the mouth and nose.
 - b. It may also be lowered with a nasal outlet provided, but against a complete closure in at some point in the oral cavity. In this case, nasal sounds like /n/ and /m/ are produced
 - c. The soft palate may kept raised, such as in the case of producing oral sounds.

N.B. Oral sounds are those in which the air passes through the oral cavity (the mouth) with the velum raised and closed against the back of the throat.

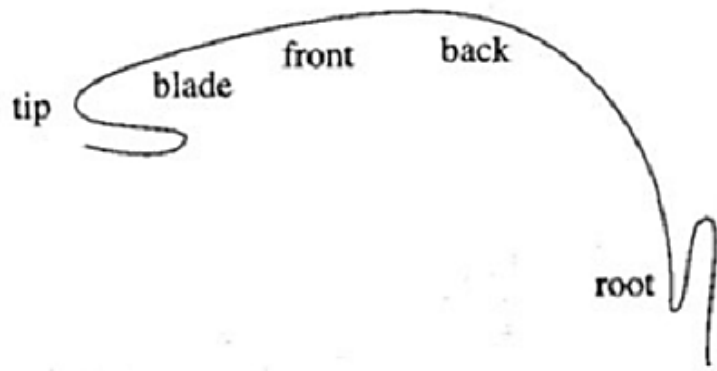
4. **The Uvula:** A fleshy or thick extension at the back of the soft palate, which hangs above the throat. The pendent fleshy lobe in the middle of the posterior border of the soft palate.
 5. **The Vocal Tract:** We can notice three interconnected organs above the larynx : the pharynx, the nasal cavity and the mouth, or oral cavity. These three resonating cavities form the vocal tract.
 6. **The Epiglottis:** The epiglottis is a flexible, leaf-shaped flap which is located behind the tongue, at the top of the larynx. It acts as a controlling unit which directs air to the airway to the lungs and food into the gastrointestinal tract to the stomach.
 7. **The Larynx:** The larynx can be defined as a "casing, formed of cartilage and muscle, situated in the upper part of the trachea. Its forward portion is prominent in the neck below the chin and is commonly called 'Adam's apple'. It protects as well as houses the trachea in the neck. It plays a vital role in the respiratory tract by allowing air to pass through it while keeping food and drink from blocking the airway.

The larynx is also the body's "voice box" as it contains the vocal folds that produce the sounds of speech and singing.
 8. **The Vocal folds (cords):** Two fleshy folds (like a pair of lips) which are stretched across the larynx. They can be held wide open, as in breathing; completely closed, as in a glottal stop or cough; or made to vibrate to produce voicing.
 9. **The Glottis:** It refers to the opening between the two vocal folds.
- **Active and Passive Articulators:** Two kinds of articulators are distinguished: "active" articulators are the movable parts of the vocal apparatus, such as the lips, tongue and lower jaw; "passive" articulators are those parts of the vocal tract which cannot move, but which provide the active articulators with points of reference, e.g. the roof of the mouth, the upper teeth.

Lesson 04:

Parts of the Tongue

Objective(s): This lesson tends to highlight the role of the tongue in the articulation of sounds. At the same time, this can help learners understand how the different parts of the tongue articulate given sets of sounds.



- 1. The Tip** The end-point, or part of the tongue that is nearest to the front teeth (apex). Sounds articulated with the apex are called apical.
- 2. The Blade** refers to the part of the tongue just next to the apex. Sounds articulated with the blade are called laminal.
- 3. The front of the tongue** includes the section between the back of the tongue and the blade. Consonant sounds produced with the front of the tongue rising towards the hard palate are called palatal sounds.
- 4. The back of the tongue** is the rear part (the back) near the roof. It is the base of the tongue, where it is attached to the rear end of the lower jaw