3. Description of the Articulation of English Consonants

3.1. Identification of the consonants /p/, /b/

Those two bilabial sounds are made with total closure using the lips. The soft palate is raised to stop the air from escaping through nasal cavity. **/p/** is unvoiced and fortis. **/b/** is voiced and lenis. *Pay*/peɪ/, *bye*/bɑɪ/.

3.2. Identification of the consonants /k/, /g/

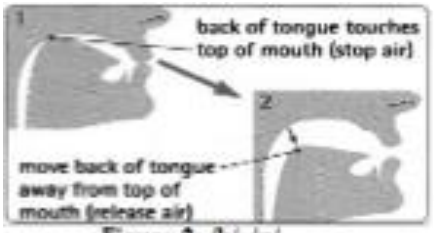


Figure 2: /k/, /g/

Those two velar sounds are made with total closure using the back of the tongue against the soft palate the suddenly release the air. /**k**/ is unvoiced and fortis. /**g**/ is voiced and lenis. e.g: *can*/kæn/, *guess*/ges/.

3.3. Identification of the consonants /t/, /d/

Figure 3: /t/, /d/

Those two alveolar sounds are made with total closure using the tongue blade against the alveolar ridge. Soft palate is raised to stop air from going to nasal cavity. /**t**/ is unvoiced & fortis. /**d**/ is voiced & lenis. *Tie*/tɑɪ/, *do*/duː/.

3.4. Identification of the consonants /f/, /v/

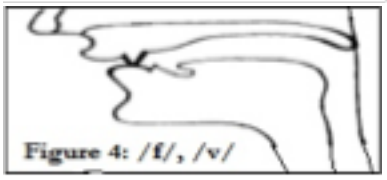


Figure 4: /f/, /v/

Labiodental sounds are made with partial closure in which an audible friction is heard. They are articulated with the front upper teeth against lower lip. /**f**/ is unvoiced & fortis. /**v**/ is voiced & lenis. *fit* /fɪt/, *vice* /vɑɪs/.

3.5. Identification of the consonants /θ/, /ð/

Figure 5: /θ/, /ð/

Dental sounds are made with partial closure or narrow opening using the upper front teeth against tongue-tip. The soft palate is raised. The consonant /θ/ is unvoiced & fortis. /ð/ is voiced & lenis. *Thin* /θɪn/, *that* /ðæt/.

3.6. Identification of the consonants /s/, /z/

Figure 5: /s/, /z/

Those alveolar sounds are made with partial closure. The soft palate is raised to stop air from going thru nasal cavity. The tip of the tongue contacts alveolar ridge. /**s**/ is voiceless & fortis. /**z**/ is voiced & lenis. *See* /siː/, *zoo* /zuː/.

3.7. Identification of the consonants /ʃ/, /ʒ/

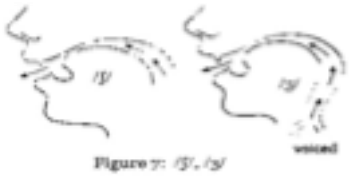
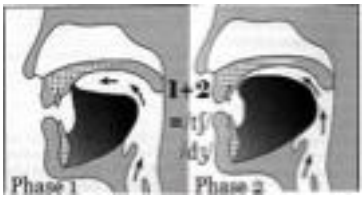


Figure 7: /ʃ/, /ʒ/

Fricative consonants are formed by a narrowing of the air passage then the air escapes making a kind of hissing sound with an audible friction. The blade of the tongue contacts the palato-aveolar slightly. The soft palate is raised. **/ʃ/** is unvoiced & fortis. **/ʒ/** is voiced & lenis. *Shake* /ʃeɪk/, *beige* /beɪʒ/.

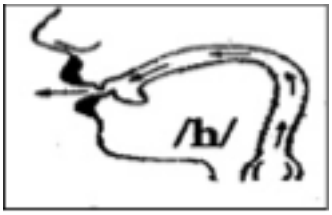
3.8. Identification of the consonants /tʃ/, /dʒ/



The English affricative sounds **/tʃ/** and **/dʒ/** are described as a transition from the plosives /**t, d**/ into the fricatives /**ʃ , ʒ**/ rapidly to get one phoneme. **/tʃ/** is unvoiced & fortis. **/dʒ/** is voiced & lenis. *Chief* /tʃiːf /, *Jack* /dʒæk/.

3.9. Identification of the consonant /h/

This consonant is articulated with the narrowing of the airflow in glottis. It is a kind of breathing out with an audible friction in the vocal cords. /**h**/ is voiceless when produced alone, but voiced when followed by a vowel. Example words: *Heat* /hiːt/, *who* /huː/, *perhaps* /pə 'hæps/, *adhere* /əd'hɪə/.



3.10. Identification of the consonant /m/

In the nasal consonants the air escapes through nose. To do this, the soft palate is lowered to let air go to nasal cavity. /**m**/ is articulated with closed lips (bilabial) then air goes through nasal cavity. /**m**/ is voiced. *Mike* /mɑɪk/.

3.11. Identification of the consonant /n/

In the nasal sound /n/ the velum is lowered so that the air can escape thru nasal cavity. /**n**/ is articulated with tongue tip pressing the alveolar ridge. /**n**/ is voiced. *Nile*/nɑɪl/, *snow* /snəʊ/, *fallen* /'fɔːlən/, none /nʌn/.

3.12. Identification of the consonant /ŋ/

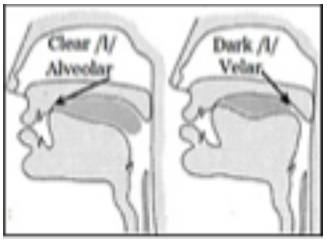
This voiced nasal sound is made with the back of the tongue against velum. e.g.: *Ring* /rɪŋ/, *link* /lɪŋk/, *singer* /'sɪŋə/, *hanger* /'hæŋə /, *hunger* /'hʌŋgə/.

3.13. Identification of the consonant /l/

This voiced alveolar lateral consonant is articulated with tongue centre and the alveolar ridge in which the air flows around both sides of the tongue. There are two types of laterals:

The clear /l/ is voiced alveolar lateral as: *let* /let/, wallet /'wɒlɪt/, *elite* /ɪ'liːt/

The dark /l/ is voiced velar lateral as: *well* [weɬ], *milk* [mɪɬk], *little* ['lɪtɬ].

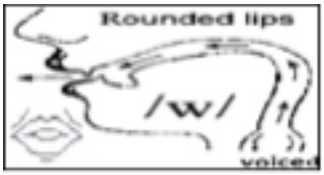


3.14. Identification of the consonant /r/

This post-alveolar consonant is pronounced with the articulators approach each other without a plosive or fricative sound as an approximant. The tip of the tongue approaches further back to the alveolar ridge somehow like /**t**, **d**/. the lips are slightly round. /**r**/ is voiced. *Right* /rɑɪt/, *free* /friː/, *writer* /'rɑɪtə/.

3.15. Identification of the consonant /w/

This glide or semivowel is made like back close vowel /**uː**/ but it is very short. This bilabial approximant is articulated with rounded lips. /**w/ & /j**/ never occur in word final position. e.g.: *waste* /weɪst/, *require* /rɪ'kwɑɪə/.



3.16. Identification of the consonant /j/

This glide or semivowel is made like front close vowel /**iː**/ but is very short. This palatal approximant is articulated with the back of the tongue raised to the velum (soft palate). /**j**/ is voiced. *Yes*/jes/, *tube*/tjuːb/, *new*/njuː/

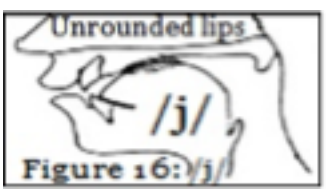


Figure 16: /j/