

Unit 3

Consonants (1)

Approaching consonants via anatomy and articulatory phonetics

Slides for the session of

Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

held on

26 / 27 brumaire de l'année CCXXX de la République

(16 / 17 November 2021)

Consonants (1)

Looking ahead

How we make sounds

(Pulmonic) Consonants:
dimensions of articulation

You can make any
consonant you want

Which English consonants
do you find difficult?

'Light' (or 'clear') vs. 'dark'
/l/ — one sound or two?

We are mammals and have
mammalian reflexes

Robert Spence
LangSciTech
Saarland University

English Phonetics: Unit 3:

['ɪŋ.gəlɪf fə.'net.ɪks 'ju:n.ɪt̪ 'θri:]

Consonants (1)

['kʰɒn.t̪s.(ə)n(.)ən(t)s 'wʌn]

Approaching consonants via anatomy and articulatory phonetics

[ə.'pɹəʊt̪f.ɪŋ 'kʰɒn.t̪s.(ə)n(.)ən(t)s ,vɑ(ɪ)(.)əɪ ə.'næt.əm.i ɲ ɲ
ɑ:.'tʰɪk.jʊl.ət̪.i fə.'net.ɪks]

Robert Spence

['rɒb.ət 'spens]

based on material by William Barry and Ingmar Steiner

['beɪst ɒn mə.'tʰɪɹ.ɪ(.)ət̪ bɑɪ 'wɪl.jəm 'bæ.ɪ ən 'ɪŋ.mɑ:ɪ 'stɑɪn.ɜ:]

26 / 27 brumaire de l'année CCXXX de la République

[vɛt.si bɾy.mɛ:ɾ / vɛt.set bɾy.mɛ:ɾ də la.ne dø.sã.tʁãt də la ʁe.py.blik]

(16 / 17 November 2021)

['sɪks.ti:ɲ t̪ θ əv / 'sev.ɲ.ti:ɲ t̪ θ əv nə(v).vem.bə

'tʁwɛnt.i 'tʁwɛnt.i 'wʌn]

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- Over this five-week block we shall be looking at consonants and vowels in more detail.

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φων

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- We shall then proceed to look at vowels in more detail, taking a contrastive view of the vowel systems of English and German.

φωv

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- The week after that will be devoted to pronunciation drills and to reviewing sound/spelling correspondences. Around this time you should send me a recording of yourself speaking, or arrange a time to Skype.
- We shall then proceed to look at vowels in more detail, taking a contrastive view of the vowel systems of English and German.
- Finally, we shall return to consonants, doing a contrastive study of the consonant systems of English and German.

φωv

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The human vocal tract (after Catford)

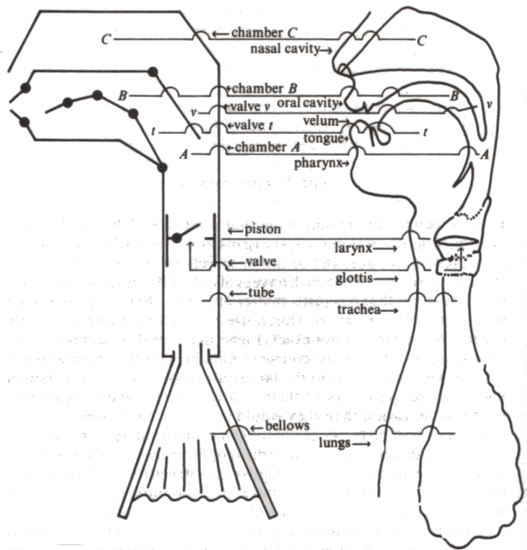


Figure: The vocal tract as a machine

(J.C. Catford, *Fundamental Problems of Phonetics*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1977)

φωv

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- Consonants (dt. Mitlaute) can be looked at in terms of their articulation, their acoustics, or their auditory perception

φων

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φωv

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(for the diagrams; some of the pronunciations are a bit strange...)

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φων

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φωv

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φωv

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φωv

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φωv

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 - more delicately: **apico-/apical**-alveolar, **lamino-/laminal**-alveolar, **(antero)dorsal**-palatal, **(postero)dorsal**-velar, etc.

φωv

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 - MANNER of articulation (the "vertical") dimension

φωv

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 - more delicately: **apico-/apical**-alveolar, **lamino-/laminal**-alveolar, **(antero)dorsal**-palatal, **(postero)dorsal**-velar, etc.
 - MANNER of articulation (the “vertical”) dimension
 - plosive, nasal, trill, tap or flap, fricative, lateral fricative, approximant, lateral approximant (make sure you understand what each of these terms means; note Eckert and Barry’s way of classifying these into “obstruents” and “sonorants” [E&B: 36–39]; and don’t forget to add affricate = plosive+fricative)

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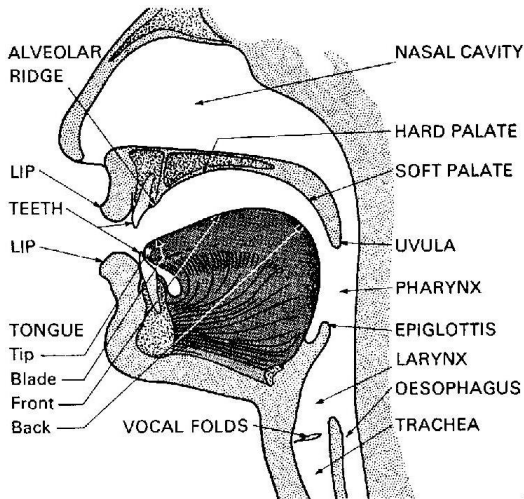
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THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2005)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

© 2005 IPA

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill				ʀ					ʁ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a voiced consonant. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

You can make any consonant you want

- Can you make the following sounds?

φων

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- Can you make the following sounds?
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- Can you make the following sounds?
 - a voiceless velar fricative
 - a voiceless uvular fricative

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 - a voiceless uvular fricative
 - a voiceless uvular plosive

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 - a voiceless uvular plosive
 - a voiced velar nasal

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 - a voiced velar nasal
 - a voiced bilabial fricative

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 - a voiceless uvular plosive
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 - a voiced bilabial fricative
 - a voiced palatal approximant

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φων

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- [ɪn m ɛməɪ ə v ɔ:l wɪmɪn ɹeɪ p t ɪn ɔ:l w ɔ:z]

φων

Consonants (1)

Looking ahead

How we make sounds

(Pulmonic) Consonants:
dimensions of articulation

You can make any
consonant you want

Which English consonants
do you find difficult?

'Light' (or 'clear') vs. 'dark'
/l/ — one sound or two?

We are mammals and have
mammalian reflexes

You can make any consonant you want

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 - < th is na ti on has enou gh f i sh to feed itself >
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- Read Eckert and Barry pp 36–39 on manner of articulation and on the voiceless/voiced opposition

φων

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- Use voicing as well as place and manner of articulation to describe the consonant sounds indicated by the framed graphemes or by the framed IPA symbols:
 - < **th** is na **ti** on has enou**gh** **f** i **sh** to feed itself >
 - [ɪn **m** ɛməɪ ə **v** ɔ:l wɪmɪn ɹeɪ **p** t ɪn ɔ:l **w** ɔ:z]
- Read Eckert and Barry pp 36–39 on manner of articulation and on the voiceless/voiced opposition
- We'll follow Eckert and Barry in talking about **fortis** consonants (stronger, like **[p]**) and **lenis** consonants (weaker, like **[b]**)

Which English consonants do *you* find difficult?

p		t		k
b		d		g
			ʃ	
	f	θ	s	ʒ
	v	ð	z	ʒ
m		n		ŋ
		l		r
w				j

pit		to		cod
bit		do		god
			chin	
			gin	
	fin	thin	sin	shin
	van	the	zoo	vision
man		not		sing
		lay		ray
wet				yet

φων

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'Light' (or 'clear') vs. 'dark' / l / – one sound or two?

Language	Initial	(e.g.)	Final	(e.g.)	What happens if you get it wrong?
Dutch	dark	lekker	dark	wel	you sound foreign
German	light	liegen	light	Milch	you sound foreign
English	light	leaf	dark	milk	you sound foreign
Russian	dark	лук (‘Zwiebel’)	dark	угол (‘Ecke’)	you risk being totally and
	<i>or</i> light	люк (‘Luk(e)’)	<i>or</i> light	уголь (‘Kohle’)	utterly misunderstood

N.B.: The Russian ‘light’ / l / is in fact ‘palatalized’. (Wikipedia is your friend.)

φων

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What is this baby hominid doing?



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- One of the first things a mammal does ...

φωv

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- One of the first things a mammal does ...
- ... after trying out its lungs ...

φωv

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- ... after trying out its lungs ...
- ... is ...

φωv

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- One of the first things a mammal does ...
- ... after trying out its lungs ...
- ... is ...
- ... to suck!

φωv

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- (If it doesn't, it dies.)

φωv

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- (If it doesn't, it dies.)
- What does your mouth do when you suck?

φωv

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φωv

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- For / u / the oral cavity is long and thin, the lips are rounded, the back of the tongue is up, and the front of the tongue is down

φωv

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φωv

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- For / i / the oral cavity is short and wide, the lips are spread, the front of the tongue is up, and the back of the tongue is down
- 'Neither / u / nor / i /' is / ə /.

φωv

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- For / i / the oral cavity is short and wide, the lips are spread, the front of the tongue is up, and the back of the tongue is down
- 'Neither / u / nor / i /' is / ə /.
- What is 'both / u / and / i /'?

φωv

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