**Pr Zoubida Sebane L1 Phonetics April 30th**

**Describing Consonants :**

Unlike vowels which need only the tongue to be articulated, consonants require 2 articulators, passive or active.

Consonants are described in terms of their VPM ( Voice / Place of articulation and Manner of articulation). **VPM are the consonant features**.

A consonant sound **may be produced voiced or voiceless** , in a particular place of articulation and with a particular manner of articulation.

Fig 1 below shows the places of articulation and vertically the manners of articulation for English consonants

FIG1 The places of articulation

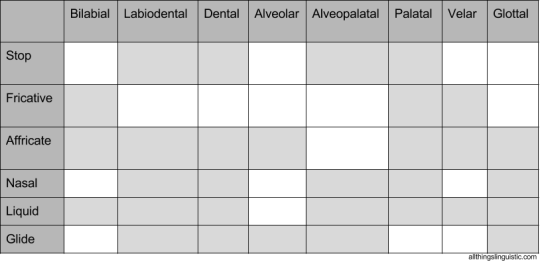


FIG 2 The English consonants



**The places of articulation  :**

1. **Bilabia**l : the two lips are involved as for / p, b, m , w /
2. **Labiodentals** : the lower lip and the upper teeth ex : / f , v /
3. **Dental** : the tip of the tongue against the upper teeth : // θ,ð/
4. **alveolar**  : the tip of the tongue towards or against the alveolar ridge : /t;d,s ,z, n /
5. **Alveopalatal** : the body of the tongue towards the palate and alveolar ridge:/ ʃ ,ʒ/ // t /tʃ ,dʒ/ /
6. **Palatal** : the body of the tongue towards the hard palate / j /
7. **Velar** : the back of the tongue towards or against the soft palate or the velum : / k,/ /k, g, ŋ/

# Glottal : the consonant is produced in the glottal cavity / h, ʔ /

# The manners of articulation

# Air, stored in the lungs, is used in different manners according to the sound that is produced. For each description ,see fig 2 above.

# The stops , also called plosives ,are produced with complete obstruction ( (blockage) of air in the different places of articulation.

# There are bilabial, alveolar , velar and glottal stops or plosives.

# The fricatives, are produced with a narrow passage of air so that we can hear a friction ( a hissing sound ) in the different places of articulation.

# There are labiodentals, dental , alveolar , alveopalatal and glottal.

# The affricates are produced by combining a plosive with a fricative .

# However , not all plosives with all fricatives can make an affricate , only the pair/ /t ʃ ,dʒ/ is a true afficate.

# /tr, dr / is also considered a pair of afficate . / t, d / is a pair of plosives yet, / r / is not an afficate, but when it occurs next to /t, d / it is produced with a friction.

1. **The nasals** sounds are produced in the nasal cavity. ( velum lowered)

There is the bilabial, the alveolar and the velar nasal. They are *homorganic* with plosives that means they share the same place of articulation as plosives.

1. **The liquids** are oral sounds produced either with the tongue against the alveolar ridge / l / , or the tongue that makes a curve towards the alveolar ridge / r /. Both are alveolar.
2. **The glides or semi\*vowels or approximants** are consonants that sound like vowels . / j / in yes is produced with the body of the tongue raising towards the hard palate and / w / in war in articulated with the lips rounded and the back of the tongue towards the velum.

Consonants are made of two classes : the class of **obstruents** and the class of **sonorants**

The class of obstruents include mainly the minimal pairs **( voiceless/voiced).**

The class of sonorants on the other hand contains only the consonants that **occur alone** and that are **always voiced ( see fig 3 )**

**FIG 3 represents the two classes of consonants**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **obstruents** | **sonorants** |
| **Stops or plosives:** /p,b/ /t,d/ /k,g/  **Fricatives** : / f,v/ /θ,ð/ /s,z/ /ʃ ,ʒ/ /h/  **Affricates**: / tʃ ,dʒ// ,/tr,dr/ | **Nasals** : /m/ , / n /, / ŋ /  **Liquids** : / l / , / r /  **Glides**  : / j / , / w / |

**Sonorant sounds are always produced voiced**

**Vowels, Nasals , Liquids and Glides are labeled SONORANT sounds.**