

Phonetics and Phonology
First Year
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Lesson 12: Fortis-Lenis/ Description of other consonants

**Fortis-Lenis/Description of other
consonants**

- **Fortis Consonants:** are the consonants that need some effort to be produced. *All voiceless* consonants are termed as *Fortis* or *strong*. They are produced with open glottis (the vocal folds are separated).
- **Lenis consonants:** Is a term that refers to voiced consonants (weak) that do not need much effort in their production.

The plosive phonemes of English can be presented in the form of a table as shown here:

		Alveolar	Velar
	p	t	k
		d	g

Table 1: The plosive phonemes

The Fricatives of English can be presented in the form of a table as shown here:

Place of Articulation					
	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Glottal
Fortis(voiceless)	f	θ	s	ʃ	h
Lenis(voiced)	v	ð	z	ʒ	

Table 2: The Fricative Phonemes

Chart of English Consonant Phonemes

		Voicing	PLACE of Articulation							
			BILABIAL	LABIO-DENTAL	DENTAL	ALVEOLAR	POST-ALVEOLAR	PALATAL	VELAR	GLOTTAL
MANNER of Articulation	PLOSIVE (STOP)	Voiced	b			d			g	
		Voiceless	p			t			k	
	FRICATIVE	Voiced		v	ð	z	ʒ			
		Voiceless		f	θ	s	ʃ			h
	AFFRICATE	Voiced					tʃ			
		Voiceless					tʃ			
	NASAL	Voiced	m			n			ŋ	
		Voiceless								
	LATERAL APPROXIMANT	Voiced				l				
		Voiceless								
	APPROXIMANT (SEMI-VOWEL)	Voiced	w				r	j		
		Voiceless								

+ Pronunciation of (nk)&(ng) in the middle of words:

Rule1: in words that are divided into elements or morphemes (nk) & (ng) are pronounced /ŋ/ as in singer /sɪŋə/, sing /sɪŋ/.

Rule2: with words that are not divided into elements or morphemes /g/ is added after /ŋ/as in finger /fɪŋɡə/, anger /æŋɡə/.

Rule3: with comparative and superlative forms of adjectives /g/ is used after /ŋ/ as in longer /lɒŋɡə/, longest /lɒŋɡəst/.

{ Question }

Transcribe the underlined consonants using phonemic symbols.

1. finger. / ɪŋg/
2. anger. /ŋg/
3. singer. /ɪŋ/
4. hanger . /ŋg/
5. longest . / ŋg /
6. singing . /ɪŋɪŋ/
7. sing. / ɪŋ/
8. writing. /ɪŋ/
9. playing. / ɪŋ/
10. hanging. /ɪŋɪŋ/