Phonetics and Phonology

First Year

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Lesson 7&8

Description of English consonants (Continued)

The plosive consonant:

It is a consonant which is produced with an explosion. The plosive consonants in English include the following:

a. Voiceless plosive consonants.

b. Voiced plosive consonants.

As in the following table:

Voiceless plosives	**p**	**t**	**k**	
Voiced plosives	**B**	**d**	**g**	**?**

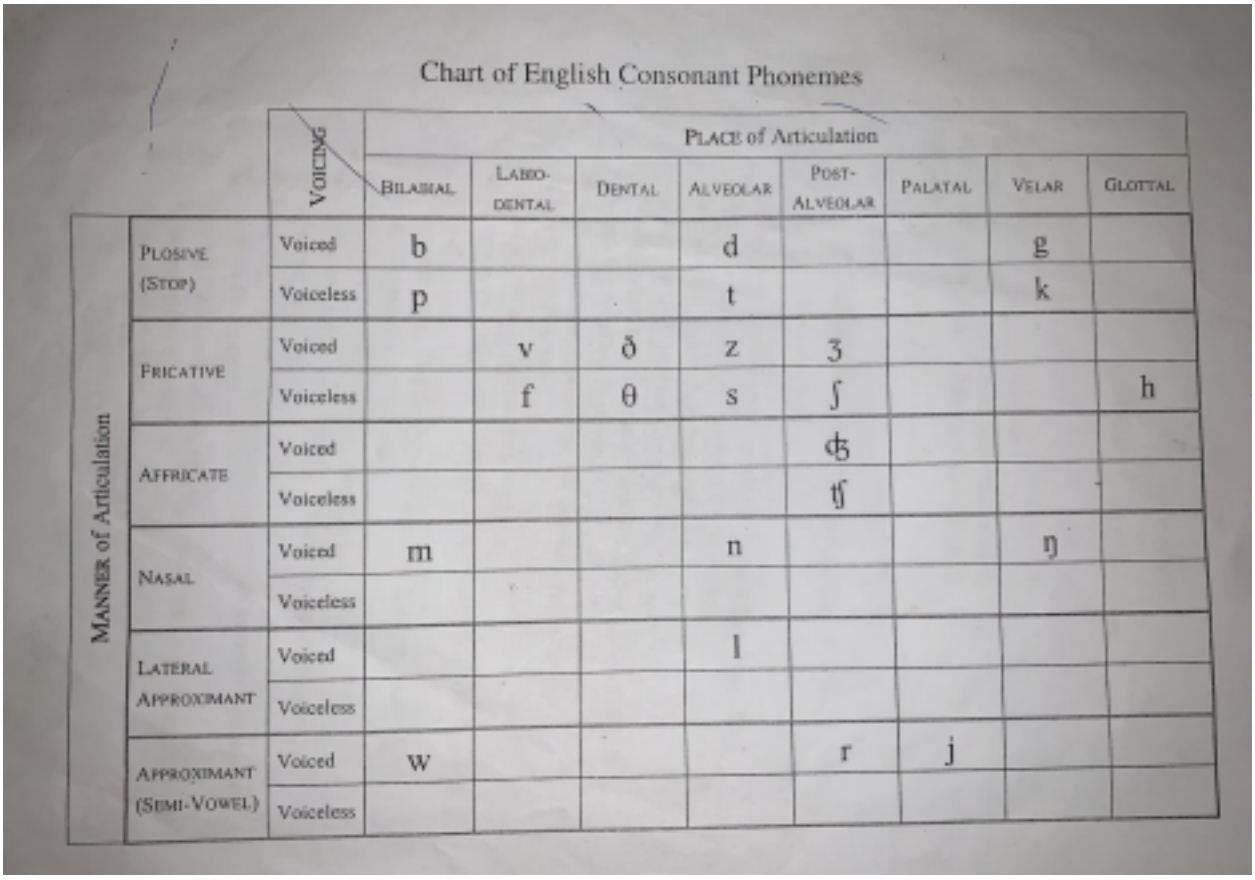

Chart of English Consonant Phonemes

Manner of Articulation	Voicing	Place of Articulation: Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive (Stop)	Voiced	b			d			g	
	Voiceless	p			t			k	
Fricative	Voiced		v	ð	z	ʒ			
	Voiceless		f	θ	s	ʃ			h
Affricate	Voiced					ʤ			
	Voiceless					ʧ			
Nasal	Voiced	m			n			ŋ	
	Voiceless								
Lateral Approximant	Voiced				l				
	Voiceless								
Approximant (Semi-Vowel)	Voiced	w				r	j		
	Voiceless								

Description of the plosives

According to the following table describe each of the plosives:

1. **/p/: It is voiceless, bilabial, stop (plosive). The velum is raised.**
2. **/b/: It is voiced, bilabial, stop (plosive). The velum is raised.**
3. **/t/: It is voiceless, alveolar, stop (plosive). The velum is raised.**
4. **/d/: It is voiced, alveolar, stop (plosive). The velum is raised.**
5. **/k/: It is voiceless, velar, stop (plosive). The velum is raised.**
6. **/g/: It is voiced, velar, stop (plosive). The velum is raised.**
7. **/?/ It is voiced, glottal, stop (plosive). The velum is raised.**

Characteristics of the plosive sounds:

a. One articulator is moved against another, or two articulators are moved against each other, so

as to form a stricture that allows no air to escape from the vocal tract. The stricture is, then, total(complete).

b. After this stricture has been formed and air has been compressed behind it, it is released – that is, air is allowed to escape.

c. If the air behind the stricture is still under pressure when the plosive is released. it is probable that the escape of air will produce noise loud enough to be heard. This noise is called plosion. d. There may be voicing during part or all of the plosive articulation.

Phases of the Plosive sounds:

a. The first phase is when the articulator or articulators move to form the stricture for the plosive. We call this the **closing phase**.

b. The second phase is when the compressed air is stopped from escaping. We call this the **compression phase**.

c. The third phase is when the articulators used to form the stricture are moved as to allow air to escape. This is the **release phase**.

d. The fourth phase is what happens immediately after (c), so we will call it the **post-release phase.**