

Phonetics: The Sounds of American English

consonants — **manner** — place — voice — vowels — monophthongs — diphthongs

stop — fricative — affricate — nasal — liquid — glide

Manner of

articulation refers to how the sound is produced and the way in which the airstream is modified as it passes through the vocal tract.

Choose one of the buttons in the second row to see the list of sounds for that category.

Stops

Voiceless	Vicied	
/p/	/b/	Bilabial
/t/	/d/	Lingualveolar
/k/	/g/	Lingualvelar

A **stop** is a consonant characterized by: (1) complete obstruction of the outgoing airstream by the articulators, (2) a build up of intraoral air pressure, and (3) a release.

Select from the list of sounds on the left to see the animations and video for that sound.

Pack, Pace ..
Paso

Back, Boat ..
Buque

Tack, Total
[~Todo with tongue above teeth]

Dig
[~Ducha with tongue above teeth]

Cat .. *Casa*

Gone .. *Gato*

Fricatives

Voiceless	Vicied	
/f/	/v/	Labiodental
/θ/	/ð/	Lingualdental
/s/	/z/	Lingualveolar
/ʃ/	/ʒ/	Lingualpalatal
/h/		Glottal

A **fricative** is a consonant produced by forcing the breath stream through a constriction formed by articulators in the vocal tract.

Select from the list of sounds on the left to see the animations and video for that sound.

Fine, Fat ..
Fino

Very, Vat
{~Fino with "voice"}

Think

This
{~Cena with "voice"}

Sun, Sum ..
Suma

Zoo
{~Suma with "voice"}

She

viSion ..

How

CHurch**Affricates**

Voicel ess Voiced

/tʃ/ /dʒ/ Lingua-
alveolarAn **affricate** is a consonant characterized as having both a fricative and a stop manner of production.**Just****Man****Nasal**

Voicel ess Voiced

/m/ Bilabial

No/n/ Lingua-
alveolar**siNG**/ŋ/ Lingua-
velar**Nasal** refers to a consonant produced with complete closure in the oral cavity along with a lowered velum to allow airflow through the nasal cavity.

◀ Select from the list of sounds on the left to see the animations and video for that sound.

Leg**Liquids**

Voicel ess Voiced

/l/ Lingua-
alveolar**Run**/r/ Lingua-
palatal**Liquid** is a generic label used to classify two English approximant consonants, /r/ and /l/

◀ Select from the list of sounds on the left to see the animations and video for that sound.

Wet**Glides**

Voicel ess Voiced

/w/ Bilabial

Yes/j/ Lingua-
palatalA **glide** is a consonant characterized by a continued, gliding motion of the articulators into the following vowel; also referred to as a semi-vowel, e.g., /j/ and /w/.

◀ Select from the list of sounds on the left to see the animations and video for that sound.