

Consonant Sounds

We have learnt earlier that the speech sounds can be divided into two types: the vowel sounds and the consonant sounds.

The consonant sounds are 24 in number. A brief description of these is given below. These may be grouped according to:

- a) the way they are pronounced
- b) the place of pronunciation in the mouth, and
- c) whether they are voiced or unvoiced (a sound is 'voiced' if accompanied by vibrations in the vocal cords and it is 'unvoiced' when there are no vibrations in the vocal cords.)

We shall deal with consonant sounds in groups based on the first classification i.e. the way the sounds are produced. This classification includes;

1. Plosives: /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/.
2. Affricates: /tʃ/, /dʒ/.
3. Fricatives: /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/, /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /h/.
4. Lateral: /l/.
5. Frictionless Continuant: /r/.
6. Nasals: /m/, /n/, /ŋ/.
7. Semi - Vowels: /w/, /j/.