

CONSONANTS

*Classification
according to
Place of
articulation*



If we obstruct our vocal tract at the lips,
the place of articulation is **bilabial**.
/p/, /b/, /m/

The consonants [f] and [v] are made with the top teeth on the bottom lip, so these are called *labiodental* sounds.

Move your tongue to the ridge above and behind your top teeth and make a [t] or [d]; these are **alveolar** sounds. Many people also make the sound [s] with the tongue at the alveolar ridge. Even though there is quite a bit of variation in how people make the sound [s], it still gets classified as an alveolar sound.

If you're making a [s] and move the tongue farther back, not quite to the soft palate, the sound turns into a [ʃ], which is called post-alveolar, meaning it's a little bit behind the alveolar ridge. You also sometimes see [ʃ] and [ʒ] called "palato-alveolar" sounds because the place of articulation is between the alveolar ridge and the palate.

The only true *palatal* sound in English is [j]. during the articulation of the sound the tongue moves towards the hard palate

And if you bring the back of your tongue up against the back of the soft palate, the velum, you produce the **velar** sounds [k] and [g].

And of course English has a *glottal sound* made right at the larynx, the sound [h].