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جزوه درس: آواشناسی (سه شنبه ساعت ۴-۸؛ ۶ اسفند) مربوط به هفته : اول □ دوم ■ سوم □
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تلفن همراه مدیر گروه :
ویدئو آموزشی دارد!

The Study of Language: Chapter 3-The Sounds of Language

- What is PHONETICS?

Phonetics is the general study of the characteristics of speech sounds (phonemes). So, when we study how humans produce or perceive sounds of a language/languages (for example, how we produce /p/ like in پارس or /s/ like in سمنان in Persian or /θ/ in English like in THINK), we are doing phonetics! (**Watch**

Video-1)

- Three branches of PHONETICS?

1. Articulatory phonetics: This branch of phonetics studies how we produce speech sounds (for example, consonants and vowels). So, it deals with the articulation (=production) of human speech sounds.

2. Acoustic phonetics: This branch of phonetics studies speech sounds as sound waves in the air! It studies speech sound waves and their physical acoustic characteristics in advanced laboratories.

3. Auditory phonetics: It is also called perceptual phonetics because it



studies how we understand and perceive speech sounds by our ears and mental mechanisms. For example, what happens in our ears and brain capacities that we hear the sound /s/ as /s/ and not as /d/ or /z/!

- There are TWO types of speech sounds in every language:

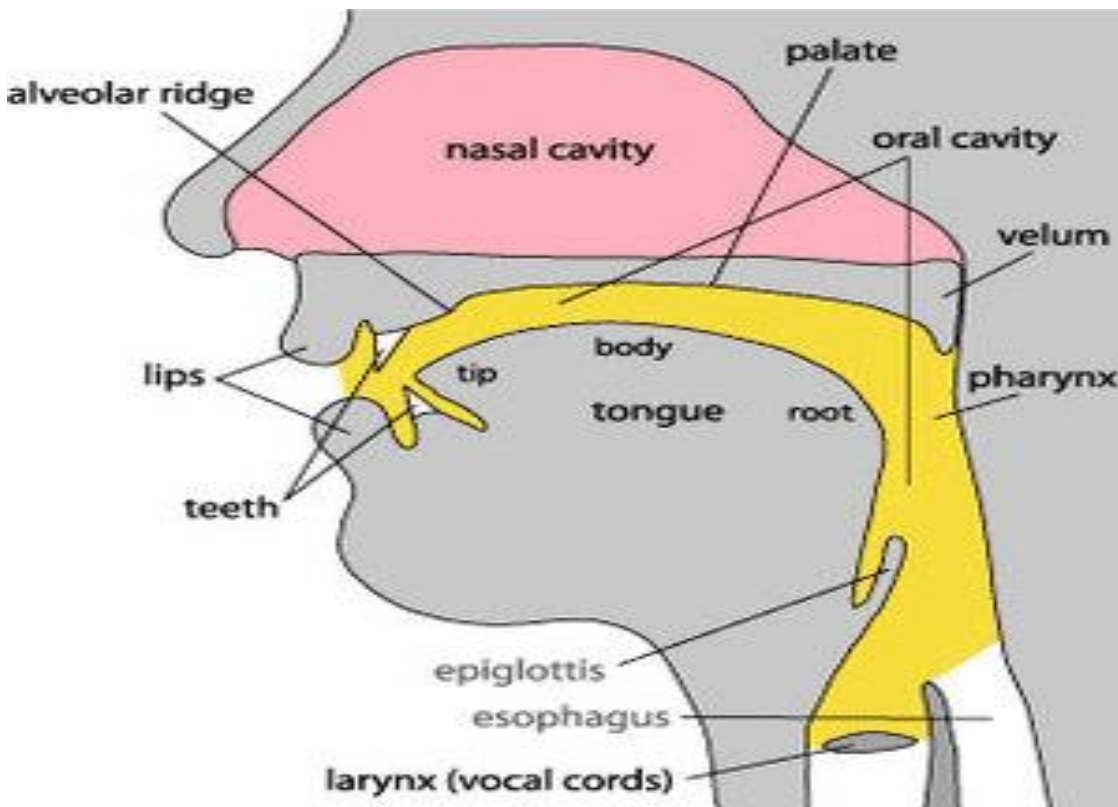
1. Consonants: Consonants are those speech sounds (phonemes) that there is an obstruction (either complete or incomplete) of air somewhere in the vocal tract (from larynx to lips; see Figure 1) when they are produced. For example, when we produce the phoneme /t/ in the word TEACHER, the air is stopped completely behind our tongue and alveolar ridge, then suddenly released. Some English consonants are: /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/, /g/, /s/, /n/, /m/, /w/, /v/ and /θ/. **(Watch Video-2)**

2. Vowels: Vowels are those speech sounds (phonemes) that there is NO obstruction of air in the vocal tract (see Figure 1) when they are produced. The air passes freely out of lungs, through the mouth and finally out of the lips. For example, when we produce the word FATHER, we produce the vowel /ɑ:/ by freely passing the air out of our lungs and mouth. Some English vowels are: /ɑ/, /e/, /i/, /I/, /u/, /ɔ/ and /ə/. **(Watch Video-2)**



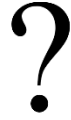
- NOTE: ALL the vowels are VOICED. It means that when they are produced, the vocal folds (also called vocal cords) in our larynx are vibrating. But consonants can be VOICED or VOICELESS. A VOICED consonant is produced when vocal folds are vibrating, like /z/ or /b/. A VOICELESS consonant, however, is produced when vocal folds are not vibrating, like /s/ or /p/.

Figure 1. Human vocal tract with the articulators (organs involved in the production of sounds)





Questions:



1. What is phonetics?
2. What are the three main branches of phonetics? Name and define each of them.
3. What is the main difference between consonants and vowels?
4. What is voicing? Are all vowels voiced? What about consonants?

Please find the answers to the above-mentioned questions by reading this short pamphlet and/or referring to the book (Chapter 3). We check your answers later in our ordinary classrooms. For Videos 1 and 2, please refer to my channel or check it with your class representative.