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Learning Language

Rajesh Kumar

Early and late learning

Learning language early
(before 10 years of age!)
Automatic and effortless

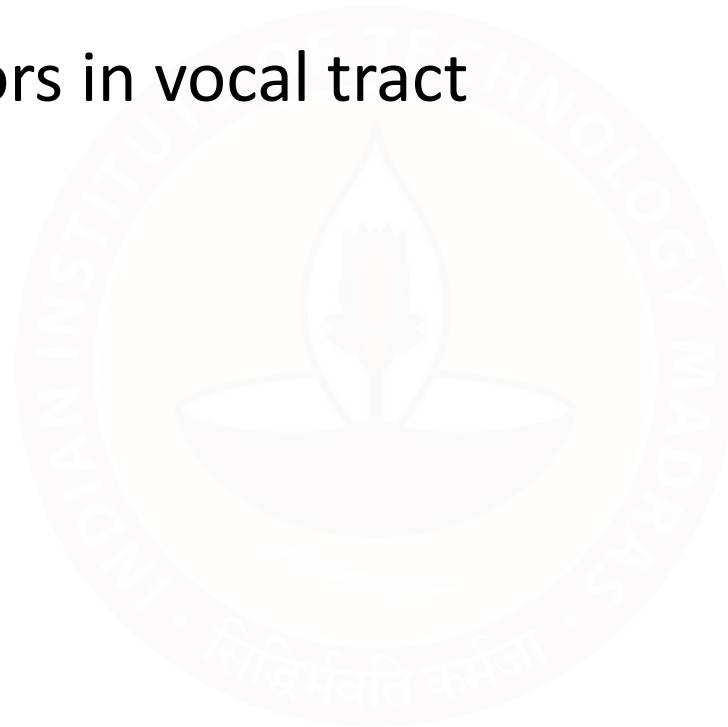
Learning language late
(after 15 years of age!)
Requires efforts

Early

Movement of articulators in vocal tract

Input

Output



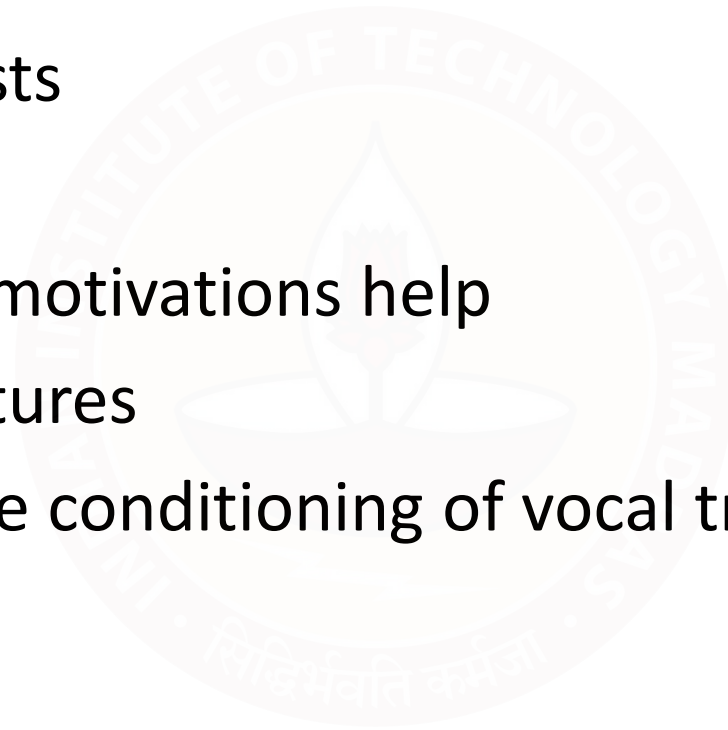
‘Learning Language is child’s play’

- A normal human child is hardwired to acquire language from the immediate environment with the help of Language Acquisition Device (LAD) and Universal Grammar (UG).



Late

- Another language exists
- Conscious efforts
- Specific and directed motivations help
- Easy to work on structures
- Not possible to change conditioning of vocal tract



Learning as subconscious process

- Listening
- Speaking
- Writing
- Reading





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Sounds and Writing Symbols in English

Rajesh Kumar

English Letter – UPPER CASE and Lower Case

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g h i j k l
m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

English Rhyme

A	--	Apple
B	—	Ball
C	—	Cat
D	—	Dog
E	—	Elephant
F		Fan
G	—	Girl
H	—	House
I	--	Ink

J	S
K	T
L	U
M	V
N	W
O	X
P	Y
Q	Z
R	

26 Letters

UPPER CASE and Lower Case Letters

TEST IMAGES								
UPPERCASE LETTERS								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
LOWERCASE LETTERS								
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r
s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	

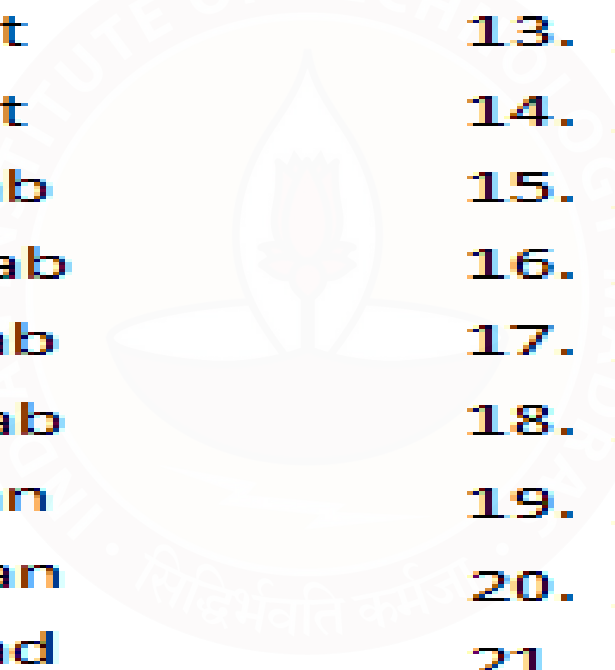
English Letters

A a	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	H h	I i
a	bee	cee	dee	e	ef	gee	(h)aitch	i
[eɪ]	[bi:]	[si:]	[di:]	[i:]	[ɛf]	[dʒi:]	[(h)eɪtʃ]	[aɪ]
J j	K k	L l	M m	N n	O o	P p	Q q	R r
jay	kay	el	em	en	o	pee	cue	ar
[dʒeɪ]	[keɪ]	[ɛl]	[ɛm]	[ɛn]	[ou]	[pi:]	[kju:]	[ɑ:/ɑr]
S s	T t	U u	V v	W w	X x	Y y	Z z	
ess	tee	u	vee	double-u	ex	wy(e)	zed/zee	
[ɛs]	[ti:]	[ju:]	[vi:]	['dʌbəlju:]	[ɛks]	[waɪ]	[zɛd/zi:]	

Vowels Sounds in English

Vowels			
i	pit	ɔ:	born
e	pet	u:	boon
æ	pat	aɪ	bite
ɒ	pot	eɪ	bait
ʌ	but	ɔɪ	boy
ʊ	book	əʊ	toe
ə	mother	aʊ	house
i:	bean	ʊə	poor
ɜ:	burn	ɪə	ear
ɑ:	barn	eə	air

Consonant Sounds in words



1.	/p/ -	pit	13.	/h/ -	hot
2.	/b/ -	bit	14.	/l/ -	lad
3.	/t/ -	tab	15.	/r/ -	red
4.	/d/ -	dab	16.	/w/ -	wed
5.	/k/ -	cab	17.	/θ/ -	thought
6.	/g/ -	gab	18.	/ð/ -	them
7.	/f/ -	fan	19.	/ʃ/ -	shy
8.	/v/ -	van	20.	/ʒ/ -	treasure
9.	/s/ -	sad	21.	/tʃ/ -	chime
10.	/z/ -	zoo	22.	/dʒ/ -	jam
11.	/m/ -	man	23.	/j/ -	yum
12.	/n/ -	not	24.	/ŋ/ -	sing

Consonant Sounds in English

p	b	t	d	f	v	θ	ð
/pɪn/ pin	/bæd/ bad	/tɪn/ tin	/dɒg/ dog	/faɪv/ five	/væn/ van	/θɪn/ thin	/ðæt/ that
m	n	ŋ	h	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
/mæn/ man	/nəʊz/ nose	/θɪŋ/ thing	/ha:f/ half	/tʃə:tʃ/ church	/dʒæm/ jam	/kaɪnd/ kind	/gʌn/ gun
s	z	ʃ	ʒ	l	r	w	j
/seɪ/ say	/zu:/ zoo	/ʃɪp/ ship	/meʒə/ measure	/leg/ leg	/rʌn/ run	/wə:k/ work	/jes/ yes

Consonant Sounds

DICTIONARY PHONETIC SYMBOLS

B) CONSONANT SOUNDS

/b/	book	/bʊk/
/d/	day	/deɪ/
/g/	give	/ɡɪv/
/v/	vast	/vɑːst/
/ð/	this	/ðɪs/
/z/	zoo	/zuː/
/ʒ/	vision	/ˈvɪʒən/
/dʒ/	jump	/dʒʌmp/
/l/	look	/lʊk/
/r/	run	/rʌn/
/j/	yard	/jɑːd/

/w/	we	/wiː/
/m/	moon	/muːn/
/n/	name	/neɪm/
/ŋ/	sing	/sɪŋ/
/p/	path	/pɑːθ/
/t/	town	/taʊn/
/k/	cat	/kæt/
/f/	fish	/fɪʃ/
/θ/	think	/θɪŋk/
/s/	say	/seɪ/
/ʃ/	she	/ʃiː/
/tʃ/	cheese	/tʃiːz/

Words with vowels

aa

i

ii

u

uu

o

au





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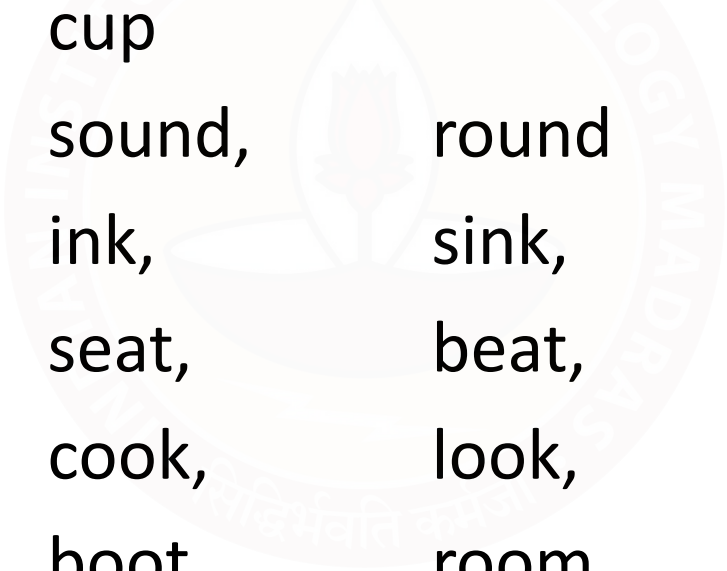
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Speech Sounds in English

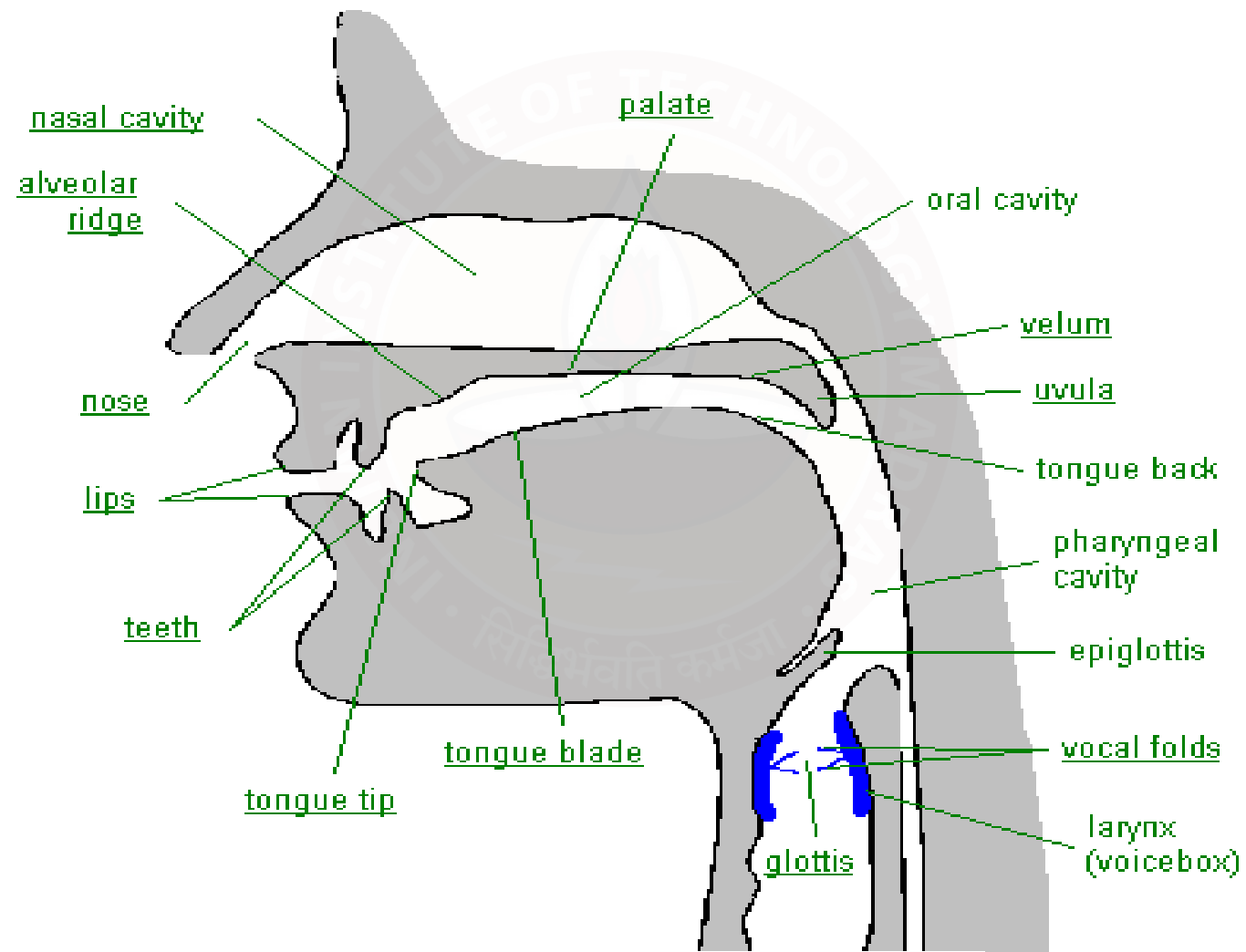
Rajesh Kumar

Articulation of Vowel Sounds

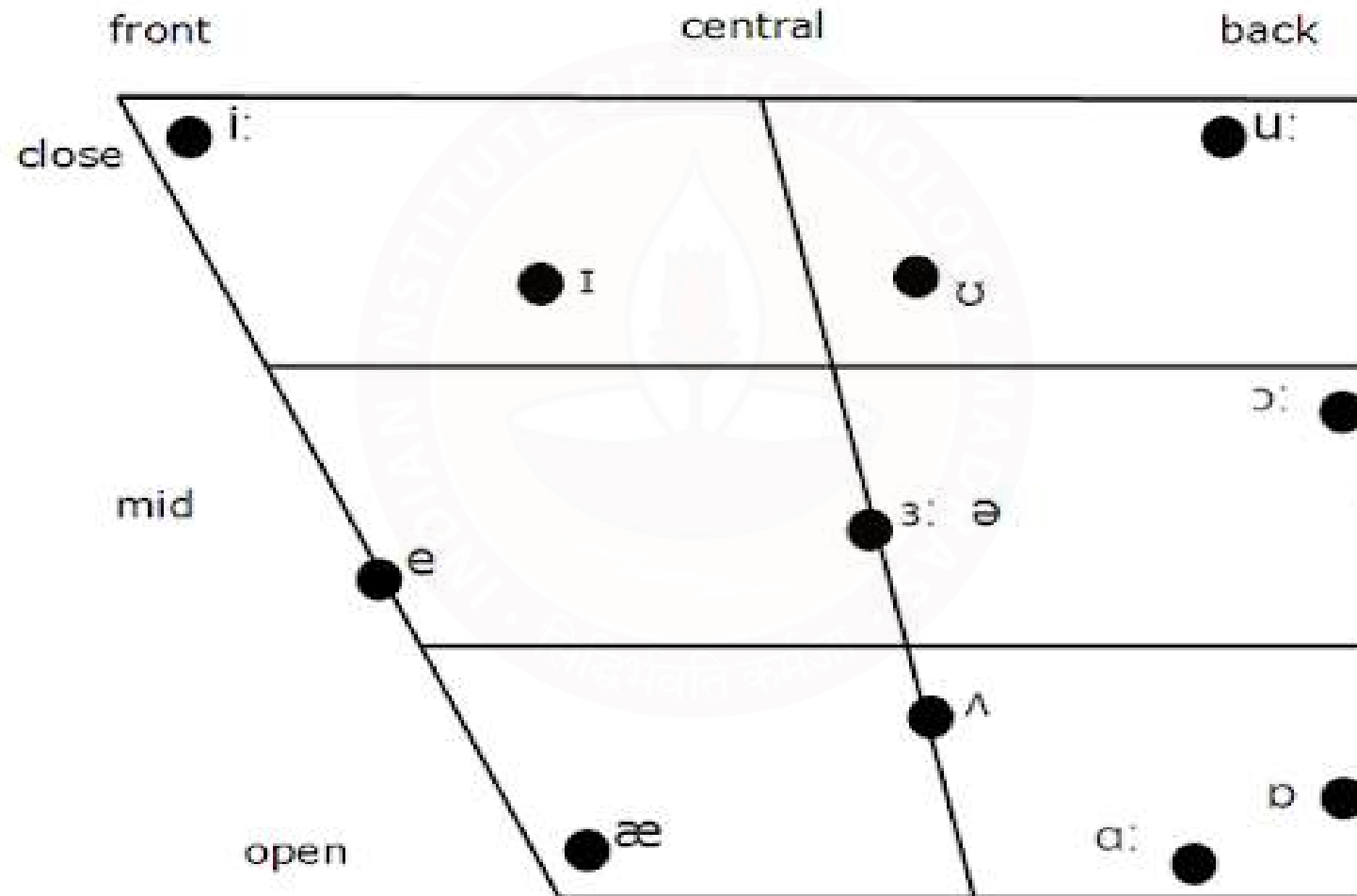


a	up,	cup		
aa	father,	sound,	round	
i	in,	ink,	sink,	drink
li	clean,	seat,	beat,	feet
u	book,	cook,	look,	
uu	zoo,	boot,	room	

Articulators



Understanding vowel sounds



English vowels. The figure represents the mouth

Articulation of Consonant Sounds

Oral Sounds

Nasal Sounds

	-asp -voice	+asp -voice	-asp +voice	+asp +voice	
Velar	k	kh	g	gh	ng
Palatal	c	ch	j	jh	ny
Retroflex	T	Th	D	Dh	N
Dental	t	th	d	dh	n
Labial	p	ph	b	bh	m

	bilabial	labio-dental	dental	alveolar	post-alveolar	palatal	velar	glottal
stop	p b			t d			k g	ʔ
nasal	m			n			ŋ	
flap				ɾ				
fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
approximant				ɹ		j		
lateral approximant				l				



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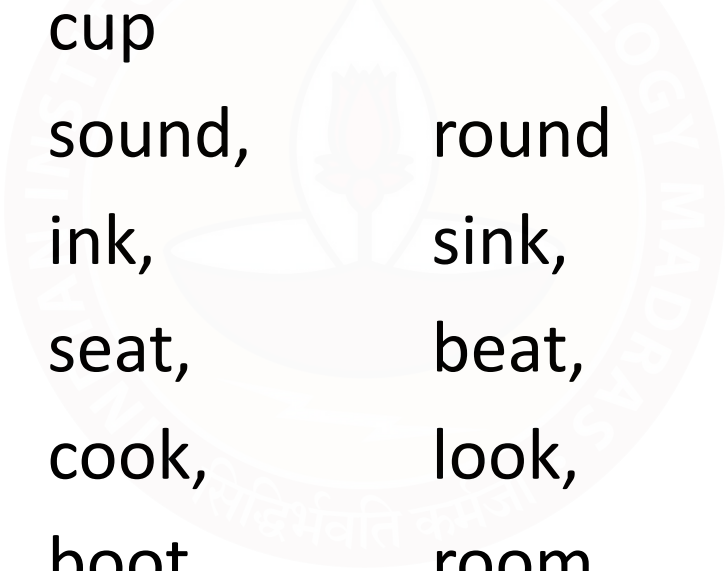
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Articulation of Vowel and Consonant Sounds in English

Rajesh Kumar

Articulation of Vowel Sounds

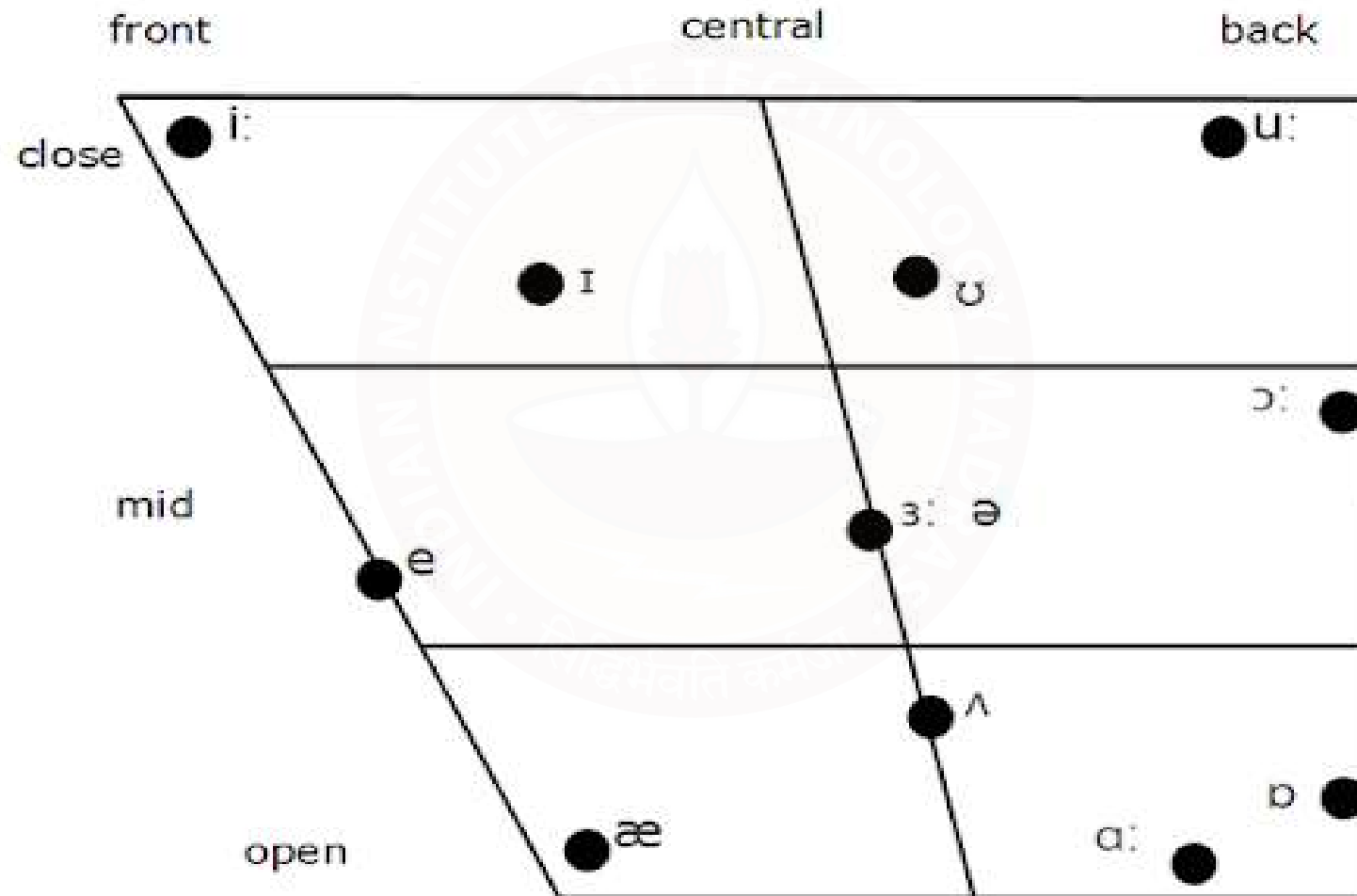


a	up,	cup		
aa	father,	sound,	round	
i	in,	ink,	sink,	drink
li	clean,	seat,	beat,	feet
u	book,	cook,	look,	
uu	zoo,	boot,	room	

Vowels Sounds in English

Vowels			
i	p <u>i</u> t	ɔ:	b <u>o</u> rn
e	p <u>e</u> t	u:	b <u>oo</u> n
æ	p <u>a</u> t	aɪ	b <u>i</u> te
ɒ	p <u>o</u> t	eɪ	b <u>a</u> it
ʌ	b <u>u</u> t	ɔɪ	b <u>oy</u>
ʊ	b <u>oo</u> k	əʊ	t <u>oe</u>
ə	m <u>o</u> th <u>e</u> r	aʊ	h <u>ou</u> se
i:	b <u>ea</u> n	ʊə	p <u>oo</u> r
ɜ:	b <u>ur</u> n	ɪə	<u>e</u> ar
ɑ:	b <u>a</u> rn	eə	<u>a</u> ir

Understanding vowel sounds



English vowels. The figure represents the mouth

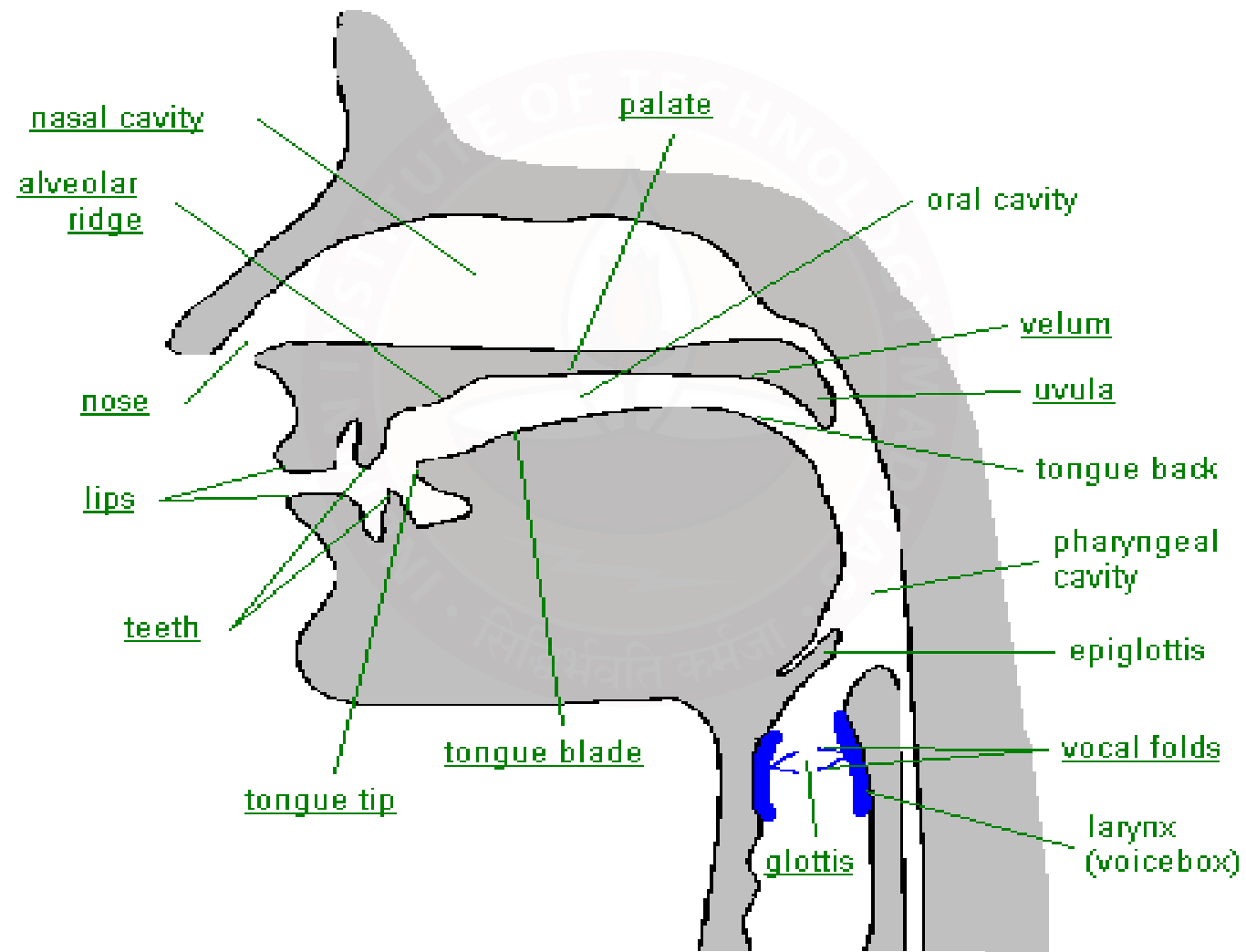
Articulation of Consonant Sounds

Oral Sounds

Nasal Sounds

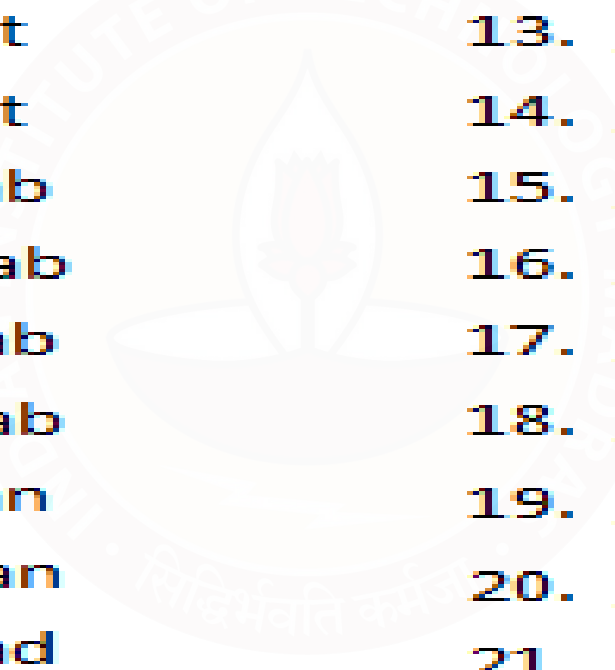
	-asp -voice	+asp -voice	-asp +voice	+asp +voice	
Velar	k	kh	g	gh	ng
Palatal	c	ch	j	jh	ny
Retroflex	T	Th	D	Dh	N
Dental	t	th	d	dh	n
Labial	p	ph	b	bh	m

Articulators



	bilabial	labio-dental	dental	alveolar	post-alveolar	palatal	velar	glottal
stop	p b			t d			k g	ʔ
nasal	m			n			ŋ	
flap				ɾ				
fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
approximant				ɹ		j		
lateral approximant				l				

Consonant Sounds in words



1.	/p/ -	p it	13.	/h/ -	h ot
2.	/b/ -	b it	14.	/l/ -	l ad
3.	/t/ -	t ab	15.	/r/ -	r ed
4.	/d/ -	d ab	16.	/w/ -	w ed
5.	/k/ -	c ab	17.	/θ/ -	th ought
6.	/g/ -	g ab	18.	/ð/ -	th em
7.	/f/ -	f an	19.	/ʃ/ -	sh y
8.	/v/ -	v an	20.	/ʒ/ -	tr asure
9.	/s/ -	s ad	21.	/tʃ/ -	ch ime
10.	/z/ -	z oo	22.	/dʒ/ -	j am
11.	/m/ -	m an	23.	/j/ -	y um
12.	/n/ -	n ot	24.	/ŋ/ -	sing

Some specific features of English Sounds

- s
- sh
- z
- j
- f
- ph



Diphthongs and Semi-vowels

Consonants and Vowels



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ɪ READ	ɪ SIT	ʊ BOOK	u: TOO	ɪə HERE	eɪ DAY	John & Sarah Free Materials 1996	
e MEN	ə AMERICA	ɜ: WORD	ɔ: SORT	ʊə TOUR	ɔɪ BOY	əʊ GO	
æ CAT	ʌ BUT	ɑ: PART	ɒ NOT	eə WEAR	aɪ MY	aʊ HOW	
p PIG	b BED	t TIME	d DO	tʃ CHURCH	dʒ JUDGE	k KILO	g GO
f FIVE	v VERY	θ THINK	ð THE	s SIX	z ZOO	ʃ SHORT	ʒ CASUAL
m MILK	n NO	ŋ SING	h HELLO	l LIVE	r READ	w WINDOW	j YES



Diphthongs

DIPHTHONGS

/eɪ/ as in 'take'

/aɪ/ as in 'buy'

/ɔɪ/ as in 'boy'

/ɪə/ as in 'fear'

/eə/ as in 'care'

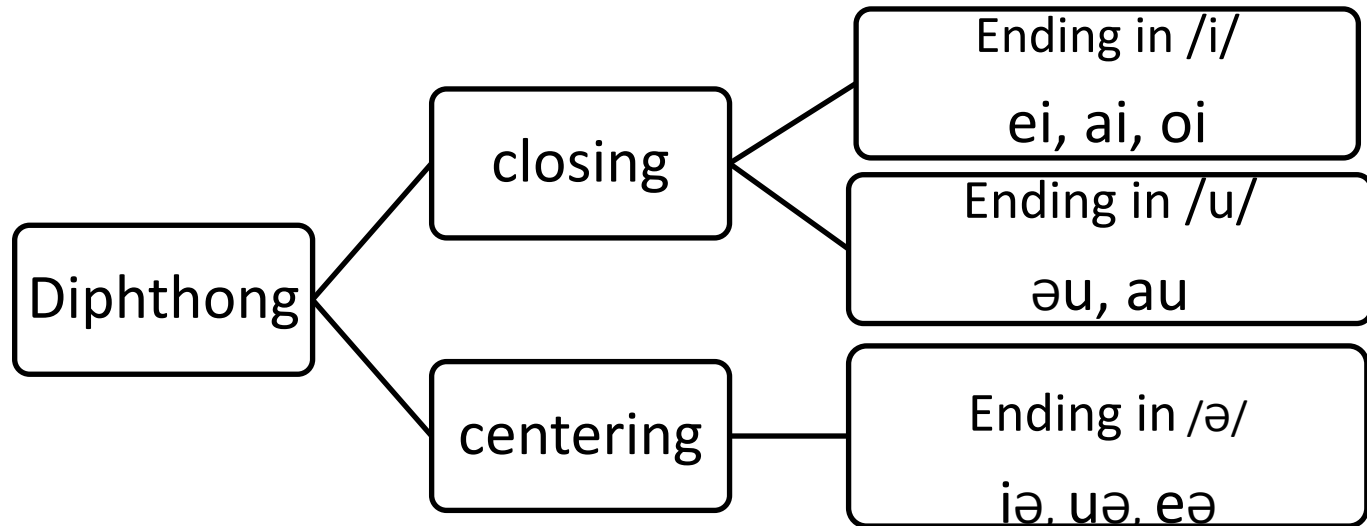
/əʊ/ as in 'go'

/ʊə/ as in 'poor'

/aʊ/ as in 'cow'

- Diphthongs are sounds which consist of a movement or a glide from one vowel to the other.
- In other words, diphthongs are produced by combining two vowels.
Eg. /ei/ is a diphthong that combines the two vowels /e/ and /i/.
- The first sound in the combination is articulated longer and stronger than the second one.
- In terms of length, they are like the long vowels.

There are eight diphthongs and they can be understood through the diagram given below.



Examples



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ei	ai	oi	əu	au	iə	uə	eə
take	high	boy	slow	bowl	peers	jury	pair
aim	ice	oil	owe	owl	ear	-----	air
prey	fly	alloy	go	cow	clear	cure	care
break	type	voice	float	brow	fear	poor	bear
late	right	toy	lone	allow	real	fuel	their

Semi-vowels

- The sounds w and y in English are called semi-vowels.
- There is no blockage of air in the articulation of w and y, thus giving it a vowel-like quality.
- However, w and y are non-syllabic in nature. This means that unlike vowels they do not form syllables.
- Owing to the above reason, they are referred to as consonants.

Examples



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w	y
<u>w</u> ell	y <u>e</u> sterday
<u>w</u> orld	intr <u>u</u> sion
t <u>w</u> in	b <u>e</u> auty
s <u>u</u> ite	st <u>e</u> ward
acq <u>u</u> ire	f <u>e</u> w

Semi-vowels



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- y and w
- These sounds do not occur at word final positions.
 - Window
 - Cow
 - Happy
 - Monday
- y and w sounds are not in the final positions.

Functions of Semi-vowels

- Go away
- I am late.
- Say it.
- Buy it.
- Put your shoe on
- Blue is my favorite color.
- Three years

Consonant Clusters in English Words

Rajesh Kumar

Simple words

- Most of the words are a sequence of consonants and vowel sounds.
 - CVCV papa, daddy /daedii/, mommy /momii/
 - CVC dad, mom,
 - VC am, is, are, it, in, on, at
 - CVV the /dii/, sea /sii/
- Words only with vowels sounds
 - Eye /aai/

Words

- Words are sequence of consonants and vowel sounds.

- CVCVCV papa, daddy, mom
- CVC dad, mom,
- VCVC
- CVV

- CCVC glass
- CVCC sink

- Sounds from same places of articulation do not come next to each other.

pb bp td

- Words only with vowels sounds
 - Eye /aai/

Consonants

- Sounds produced by modification of the flow of exhaling air in the vocal tract

• /k/ – velar	[-asp, - voice]	king, class
• /g/ -- velar	[-asp, + voice]	great, glass
• /p/ -- bilabial	[- asp, - voice]	pink, pure
• /b/ -- bilabial	[- asp, + voice]	bliss, bless

- They have an inbuilt vowel sound 'a' with all of them.

Consonant Clusters

- Two consonant sounds together without the inbuilt sound 'a' from the first one
- Reduction of the inbuilt vowel sounds from the first one
 - Cluster - /kləstər/
- Cluster of sounds occur at any place in the word, however, NOT in random order
 - No two sounds from the same place of articulation (other than nasals) will become part of the cluster.
 - *pb (not good), but mb or mm are good.

Consonant Clusters

- Two consonant sounds together
- Reduction of the inbuilt vowel sounds from the first one
- Not in random order

• Cluster	-	/kləstər/	CCVCCVC
• Bliss	-	/blis/	CCVC
• School	-	/skuul/	CCVC
• Scooter	-	/skutar/	CCVCVC
• Blast	-	/blaast/	CCVCC

Clusters of three consonants

• Spring	/spring/	s	p	r	cccvc
• Stress	/stres/	s	t	r	cccvc
• Screw	/skrue/	s	k	r	cccvv
• Splash	/splash/	s	p	l	cccvc
• String	/string/	s	t	r	cccvc
• Scrub	/skrub/	s	k	r	cccvc