

# 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