BETTER ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

J.D.O. CONNER

LECTURE NO.2

PAGES: 13-15

LECT. KARRAR HAIDER

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The Aims of This Lecture

- **To be familiar with the organs of speech; namely the lungs and vocal cords.**
- **To know how these organs contribute to the production of sounds in English.**
- **To be familiar with the parts/movements of each of theses organs.**

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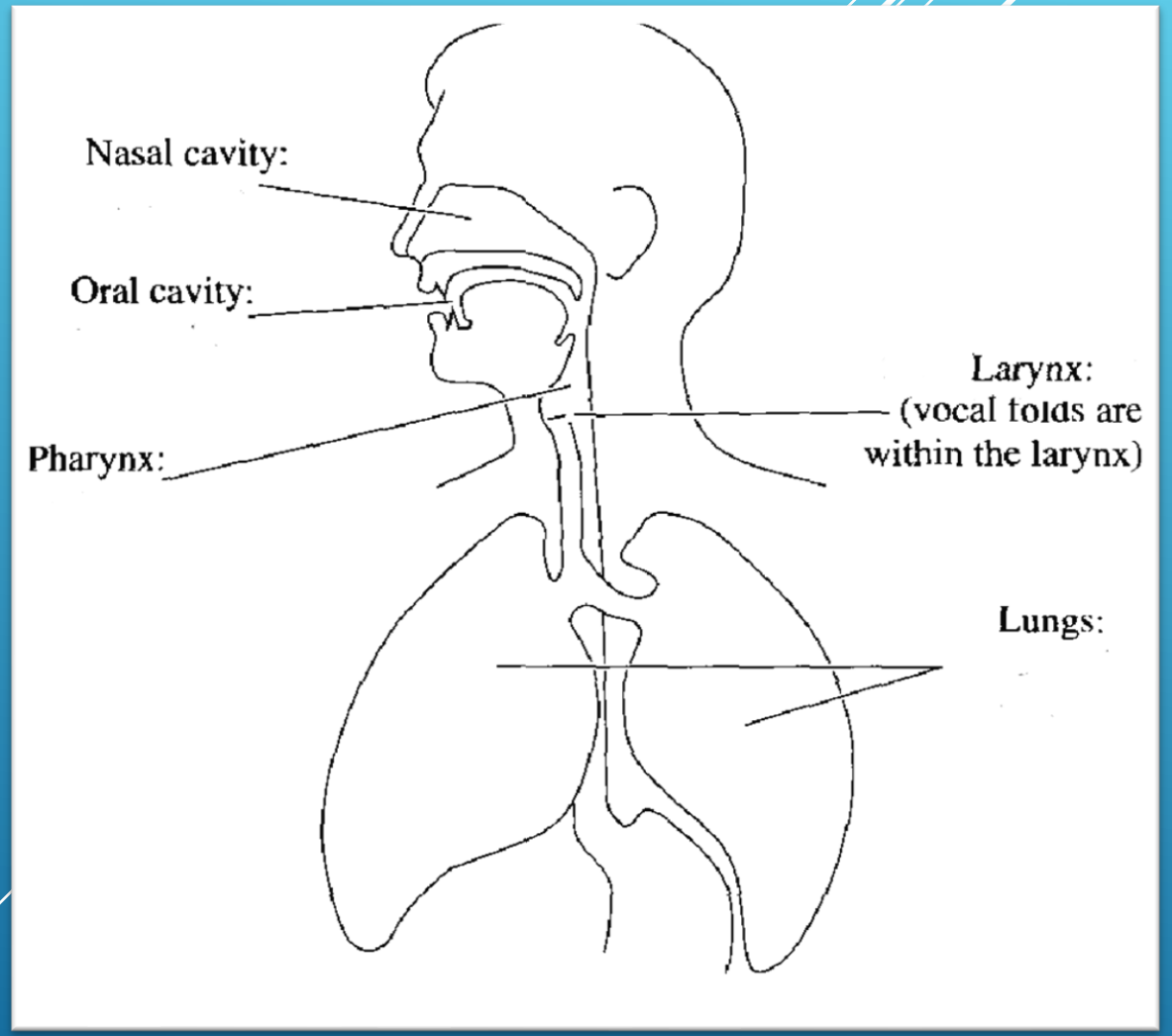
How speech organs work in English?

- **In all languages, we speak with the air from the lungs.**
- **We then release the air slowly from the lungs and interfere with its passage in various ways and at various places.**



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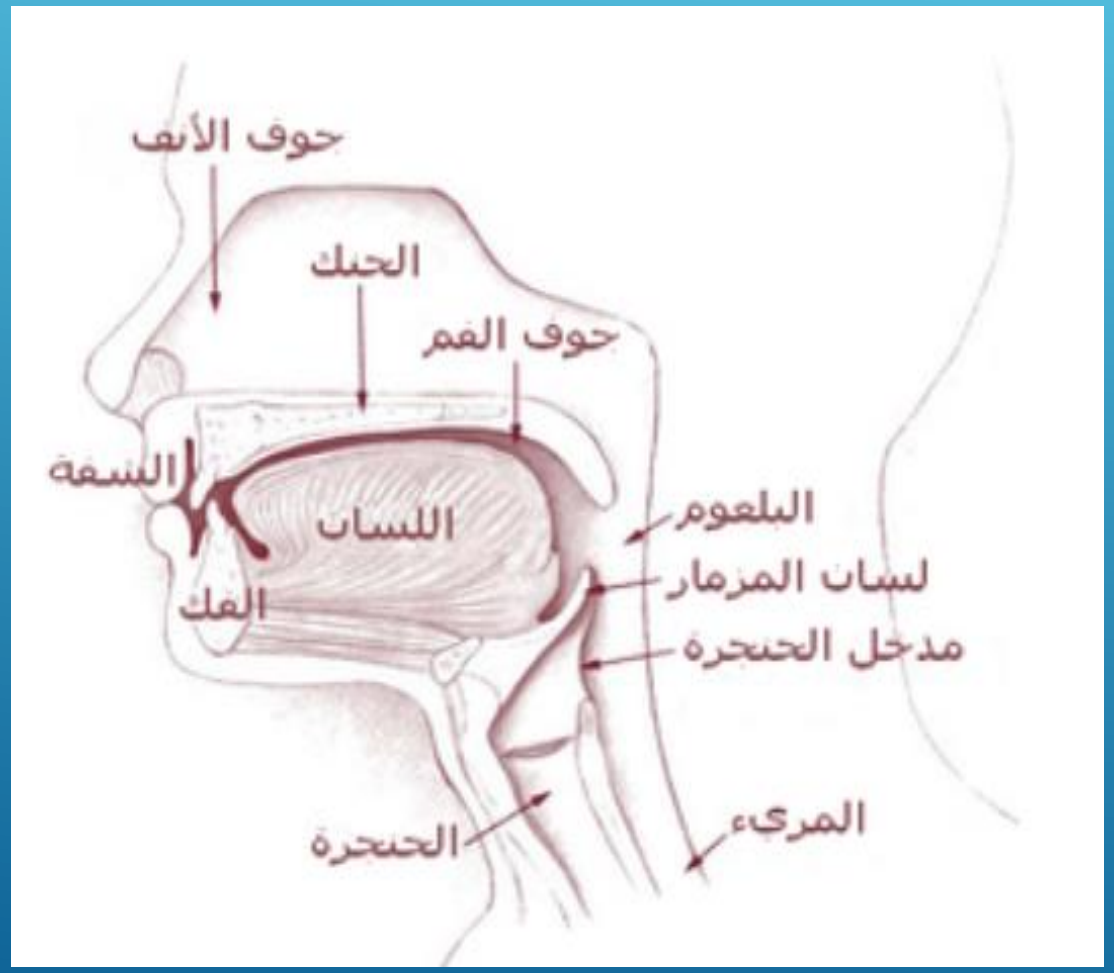

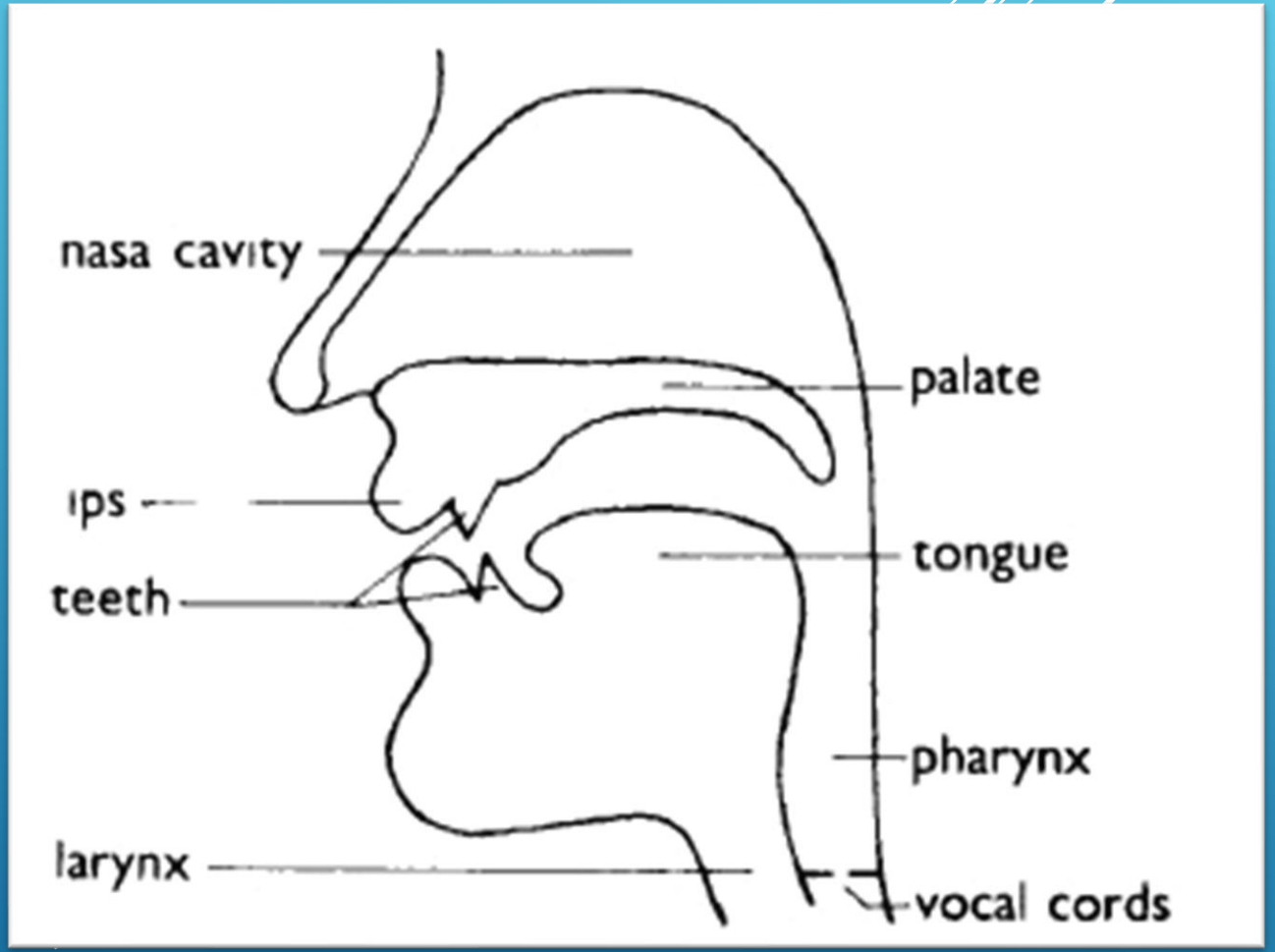

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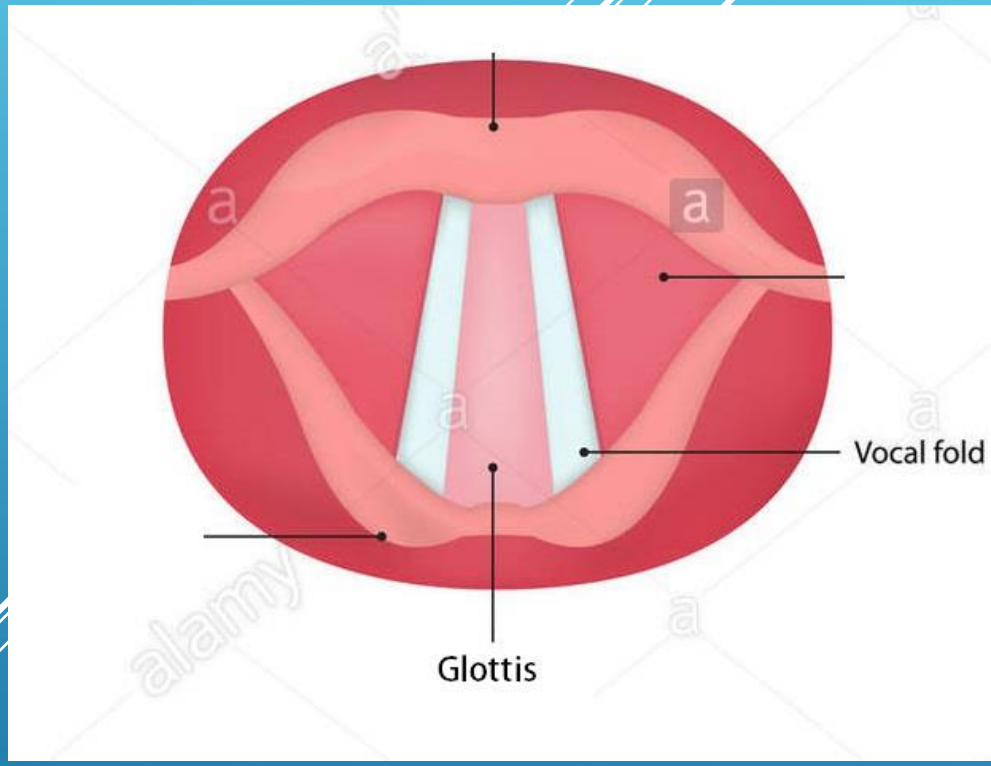
The Vocal Cords

- **When the air comes from the lungs, it first passes through the *larynx***
- **The larynx contains *two small bands of elastic* (flexible) *tissue* (similar to two flat stripes of rubber) *laying opposite to each other*. These are known as the *vocal cords***



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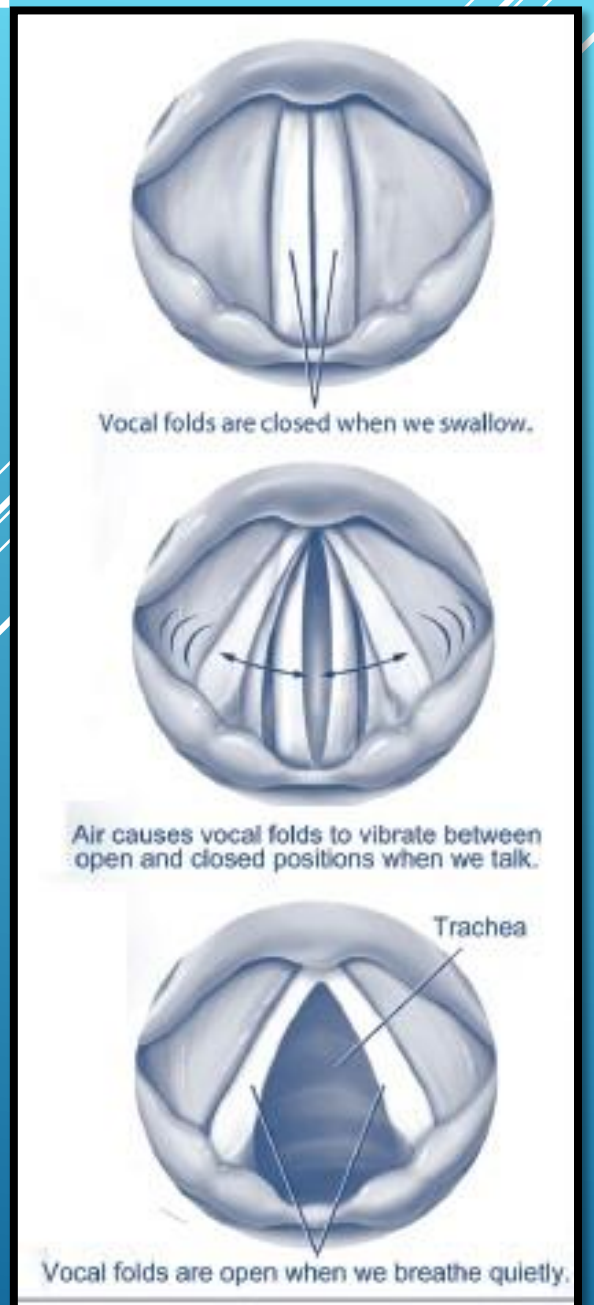
The inner edges of the vocal cords can be moved towards each other so that they can:

(1) **Meet and completely block the wind-pipe**

(2) **Open and close repeatedly so that they *vibrate* and produce the *voice***

(3) **Drawn apart so that there is a gap between them known as (the *glottis*) through which the air can pass freely, and this is their *normal position during breathing***



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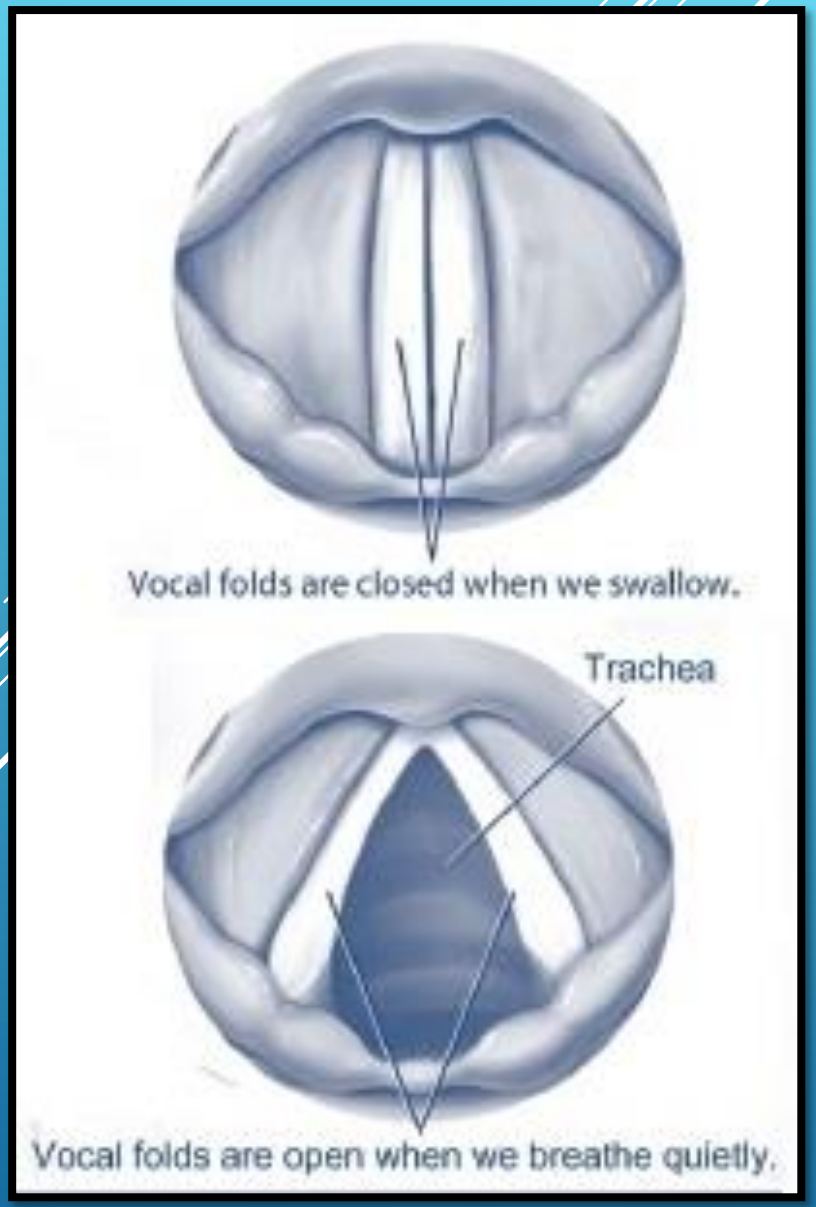
If the lungs push the air from below, the air is *compressed*. When the vocal cords are opened suddenly, the compressed air bursts out with a *coughing noise*. Holding the air and suddenly releasing it is called the *glottal stop*.



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When the vocal cords are brought gently together, the air from the lungs will force them apart for a moment and then they will return to their closed position. This process may take as 800 times per second. This process will produce *musical note*. If the vocal cords open and close quickly, the note is high, and if they open and close slowly, then the note is low. This note is called the *voice*

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Voiced and Voiceless Sounds

Some English sounds have voice and some do not. The sounds that have voice are called *voiced sounds* such as /m/- which when you produce it, you will feel vibration in your neck.

The sounds which are not voiced; are called *voiceless sounds*. These sounds are made with the vocal cords drawn apart so that the air can pass between them freely and there is no vibration. Example of a voiceless sound is /s/- sound.

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Voiced and Voiceless Sounds

The difference between voiced and voiceless sounds can be used to distinguish between similar sounds. For example between /s/ and /z/ sounds.

However, this may not be the only difference for most sounds.

Air causes vocal folds to vibrate between open and closed positions when we talk.

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Thank you for your listening!