



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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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/

 - CCVC what, glass
 - CVCC sink, link, sing
- Words only with vowels sounds
 - Eye /aai/

Consonants

- Sounds produced by modification of the flow of exhaling air in the vocal tract
 - /k/ – velar king, class
 - /g/ -- velar great, glass
 - /p/ -- bilabial pink, pure
 - /b/ -- bilabial 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.

Assimilation

- Impossible
- Incomplete
- Accident

