

Distinctive features

Unit 3, Class 4

NAMS

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- Two sounds to be different from one another, one or more feature(s) must be different.
- The feature of the sound that distinguishes a phone or a speech sound from another is a distinctive feature.
- [s] and [z] differ from one another on voicing.



Feature values

- Features are either present or absent, which take two values: [+feature] or [-feature].
- [s]: [-voiced]; [z]: [+voiced]
- Two phonemes must be distinguished by at least one feature.

	b	m	d	n	g	ŋ
Stop	+	+	+	+	+	+
Voiced	+	+	+	+	+	+
Labial	+	+	-	-	-	-
Alveolar	-	-	+	+	-	-
Velar	-	-	-	-	+	+
Nasal	-	+	-	+	-	+

