# Places of Articulation

#### Lecture 3

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Dr. Omayma Al-Mughrabi

Lect. Ghada Al-Kuwaihes

#### The parts of the vocal tract that can be used to form sounds are called articulators.



#### The Vocal Tract

#### In order to form consonants,

# the airstream through the vocal tract must be

#### obstructed in some way.

#### Consonants can be classified according to the place and manner of this obstruction.

The primary articulators that can cause an obstruction in most languages are the lips, the tongue tip & blade, and the back of the tongue.

#### •Speech movements using the lips are called labial articulations.

# •Those using the tip of the tongue are called coronal articulations.

# •Those using the back of the tongue are called dorsal articulations.

#### Places of Articulation



## 1. Bilabial

#### Bilabials are made with two

#### lips.

#### Examples:

pie, buy, my



# 2. Labiodental

# Labiodental is made with the lower lip and the upper front

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teeth.

#### Examples:





### 3. Dental

# Dentals are made with the tongue tip or blade and

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upper front teeth.

#### Examples:





# 4. Alveolar

# Alveolars are made with the tongue tip or blade and the alveolar ridge. **Examples:** tie, die, sigh, zeal, lie

## 5. Retroflex

# Retroflex is made with the tongue tip and the back of alveolar ridge.

# 5. Retroflex

- Some English speakers do
- not use retroflex sounds at
- all. But some speakers begin
- words such as rye, row, ray

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#### with retroflex sounds.

# 5. Retroflex

Speakers who pronounce r at the ends of words may also have retroflex sounds with the tip of the tongue raised in hour and air.

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# 6. Palato-Alveolar

- Palato-Alveolar is made with
- the tongue blade and the back
- of the alveolar ridge.

**Examples:** 

#### shy, show, she - just, judge

# 6. Palato-Alveolar





#### Palatal is made with the front of the tongue and the hard

20 P 2

palate

**Examples:** 





### 8. Velar

# Velar is made with the back of the tongue and the soft palate *Examples:*

hack, hag, hang

### 8. Velar

# The back of the tongue is raised so that it touches the velum.

#### 8. Velar



9. Nasal

#### The air is prevented to go through the mouth but is able to go through the nose because the soft palate or velum is lowered.



#### Examples:

#### ran, ram, rang

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### 9. Nasal



# Sounds produced with the glottis (vocal cords).





#### The [h] sound is produced

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#### with open glottis.

