

Plosives (Stop Consonants): consonant sounds produced by bringing the two organs of speech together to close the air-passage; while no air comes out of the nose, so all air is trapped behind or under the closure. Then the closure is opened and all is released with an explosion.

- They have the velum raised, so no air goes out of the nasal cavity and all goes out of the mouth.
- They are not continuous and can only be produced when opening the closure.
- Each plosives two have the same manner of articulation and the same place of articulation, but differ in voicing. One is voiced and the other is voiceless.

Phases (Steps) of producing a Plosive (Stop) consonant:

1- Closure: two organs of speech come together to close the air passage so no air comes out of the mouth.

2- Hold (Stop): the air stops (is held) behind or under the closure. It would be under pressure because it has no way to go out as both the mouth and nasal cavity are closed.

3- Release: the air that is trapped is released by moving the two organs of speech producing the sound away from each other (by opening the closure).

4- Plosion: the released air comes out of the mouth with an explosion.

5- Aspiration: this phase only happens in the three voiceless plosives. It is a puff of air following the plosion of /p, t, k/ and is symbolised as a small (^h) sound and as: [p^h, t^h, k^h]

/p/: consonant sound, plosive, bilabial, voiceless, fortis, strong, long, has aspiration.

e.g.: part /pɑ:t/, upper /ʌpə/ , up /ʌp/

/b/: consonant sound, plosive, bilabial, voiced, lenis, weak, short, does not have aspiration.

e.g.: bad /bæd/ , double /dʌbəl/ , made /meɪd/

/t/: consonant sound, plosive, alveolar, voiceless, fortis, strong, long, has aspiration.

e.g.: tip /tɪp/ , better /betə/ , meat /mi:t/

/d/: consonant sound, plosive, alveolar, voiced, lenis, weak, short, does not have aspiration.

e.g.: dog /dɒg/ , boarding /bɔ:dɪŋ/ , card /kɑ:d/

/k/: consonant sound, plosive, velar, voiceless, fortis, strong, long, has aspiration.

e.g.: call /kɔ:l/ , making /meɪkɪŋ/ , lack /læk/

/g/: consonant sound, plosive, velar, voiced, lenis, weak, short, does not have aspiration.

e.g.: gone /gɒn/ , legging /legɪŋ/ , dig /dɪg/