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*Module: Phonetics Level 1st year LMD*

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**Chapter Two: Articulators above the Larynx** Division 2

**Introduction**

The different parts of the vocal tract are called **articulators,** and the study of them is called **articulatory** **phonetics.**

The **vocal tract** ends at the mouth and nostrils; we call the part comprising the mouth the **oral cavity** and the part that leads to the nostrils the **nasal cavity.**



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| 1. **The Pharynx**
 | is a tube which begins just above the larynx. It is about 2 cm long in women and about 5 cm in men, and at its top end it is divided into two, one part being the back of the oral cavity and the other being the beginning of the way through the nasal cavity. |
| UVULA | 1. Uvula : the loose hanging end of the soft palate.
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|  VELUM | 1. The **soft palate** or **velum** is seen in the diagram in a position that allows air to pass through the nose and through the mouth. Yours is probably in that position now, but often in speech it is raised so that air cannot escape through the nose.
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| HARD PALATE | 1. The **hard palate** is often called the "roof of the mouth". You can feel its smooth curved surface with your tongue.

A consonant made with the tongue close to the hard palate is called **palatal.** The sound j in 'yes' is palatal. |
| ALVEOLAR RIDGE | 1. Alveolar ridge : hard ridge behind upper front teeth. It is between the roof of the mouth and the upper teeth.

Sounds made with the tongue touching here (such as t, d, n) are called **alveolar** |
|  | 1. Tongue: The **tongue** is a very important articulator and it can be moved into many different places and different shapes. It is usual to divide the tongue into different parts, though there are no clear dividing lines within its structure. It is divided into **tip, blade, front, back** and **root.**
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| TEETH | 1. The **teeth** (upper and lower) .Sounds made with the tongue touching the front teeth, such as English T, D, are called **dental.**
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| LIPS | 1. The **lips** are important in speech. They can be pressed together (when we produce the sounds p, b), brought into contact with the teeth (as in f, v), or rounded to produce the lip-shape for vowels like u:. Sounds in which the lips are in contact with each other are called **bilabial,** while those with lipto-teeth contact are called **labiodental.**
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**English Sounds:**

**Vowels:** are sounds produced without obstruction in the passage of airstream

**Consonants :** are sounds produced with obstruction in the passage of airstream