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*English Department*

*Module: Phonetics Level: 1st year LMD*

**Chapter Seven: Nasals**

* The basic characteristic of nasal consonants is that the air escapes through the nose.
* The soft palate is lowered. The air cannot pass through the mouth, it is prevented by complete closure in the mouth at some point.
* The three types of closure are

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | bilabial | alveolar | velar |
| Voiced /lenis | **m** | **n** | **Ƞ** |
| The soft palate is lowered. The lips are slightly spread, pressed together forming a complete obstruction to the air stream through the oral cavity. The air passes through the nose. | The soft palate is lowered, the tip of the tongue touches the alveolar ridge, forming a complete obstruction to the flow of air through the oral cavity. The air passes through the nose. | A closure is formed in the mouth between the back of the tongue and the velum as for /k/ and /g/. The soft palate is lowered. |

* The consonants m, n are simple and straightforward with distributions quite similar to those of the plosives. There is in fact little to describe.
* The consonant m, n can occur initially, medially or finally.

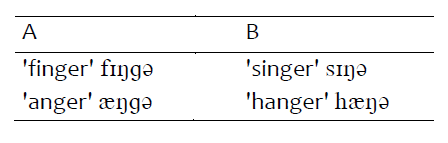
Eg: men, imagine, calm

Nail, enjoy, fun

* [ŋ]: Symbol called *engma* or *long n*
* [ŋ] can end words (*sing* [sɪŋ]; *lung* [lʌŋ], *bang* [beŋ], etc.) or appear in the middles of words (*singer* [sɪŋɚ], *sinker* [sɪŋkɚ], languid [leŋgwɪd]), but *[ŋ] cannot begin words.*
* /η/ occurs before a following g or k
* When we find the letters nk, k is always pronounced

e.g. think, bank

* /η/ is pronounced with the following plosive g if the word cannot be divided into two morphemes: verb + ending and not pronounced if the word can be divided into a verb + ending



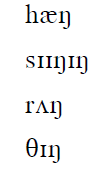
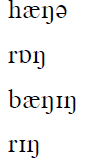
* We can say that within a word containing the letters 'ng' in the spelling ᵑ occurs without a following g if it occurs at the end of a morpheme; if it occurs in the middle of a morpheme it has a following of g
* words *ending* orthographically with 'ng’ , ᵑ is not followed by g eg sing /si η /

* g is also pronounced after /η/ before suffixes -er and -est of comparative and superlative degrees of adjectives

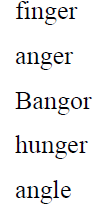
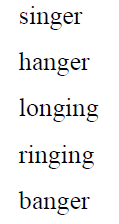
longer – the longest

**Exerises:**

**1- Give the spelling forms to the following words**

** **

**2- transcribe the following words:**

** **

**Column**

**Biggest**

**Knowing**

**Working**

**Enjoy**

**comb**