

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 2

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TOPIC: Speech sounds: consonants
CLASS: SS1
WEEK: 2

Introduction

Consonant sounds are sounds that are produced by an obstruction of the air from the lungs in the oral cavity (mouth). The obstruction may be complete or partial depending on the consonant being produced. In the description and classification of consonants, there are three (3) major criteria to be borne in mind, these are:

- a) The point in the vocal tract where the greatest constriction occurs. This is called the point or place of articulation. E.g. The sound /b/ is a **bilabial** because it involves the two lips.
- b) The way in which the organs of speech are employed to produce the sound. This is called the manner of articulation. E.g. The sound /b/ is a plosive because there is a partial obstruction of air.
- c) The state of the vocal cords (whether vibrating or not). This is called voicing. E.g. The sound /b/ is a voiced sound.

Pronunciation keys for consonant sounds

/b/ boom, bat

/p/ pad, pet

/d/ duck, death

/k/ cane, chemistry

/g/ gate, flag

/f/ fan, phantom

/v/ vain, vehicle

/θ/ thigh, bath

/ə/ these, that

/s/ sing, system

/z/ zebra, zinc

/ʃ/ fish, shape

/tʃ/ chain, porch

/ʒ/ measure, pleasure

/h/ honest, heart

/dʒ/ judge, joy

/m/ man, palm

/n/ nurse, nun

/ŋ/ sing, bank

/l/ lamp, late

/r/ rain, prank

/j/ yam, yellow

/w/ water, what

NOTE: More examples will be given in class by the students.