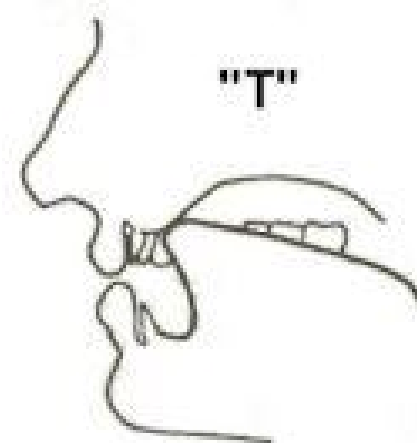
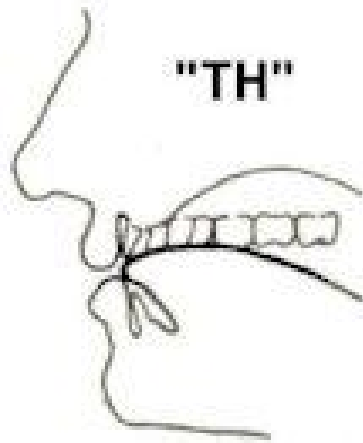


Stops and Continuant

A. Besides voicing, another fundamental distinction between English sounds is whether they are stop sounds or continuant sounds.

In some sounds, the air is stopped inside the mouth (stop sounds). In other sounds the air flows out without being stopped (continuant).



To feel the difference between a stop sound and a continuant make an "sssss" sound as long as you can.

That is a continuant sound.

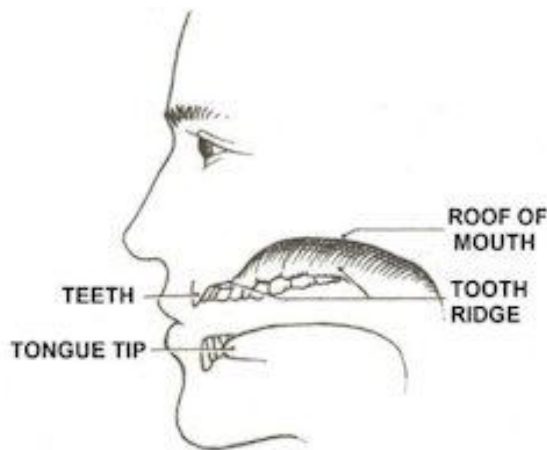
Now make a "p" sound (not adding a vowel).

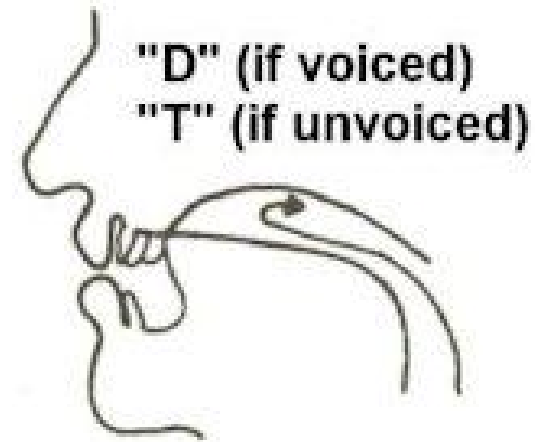
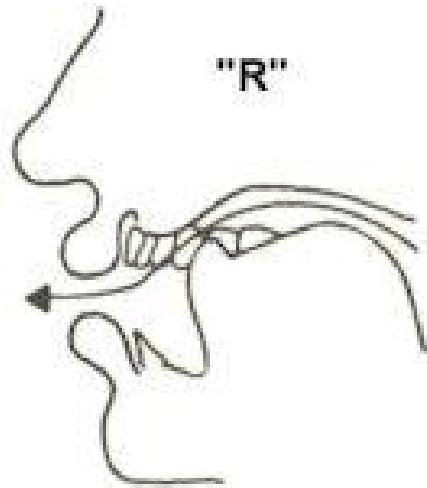
Can you continue the "p" sound?

No, because the "p" is a stop sound.

	Stops	Continuants
Voiced	boy, day, go, judge, toy, tense, take, tank, ten, ton	me, then, low, vote, not, zoo, pleasure, and all vowels
Unvoiced	pan, too, cake, chew, point	think, fine, say, shoe, thank, thing, that, those, than, them, these, this

B. The continuant sound in a picture below left is an English "r." It does not stop the airflow. The stop sound is an English "d" or "t" (depending on the presence or absence of voicing).





Say a word in your language with an "r" sound. Does the tongue touch the roof of the mouth? Even if you touch quickly, that stopping of the airflow will make an American listener think you said "d." To make an American "r" clearly, the tip of the tongue must not touch.

C. Say the following nonsense sounds. Practice not touching the tip of your tongue to the roof of your mouth.

ara ara aray aray aree aree aro aro aru aru

D. Practice these contrasts.

Stops		Continuants	
a deal	dot	a reel	rot
I did	doe	I ride	row
a day	doom	a ray	room
dead	dust	red	rust
Dan	deal	ran	real

E. Practice contrasting the consonants p/f, ch/sh, t/th, and b/v in the following pairs of words.

1. pat	6. boat	1. fat	6. bow
2. chair	7. wrote	2. share	7. row
3. tank	8. bake	3. thank	8. bay
4. tank	9. ban	4. sank	9. van
5. soup		5. sue	

F. Listen to these questions. Then practice saying the questions and their answers.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Do you like soup? | 1. Only tomato soup. | 10. What is the rate? | 10. Twenty percent. |
| 2. Do you like Sue? | 2. yes, she's nice. | 11. What's a ram? | 11. A male sheep. |
| 3. What are you watching? | 3. A movie. | 12. What's a dam? | 12. A wall to hold water. |
| 4. What are you washing? | 4. The dishes. | 13. Is it dead? | 13. No, it's alive. |
| 5. What does fine mean? | 5. Something like good. | 14. Is it red? | 14. No, it's orange. |
| 6. What's a pine? | 6. A type of tree. | 15. What is a ship? | 15. A water vehicle. |
| 7. What does thought mean? | 7. The past tense of think. | 16. What is a chip? | 16. A small piece. |
| 8. What does taught mean? | 8. The past tense of teach. | 17. Where's the vote? | 17. On the paper. |
| 9. What is the date? | 9. June first. | 18. Where's the boat? | 18. On the water. |
| | | 19. What's a van? | 19. A small bus. |
| | | 20. What's a ban? | 20. A prohibition. |

G. Which of the following words end with a continuant sound? Practice saying both groups.

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|----------|
| 1. have | 7. cab | 13. wife | 19. boat |
| 2. teethe | 8. made | 14. both | 20. bat |
| 3. eyes | 9. bag | 15. bath | 21. load |
| 4. half | 10. cap | 16. loathe | 22. robe |
| 5. teeth | 11. mate | 17. rove | 23. live |
| 6. ice | 12. back | 18. wipe | 24. raw |

H. Practice contrasting the consonants p/b, ch/sh, t/th, and b/v in the following pairs of words.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. What's a bill? | 1. It's paper money. |
| 2. What's a pill? | 2. It's medicine. |
| 3. Where's the path? | 3. It's over the hills. |
| 4. Where's the bath? | 4. It's in the bathroom. |
| 5. Is it gold? | 5. No, it's silver. |

6. Is it cold?

6. No, it's hot.

7. Do you have the time?

7. Yes, it's 2 o'clock.

8. Do you have a dime?

8. No, I'm broke.

9. What's a girl?

9. It's a young woman.

10. What's a curl?

10. It's a twist of hair.

I. Review Check for the distinction between voiced and unvoiced stops. (Did you use puffs of air for "p," "t," and "k?")

1. bowl

7. peer

1. pole

7. seer

2. best

8. buck

2. pest

8. puck

3. ghost

9. tack

3. coast

9. pack

4. die

10. rock

4. tie

10. pock

5. I've got to go.

11. slick

5. I've caught a cold.

11. trick

6. Tom

6. atom