# English Consonants

<table>
<thead>
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<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>f</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>ɺ</td>
<td>z</td>
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</table>

**Columns correspond to PLACE of articulation.**

*Match the place of articulation with the correct definition.*

A. **Labial**
   - i. articulated with the tongue tip against the ridge behind the upper teeth

B. **Interdental**
   - ii. articulated with the tip of the tongue protruding between the teeth

C. **Alveolar**
   - iii. articulated with the velum, or soft palate, which is at the back of the roof of the mouth

D. **Palatal**
   - iv. produced with the two lips together, or with the lower lip touching the upper teeth

E. **Velar**
   - v. produced with the tongue near the highest part of the roof of the mouth (hard palate)

**ROWS correspond to MANNER of articulation.**

**Voicing** means that the vocal cords are vibrating. You can feel this if you put your hand on your throat.

Which rows contain *voiced* consonants? _______ Which rows contain *voiceless* consonants? _______

**Nasals** are sounds where air in the vocal tract is prevented from going out of the mouth (by the lowering of the velum) and instead escapes through the nose. Which row contains *nasal* consonants? ____

**Fricatives** are sounds made by air being continuously pushed through a narrow constriction somewhere in the vocal tract, producing audible turbulence, or ‘noise.’ Which rows contain fricatives? _______

**Stops** are sounds in which air in the vocal tract is completely blocked. Which row(s) contain(s) stops? _______

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:**

1. In the Philadelphia dialect, “short-a” /æ/, typically a lax vowel, is tensed before certain consonants. Circle them on the chart. Use a dotted circle to indicate consonants that only sometimes trigger tensing.

2. In New York, /æ/ is tensed before all the Philly consonants, plus a few more. Draw squares around these.

3. Does your dialect of English include /æ/ tensing? If so, what kinds of following consonants trigger it?

4. There are some gaps in this chart. Do you know of any languages where some of these gaps are filled?