Place of Articulation

ENGLISH CONSONANTS
FULL GUIDE

Place of articulation refers to where the obstruction is made to the airflow when the sound is produced. Some consonants in English have a secondary articulation.

**BILABIAL**

These consonants are produced by articulating the upper and lower lip, which are in complete contact. Dental caries may impact one’s ability to articulate these letters correctly.

- p
- b
- m

**LABIO-DENTAL**

The lower lip is curled back and raised to slightly touch the upper teeth.

- f
- v

**DENTAL**

They are produced with the tip of the tongue softly touching the upper teeth.

- θ
- ð

**ALVEOLAR**

To produce these consonants, the tip of the tongue makes contact with the alveolar ridge.

- t
- d
- s
- z
- n
- l

**POST-ALVEOLAR**

These sounds are articulated with the tongue near or touching the back of the alveolar ridge. The production of the two affricates involves the tip of the tongue touching the alveolar ridge, but then separating progressively.

- ʃ
- ʒ
- dʒ