

The Phonetics of English Pronunciation

Session 03

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¹using material by William Barry

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- For each dimension, give example German word pairs with two consonants that are different *only* because of a switch in that dimension.

Example word-pairs

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 [m] vs. [n] [s] vs. [x] [k] vs. [p]

Example word-pairs

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Except for the "A" vowels, *length combines with quality*

Miete vs. Mitte beten vs. betten

[i:] vs. [ɪ] [e:] vs. [ɛ]

Höhle vs. Hölle Schote vs. Schotte

[ø:] vs. [œ] [o:] vs. [ɔ]

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- The exception is /ɑ:/ (e.g. in “father”, “palm”, etc.), which is back and unrounded.

However, the /æ/ vs. /ɑ:/ opposition (“Pam” vs. “palm”) is also short vs. long. So tongue position alone never distinguishes a word pair in English.

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English tends to *reduce* the vowel quality to schwa ([ə]):
e.g. *content* (n.) ['kʌntent] vs. *content* (adj.) [kən'tent]

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'summer,time, 'hay,field, 'hay,making etc.
- But there are certain word classes (e.g., place names) that have a weak + strong pattern: ,Piccadilly 'Circus,
,Buckingham 'Palace).

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- Identify two problems with English intonation for German learners of English.
 - a) In German a rising tone on accented words is default, while this signals insistence or impatience in English.
 - b) A falling rising tonal accent can be used in English without continuing, whereas this is not (or very rarely) possible in German; a continuation of the sentence is necessary.

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Homework

Read pp. 36-39 and pp. 40-48

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We can see which sounds occur in one language but not the other.

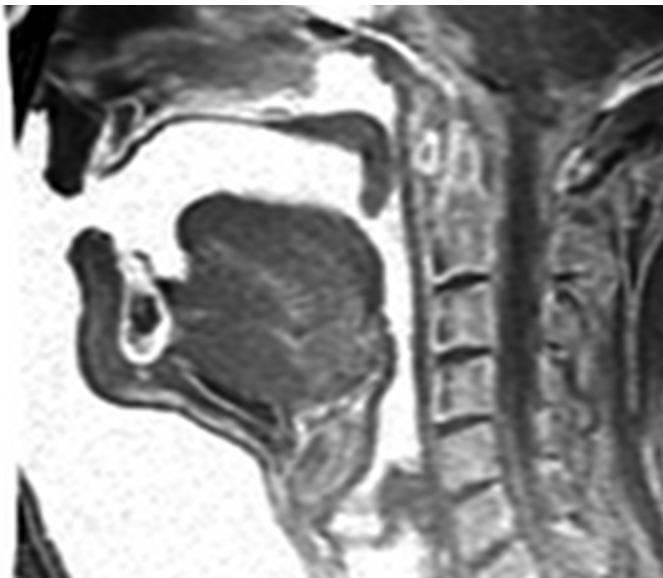
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Of course it isn't:
There are consonants that *occur* in both languages but *behave* differently

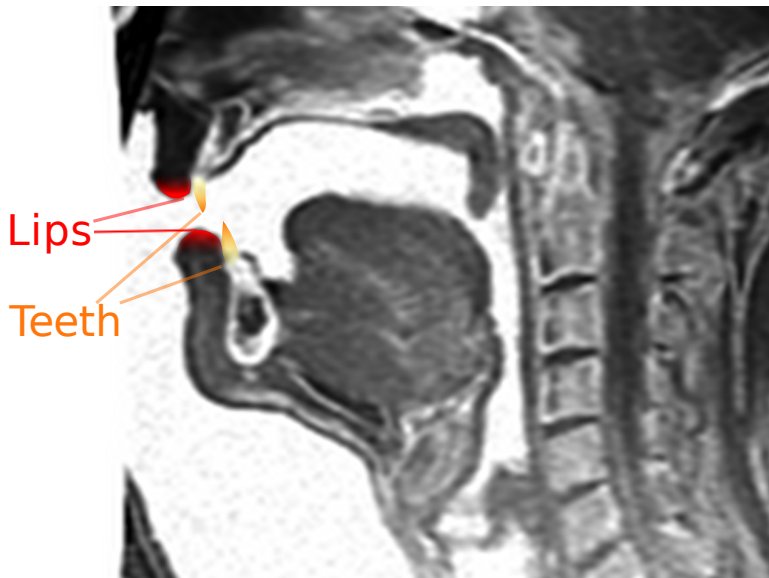
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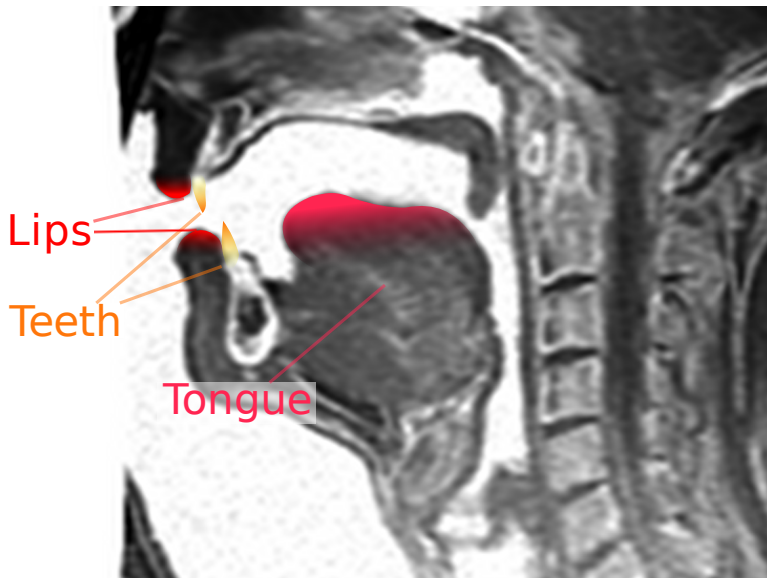
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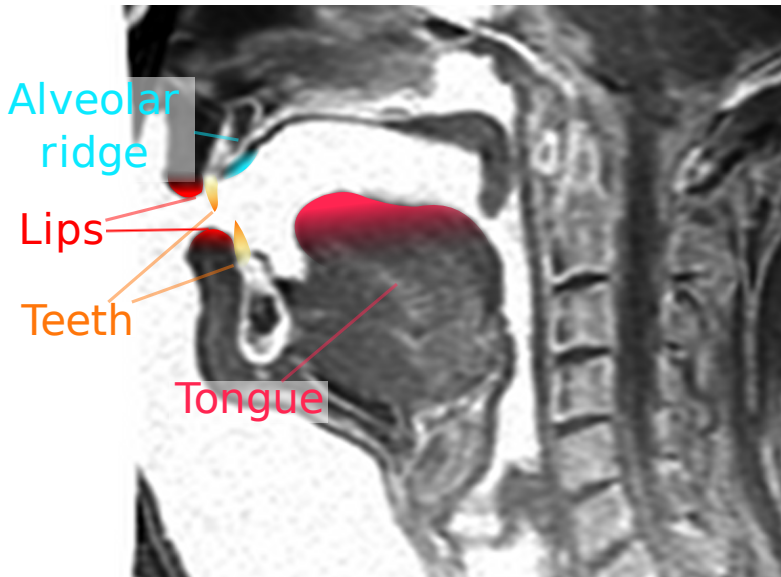
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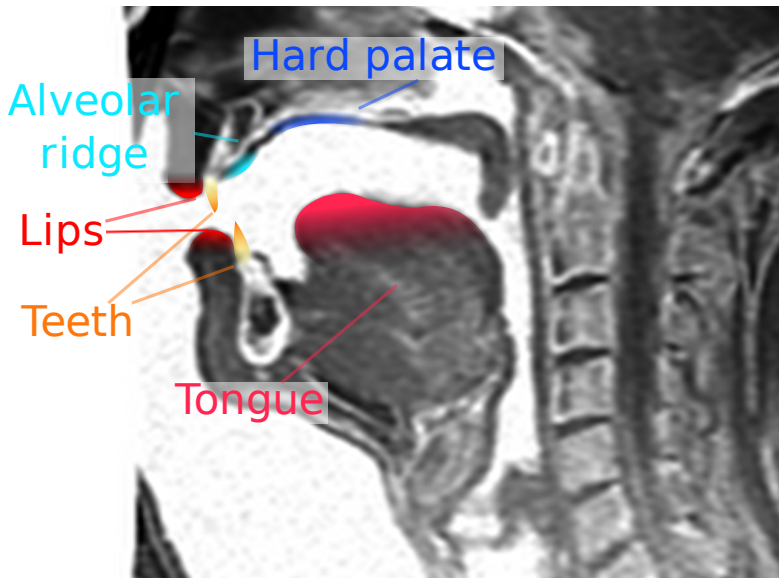
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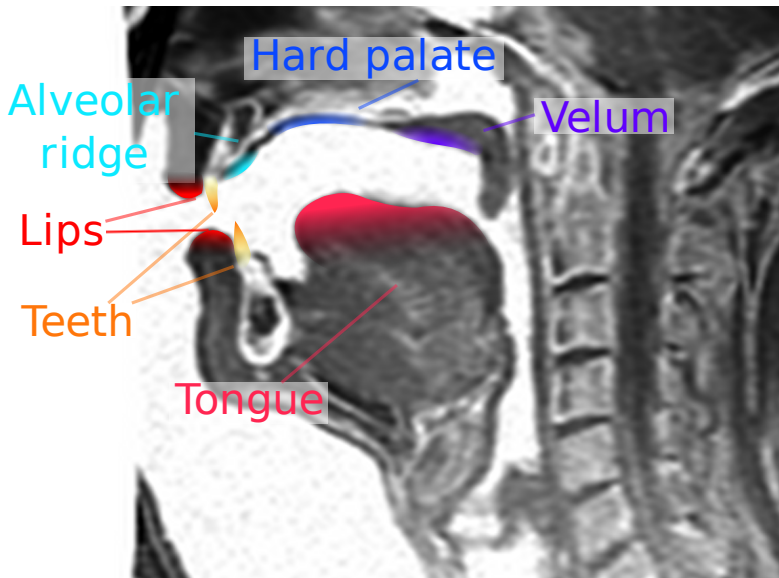
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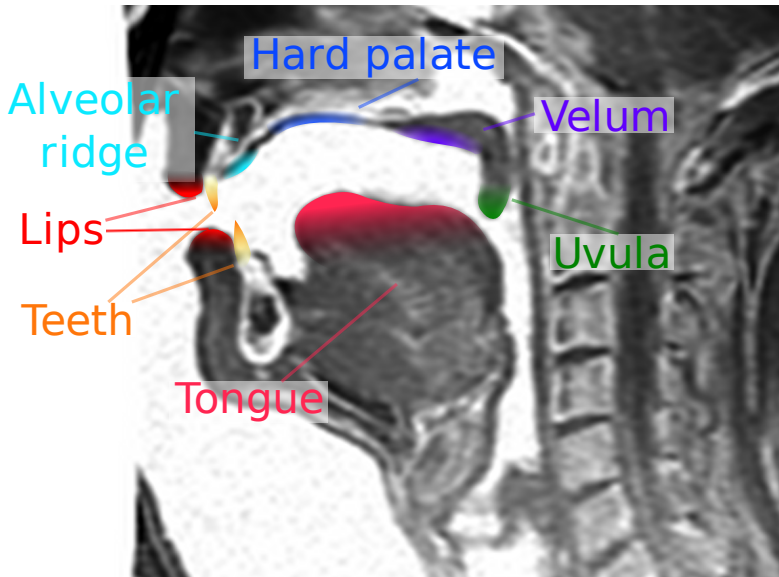
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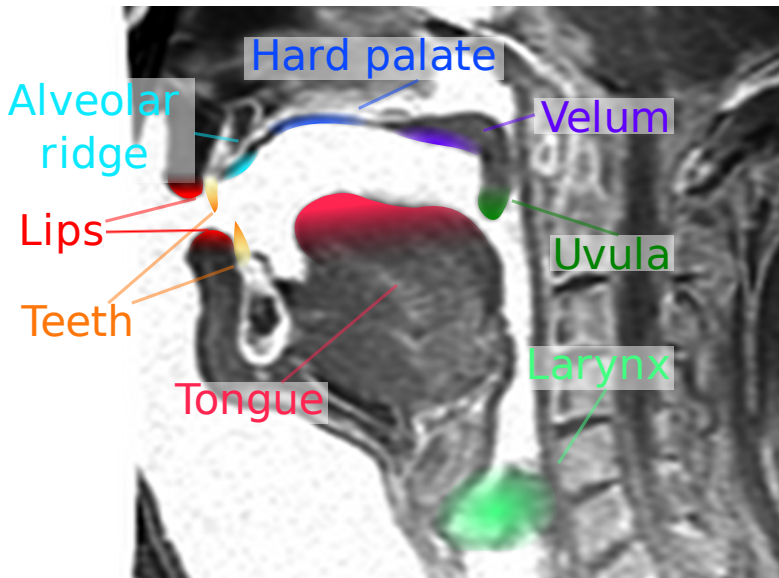
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Place: *Lips* (labial sounds)

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives	/p/	P anne	p an
	/b/	B ann	b an
Nasals	/m/	M ann	m an
Affricates	/pf/	Pf anne	
Fricatives	/f/	f ein	f ine
	/v/	W ein	v ine
Approximants	/w/		w ine
	/ɱ/		w hine

Place: *Teeth* (dental sounds)

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives			
Nasals			
Affricates			
Fricatives	/θ/		thank
	/ð/		than
Approximants			

Place: *Teeth ridge* (alveolar sounds)

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives	/t/	tut	toot
	/d/	Daun	down
Nasals	/n/	nun	noon
Affricates	/ts/	Zahn	
Fricatives	/s/	Bus	bus
	/z/	lesen	lazy
Approximants	/l/	laut	lout

Post-alveolar sounds

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives			
Nasals			
Affricates	/tʃ/	Mats ch	much
	/dʒ/	D sch ungel	j ungle
Fricatives	/ʃ/	S chein	sh ine
	/ʒ/	le g ere	le is ure
Approximants	/ɹ/		hur ry

Place: *hard palate* (palatal sounds)

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives			
Nasals			
Affricates			
Fricatives	/ç/	mich	huge
Approximants	/j/	jung	young

Place: *soft palate* (velar sounds)

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives	/k/	Katze	cat
	/g/	Garten	garden
Nasals	/ŋ/	Sä n ger	si n ger
Affricates			
Fricatives	/x/	Lo ch	lo ch
Approximants			

Place: *uvula* (uvular sounds)

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives			
Nasals			
Trill	[ʀ]	rein	
Fricatives	[χ]	hart	
	[ʁ]	Ware	
Approximants	[ʁ]	Ware	

Place: *vocal folds* (glottal sounds)

Manner	Sound	Example (G.)	Example (E.)
Plosives	[ʔ]	ʔimmer	
Nasals			
Trill			= <i>voicing</i>
Fricatives	/h/ [ɦ]	hart behend	hard behind
Approximants			

English/German consonants

	lab.	lab- dent.	dent.	alv.	post- alv.	pal.	vel.	uvul.	glot.
plos.	p b			t d			k g		ʔ
nasal	m			n			ŋ		
affric.		pf		ts	tʃ dʒ				
fric.		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ç	x	χ ʁ	h
trill				r				R	
approx.	ʍ w			l	ɹ	j			

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lesen ['le:zən] lies [li:s] vs. losing ['lu:zɪŋ] lose [lu:z]

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- So *final voiced consonants* (plosives and fricatives) are a problem for German learners of English

Final voiced consonants (FVC)

This problem occurs with

all voiced obstruents

/b/ robe vs. rope

/d/ node vs. note

/g/ league vs. leak

/v/ leave vs. leaf

/ð/ bathe vs. bath

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But how do we produce the difference?

We shall deal with it again in more detail later, but listen to the following pairs:

🔊 card/cart

🔊 bend/bent

🔊 pined/pint

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Read IV.1, pp. 40-48 with great diligence!

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- The “official” IPA symbol for the apical tap is [ɾ].

Consonants in syllables (3)

- English /l/ can be tricky! There are two *qualities*:
“Clear” [l]: light, play, blue, silly, telly
“Dark” [ɫ]: tile, seal, tell, call, pull, fold, milk

Consonants in syllables (3)

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“Clear” [l]: light, play, blue, silly, telly
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- We shall go into the details of the articulatory differences between them later, but listen to these examples:
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Read III.1, pp. 10-18 for more information about /l/

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If you want to sound like a New York gangster, the /l/ is pronounced “dark” all the time: [ˈtɪ:v ɪm əˈtʌʊn]

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Across word boundaries: in this on that all the rest
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There will be no lecture next Monday (17/11)!