

# A WAY TO SUCCESS

## Practical English Phonetics

for University  
Students

Year 1

Харків  
«Фоліо»  
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# UNIT 1

## BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH ARTICULATION AND THE ROLE OF SPEECH ORGANS. PHONEMIC TRANSCRIPTION

### Warming up

#### Activity 1.1.

*Exchange opinions about what 'good foreign pronunciation' means for you.*

- What does pronunciation include?
- How have you learnt English pronunciation so far?
- What have you found easy/difficult?
- How important do you think pronunciation is? Why?

### INTRODUCING ACTIVE VOCABULARY

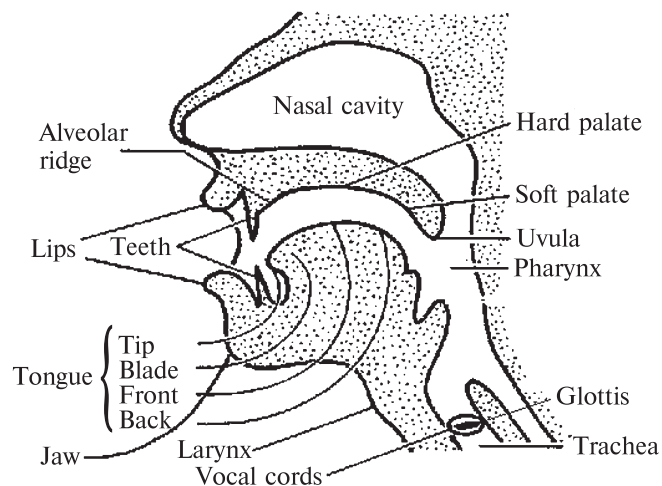
#### Activity 1.2.

*Listen and repeat.*

alveolar	lips	teeth	uvula
back	front	tip	vocal
blade	glottis	tongue	
cavity	hard	trachea	
	jaw	pharynx	
	larynx	ridge	
	nasal	soft	

#### Activity 1.3.

*Looking at the picture  
define what the words  
mean.*



**Activity**  
**1.4.***Match the words with their Ukrainian equivalents.*

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) nasal cavity            | a) зуби                  |
| 2) alveolar ridge          | b) м'яке піднебіння      |
| 3) lips                    | c) трахея                |
| 4) teeth                   | d) голосові зв'язки      |
| 5) the tip of the tongue   | e) губи                  |
| 6) the blade of the tongue | f) носова порожнина      |
| 7) the front of the tongue | g) тверде піднебіння     |
| 8) the back of the tongue  | h) альвеолярний край     |
| 9) larynx                  | i) кінчик язика          |
| 10) vocal cords            | j) гортань               |
| 11) hard palate            | k) передня частина язика |
| 12) soft palate            | l) язичок                |
| 13) uvula                  | m) середня частина язика |
| 14) pharynx                | n) голосова щілина       |
| 15) trachea                | o) щелепа                |
| 16) jaw                    | p) корінь язика          |
| 17) glottis                | q) глотка                |

**ANALYSIS OF THE SPEECH ORGANS****Discovery activity****Distinguishing active and passive speech organs****Activity**  
**1.5.***Use a mirror, find the speech organs, which can be seen in the mirror, and put down their names.*


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**Activity**  
**1.6.***Working in pairs, divide the speech organs into two groups: active and passive.*

Active speech organs	Passive speech organs

**COMMENTARY 1**

Those organs of speech, which can move and take an active part in the articulation of speech sounds, are called active organs of speech.

Those organs of speech, with which an active organ forms an obstruction and which thus serve as points of articulation, are called passive organs of speech.

**Activity  
1.7.**

*Match the speech organs with the actions they can perform or those that can be performed with them.*

1) the vocal cords	a) When it is lowered, the air stream goes up into the nasal cavity, and when it is raised, the air stream goes through the mouth cavity.
2) the tongue	b) This speech organ starts to vibrate, when the air stream passes it.
3) the lips	c) This speech organ can take neutral, rounded, spread or protruded forward position, depending on which sound is pronounced.
4) the soft palate	d) When [t, d] are pronounced, the tongue touches this organ.
5) the lower jaw	e) When it is lowered, the mouth is open wide.
6) the alveolar ridge	f) It moves forward, backward, right, left, up and down touching all the speech organs in the mouth cavity.

**ANALYSIS OF THE PECULIARITIES OF THE ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION****COMMENTARY 2**

The air stream released by the lungs goes through the windpipe and comes to the larynx, which contains the vocal cords. The vocal cords are two elastic folds, which may be kept apart or brought together. The opening between them is called the glottis. If the tense vocal cords are brought together, the air stream forcing an opening makes them vibrate and we hear some voice.

On coming out of the larynx the air stream passes through the pharynx.

The pharyngeal cavity extends from the top of the larynx to the soft palate, which directs the air stream either to the mouth or nasal cavities. When the soft palate is in its lowered position, the air goes up into the nasal cavity and then out through the nose. This is the usual position for the sounds [m, n, ŋ]. When the soft palate is raised, the air stream goes through the mouth cavity. This is the most

typical position of the soft palate for most of the sounds of many languages.

The mouth and the nasal cavities function as principal resonators making sounds loud.

In the mouth there are such speech organs as the hard palate, alveolar ridge, the tongue, and the teeth.

The alveolar ridge is the part immediately behind the upper front teeth. Many English consonants are formed with the tongue touching or close to it.

The lower teeth are not very important for making speech sounds, while the upper teeth take part in the production of many of them.

The most important organ of speech is the tongue. The tongue may lie flat or move in the horizontal or vertical directions.

Such speech organ as lips can take up various positions as well. They can be brought firmly together or kept apart neutral, rounded or protruded forward.