



# Articulation

AMC 110  
Week 6



# Articulation & Diction

**Articulation-** “jointedness”. The vibrations flowing out of the mouth are cut up into intelligible speech.

The goal is *communication*

- **Pronunciation-** sung speech is easily understood by the audience.
- **Enunciation-** the physiology of speech sounds in order to deliver the text with ease, clarity, and minimal tension.
- **Expression-** the communication of the meaning and emotion of a text.

“The muscles that articulate words must be freed from limiting conditioning and made responsive and agile enough to reflect the agility of the mind. No standards of ‘correct’ speech will be suggested. Much of what has been labeled as Standard American Pronunciation is largely a reflection of class consciousness. We must be flexible and multifaceted, becoming fluent in different ways of speaking, in order to hold the mirror up to a multi-dialectal community.”

- Kristin Linklater

# Building Blocks of Speech

## Phonemes

The technical term for distinct units of sound in language. Ex. "cat" has 3 phonemes.

## Vowels

Formed in the vocal tract and by the tongue. Diphthongs and triphthongs combine multiple vowels.

## Consonants

Can be broken down by physical construction and presence or absence of laryngeal sound Ex. [f], [v], [b], [d], [g].

*{ phonemes become syllables become words become sentences become stories }*

**“Efficient articulation demands movements of the lower jaw, tongue, lips and soft palate that are precise and without undue tension. These structures can then react easily and co-ordinate with breathing and the postural support structure.”**

**(pg. 114)**

**How might you define “efficient articulation?”**

# Articulators



**Fixed**

Teeth

Alveolar ridges

Hard palate



**Moveable**

Lower jaw

Lips

Tongue

# The Lower Jaw

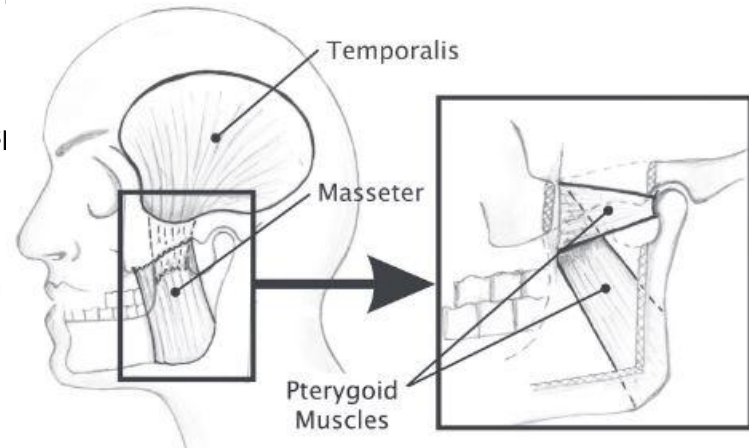
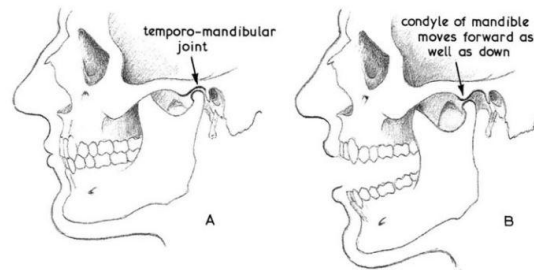
Only **one** muscle is used to open the jaw, the rest are for closure.

Position 1:

- Jaw is pivoted, but not jutted forwards.
- Does not bring additional tension to the floor of the mouth

Position 2:

- Jaw pivots and slides forwards.
- Can lead to increased tension.
- Sounds good to your inner ear, but not as resonant in the sj

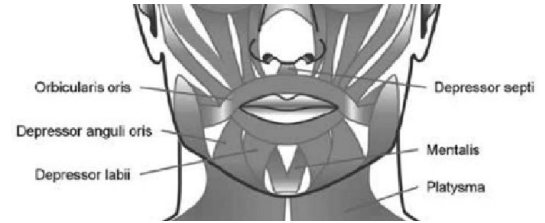


# The Lips

The muscular structure of the lips can be broken down into five groups, with each serving a function for articulation:

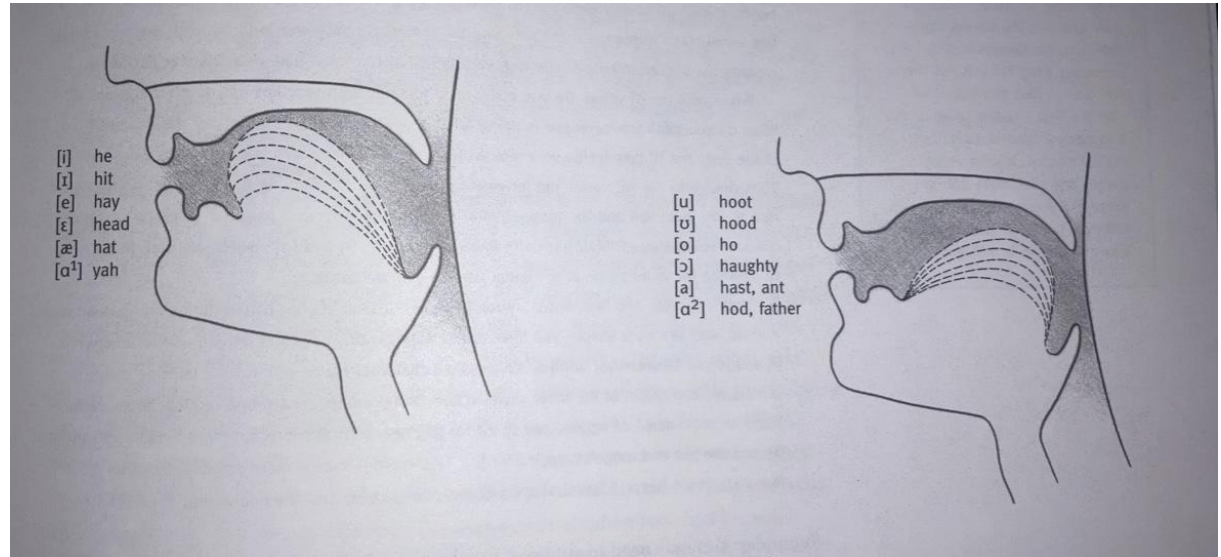
- 1) The elevators of the upper lip and corners of the mouth.
- 2) The orbicularis oris which closes the lips and protrudes them.
- 3) The depressors of the lower lip.
- 4) The retractors of the corners of the mouth and lips.
- 5) The mentalis which protrudes the lower lip for pouting.

Learning to release the lips is essential!



# Tongue

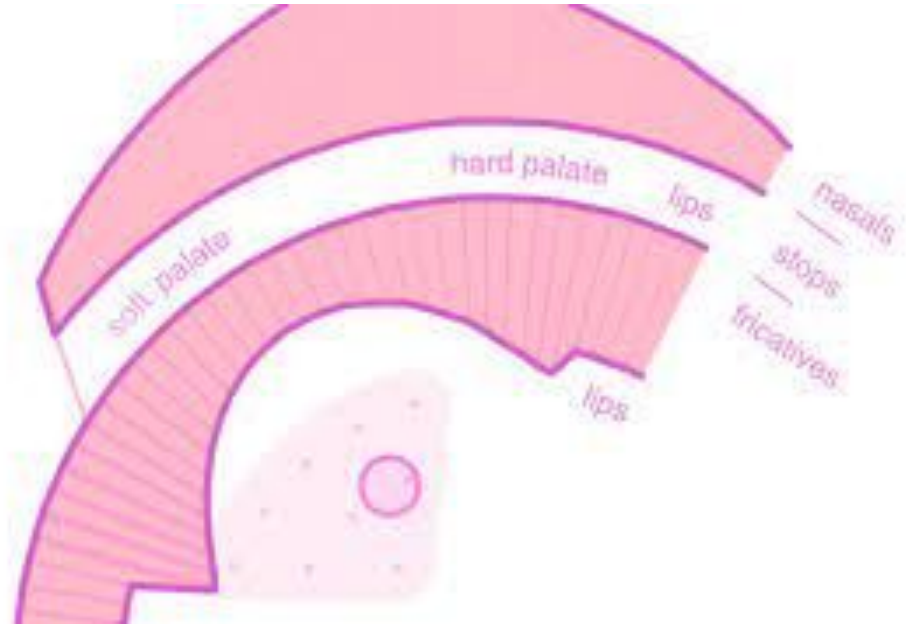
Extrinsic v. Intrinsic tongue muscles: Extrinsic muscles have bony connections, intrinsic muscles are constrained within the tongue without external connections.





# Pink Trombone - Vocal Tract Simulator

<https://dood.al/pinktrombone/>



# Articulation Exercises

“The tip of the tongue, the lips, and the teeth”

“Which witch watched which watch?”

“Lesser leather never weathered lesser wetter weather.”

“The big black bug bit the big black bear and the big black bear bled blue black blood.”

“Theophilus thistle, the successful thistle sifter, successfully sifted some thistles.”

“I am not a pheasant plucker, I’m a pheasant plucker’s son, and I’m only plucking pheasants till the pheasant plucker comes.”

“She sells seashells by the seashore.”

“Peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A peck of pickled peppers Peter piper picked. If Peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, how many pickled peppers did Peter piper pick?”

# Midterm Songs

**HAVE A JAWESOME DAY**

