



# FRICATIVES AND AFFRICATES

Unit 6

# FRICATIVES & AFFRICATES

- Fricatives are consonants with the characteristic that air escapes through a narrow passage and makes a hissing sound.
- Fricatives are **continuant** consonants.
- Affricates are rather complex consonants. They begin as plosives and end as fricatives.
- There are only two affricates in English  $tʃ$ ,  $dʒ$ .
- Affricates are not **continuant** consonants.
- Affricates are phonetically composed of two segments:  $t+f$  and  $d+ʒ$

# NOTES

- Not every plosive followed by fricative is an affricate consonant.
- For example, breakfast. Kf does not represent an affricate phoneme because they are not homorganic.
- **Homorganic** is a concept that refers to the production of two segments in the same place of articulation.
- Affricates of English are considered one phoneme and not two phonemes.
- Affricates of English are post-alveolar.
- tʃ can occur initially, medially and finally

# AFFRICATES

- **tʃ** can occur initially, medially and finally:
  1. Initially: chop
  2. Medially: watching
  3. Finally: match
- **dʒ** can occur initially, medially and finally :
  1. Initially: Judge
  2. Medially: Pledger
  3. Finally: Garage
- .

# WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN tʃ AND dʒ?


tʃ	dʒ
Strong	Weak
Partially aspirated	Non-aspirated
Shortening the preceding vowels	Lengthening the preceding vowels

# FRICATIVES OF ENGLISH

	PLACE OF ARTICULATION				
	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Glottal
Fortis (“voiceless”)	f	θ	s	ʃ	h
Lenis (“voiced”)	v	ð	z	ʒ	

# FRICATIVES

- f, v (example words: 'fan', 'van'; 'safer', 'saver'; 'half', 'halve')
- θ, ð, (example words: 'thumb', 'thus'; 'ether', 'father'; 'breath', 'breathe')
- s, z (example words: 'sip', 'zip'; 'facing', 'phasing'; 'rice, 'rise')
- ʃ, ʒ (example words: 'ship' (initial ʒ is very rare in English); 'Russia', 'measure'; 'Irish', 'garage')

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- The consonant h
  - The place of articulation of this consonant is **glottal**.
  - **Phonetically** h is a voiceless vowel with the quality of the voiced vowel that follows it.
  - **Phonologically**, h is a consonant. It is usually found before vowels.
  - Example words: 'head', 'ahead', 'playhouse'



# WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FRICATIVES AND AFFRICATES?

Fricatives	Affricates
Continuant	Not continuant
One segment	two segments

# FORTIS CONSONANTS

- Fortis consonants have the following characteristics:
  1. The first point concerns the shortening of a preceding vowel by a syllable-final fortis consonant.
  2. Syllables ending with l, m, n, g, followed by a fortis consonant such as p, t, k as in 'belt, 'bump', 'bent', 'bank'. The effect on those continuant consonants is the same as on a vowel: they are considerably shortened.
  3. Fortis consonants are usually articulated with open glottis - that is, with the vocal folds separated.

# WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FORTIS AND LENIS CONSONANTS

<b>N</b>	<b>Fortis consonants</b>	<b>Lenis consonants</b>
<b>1</b>	voiceless	May be voiced
<b>2</b>	strong	Weak
<b>3</b>	Articulated with greater force	Articulated with less force
<b>4</b>	Shortening the preceding vowel	lengthening the preceding vowel