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Unit - III (Phonetics)

Define the following terms:

1. Phoneme: Phoneme is a distinctive unit of sound in a language which can be used to differentiate meanings. For example, the word Bat has three phonemes in it - /b/, /æ/ and /t/. Phonemes of a language can be found by minimal pairs.
2. Speech sounds: Sounds which are produced from our mouth by using air are called speech sounds. Speech sounds are broadly divided into two types - Vowels and Consonants.
3. Consonants: Consonants are sharp and crisp <sup>speech</sup> sounds which bring logic and reasoning to any language. They are produced with a friction in our mouth. English has got twenty-four consonants. Consonants can be classified on the basis of their place and manner of articulation and taking into account whether they are voiceless or voiced.