

during the production of which the vocal cords or folds vibrate. English sound system has got fifteen voiced consonants which are like these - /b/, /d/, /g/, /v/, /z/, /z/, /ʒ/, /dʒ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/, /r/, /j/ and /w/. Apart from these fifteen consonants, all vowels sounds are always voiced.

7. Voiceless Consonants (sounds): These sounds during the production of which the vocal cords or folds <sup>do not</sup> vibrate. English language has got nine voiceless consonants which are - /p/, /t/, /k/, /f/, /θ/, /tʃ/, /s/, /ʃ/ and /h/.

8. Vowels: Vowels are open and free flowing speech sounds which bring emotion and expression to any language. They are produced without any closure or narrowing and hence there is no friction. Vowels can be divided into two categories - Monophthongs or pure vowels and Diphthongs or glides.

9. Monophthongs: Monophthongs are these

Vowel sounds in which there is no appreciable change in quality during a syllable. English has got twelve monophthongs which are like these - /ɪ/, /i:/, /ʊ/, /u:/, /e/, /æ/, /ɜ:/, /ɔ:/, /ɑ:/, /ʌ/, /ɒ/ and /ɜ:/.

10. Diphthongs: Diphthongs are those vowel sounds in which there is a change in quality during a single syllable. English language has got eight diphthongs which are like these - /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/, /ɪə/, /ʊə/ and /eə/.

11. Plosives or Stops: Plosives or Stops are those sounds which are produced with a structure of complete closure and sudden release of air. English has got six plosives - /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/ and /g/. /p/ and /b/ are bilabial plosives, /t/ and /d/ are alveolar plosives, /k/ and /g/ are velar plosives.

12. Fricatives: Fricatives are those sounds which are produced with a structure of close approximation.