

comes out through the sides of the tongue. English has got one lateral sound /l/ which is an alveolar sound.

16. Approximants: Approximants are those sounds which are produced with a structure of open approximation, that is, they are vowel-like in their articulation (the air comes out through the mouth without any friction), but are classified as a consonant sound because they ~~take the position associated with consonants~~ always occupy the marginal consonant position in the structure of a syllable. There are three approximants in English - /r/, /j/ and /w/. /r/ is a post-alveolar approximant, /j/ is a palatal approximant and /w/ is a labio-velar approximant.

17. Syllable: A syllable is the smallest unit of sound that one can break a word into. It consists

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(7) of a vowel sound, called the nucleus, and one or more than one consonants. The consonant that begins a syllable is called the releasing consonant and the one that comes at the end of a syllable is called the arresting consonant.

18. Bilabial sound: When a sound is produced by the two lips, it is called a bilabial sound. English has four bilabial sounds - /p/, /b/, /m/ and /w/. /p/ and /b/ are bilabial plosives, /m/ is a bilabial nasal whereas /w/ is a bilabial (labio-velar) approximant.

19. Labio-dental sound: When a sound is produced by moving the lower lip against the upper front teeth, it is called a labio-dental sound. There are two labio-dental sounds in English - /f/ and /v/ both of which are fricatives.

20. Dental sound: When a sound is produced by