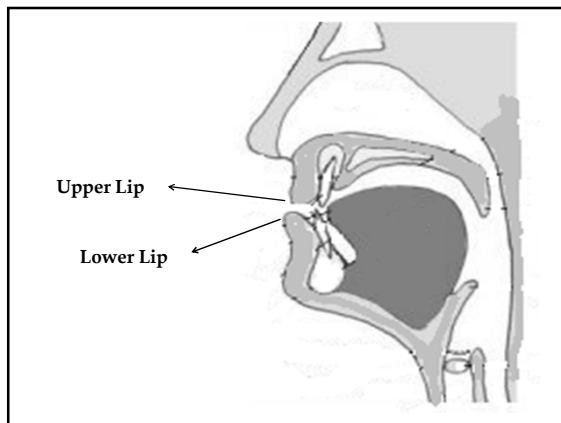


# THE ORGANS OF SPEECH AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

ENG 003 – SPEECH & ORAL COMM.

By JACS



Besides a brain (and the knowledge of the language), what do you need to use the spoken language?

These are the organs that make up the speech mechanism.

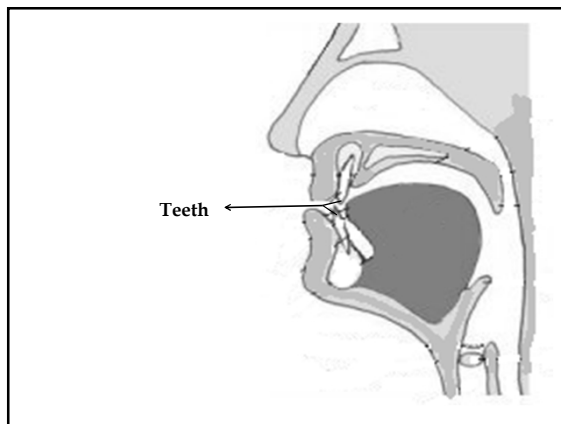
## TEETH

- small whitish structures forged with the jaws
- responsible for creating sounds mainly the labio-dental (e.g. /f/ and /v/ and lingua-dental (e.g. /ð/and /θ/)

Speech organs that belong to the articulatory system:

## LIPS

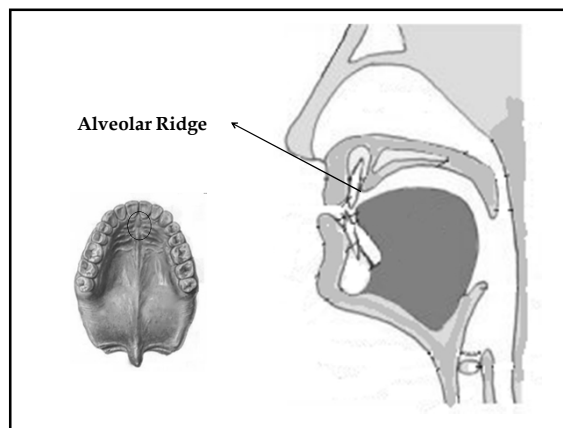
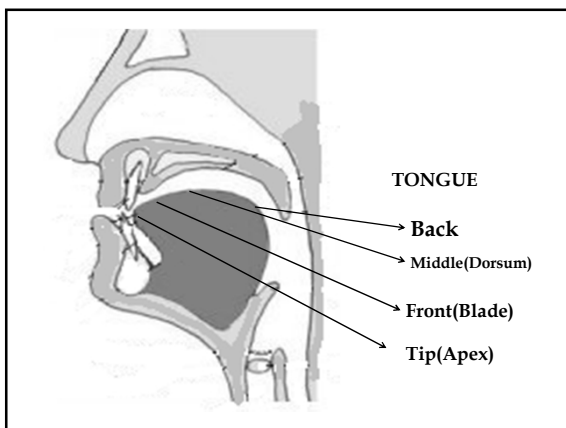
- they serve for creating different sounds - mainly the labial, bilabial (e.g. /p/, /b/, /m/, /hw/, and /w/) and labio-dental consonant sounds (e. g. /f/ and /v/ - and thus create an important part of the speech apparatus.



**TONGUE**

- with its wide variety of possible movements, it assists in forming the sounds of speech.

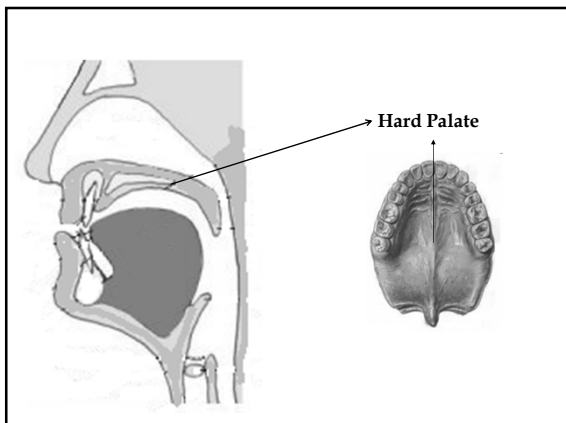
- For the sound /s/, air from the lungs passes continuously through the mouth, but the tongue is raised sufficiently close to the *alveolar ridge* (the section of the upper jaw containing the tooth sockets) to cause friction as it partially blocks the air that passes.

**ALVEOLAR RIDGE**

- hard ridge behind the upper front teeth. It is between the roof of the mouth and the upper teeth.

**HARD PALATE**

- a thin horizontal bony plate of the skull, located in the roof of the mouth.
- the interaction between the tongue and the hard palate is essential in the formation of certain speech sounds, notably /t/, /d/, and /j/.

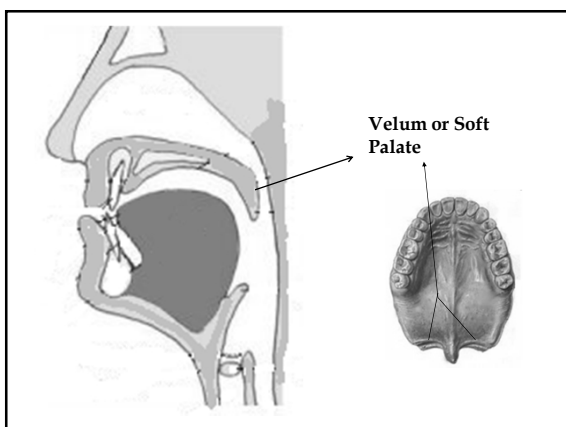
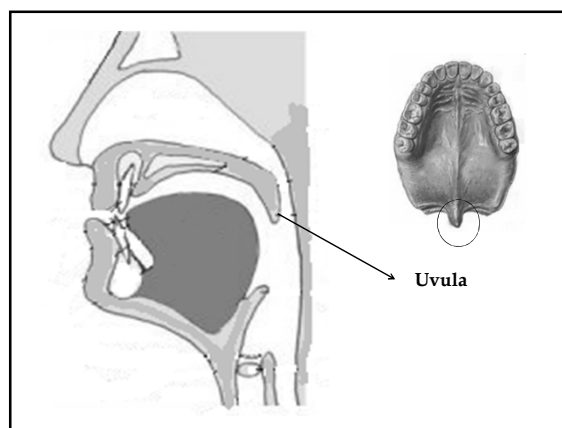


### UVULA

- it functions in tandem with the back of the throat, the palate, and air coming up from the lungs to create a number of guttural and other sounds.
- In many languages, it closes to prevent air escaping through the nose when making some sounds.

### VELUM (SOFT PALATE)

- it should have holes forming that function during speech to separate the oral cavity (mouth) from the nose, in order to produce the oral speech sounds. If this separation is incomplete, air escapes through the nose during speech and the speech is perceived as hyper nasal.



### GLOTTIS

- combination of vocal folds and space in between the folds
- as the vocal folds vibrate, the resulting vibration produces a "buzzing" quality to the speech called voice or voicing or pronunciation.
- sound production involving only the glottis is called glottal. Example is the sound /h/.

