

How Consonants Are Made

Languages

Place, manner and voicing — three questions that identify any consonant.

Three properties fully specify a consonant.

Property	Asks	Examples
Place	Where in the mouth	Lips: p, b, m
		Teeth: th
		Ridge: t, d, s
Manner	How the air moves	Stop: p, t, k
		Fricative: f, s, sh
		Nasal: m, n
Voicing	Do the cords vibrate	p vs b, s vs z

p and b differ only in voicing. Everything else about how they are made is identical.