

# VERBAL CUES FOR CONSONANTS

## ACTION PHONICS

by Frank Lang

<b>PLOSIVES, UNVOICED</b>	
p	Catch some air with the lips.
t	Catch some air with the front of the tongue, tight all the way around the gum ridge.
c, k, ck,	Catch some air with the back of the tongue against the soft palate.

<b>NASALS</b>	
m	Hum with the lips together.
n	Hum with the front of the tongue, tight all the way around the gum ridge.
ng	Hum with the back of the tongue against the soft palate.

<b>FRICATIVES</b>	
s	Let some air leak out from a little hole at the front of the tongue
f	Bite the lower lip and let air leak out.
sh	Pucker and let air whoosh out past the tongue
s, v	Like the 's', 'f' only the sound voiced.

<b>PLOSIVES, VOICED</b>	
b	Catch some air with the lips and let the voice vibrate a fraction of a second before you let it out.
d	Catch some air with the front of the tongue and let the voice vibrate a little.
g	Catch some air with the back of the tongue and let the voice vibrate a little.

<b>FINAL CONSONANT BLENDS</b>	
nd, nt	Hum at the front of the tongue for the "n", and stop it at the same position for the "d" or "t". You close the soft palate and build up pressure.
mp	Hum with the lips for the "m" and stop it at that same position for the p".
nk	Hum at the back of the tongue for the "n" as in "ng", and stop it at the same position for the "k".
ct	Catch some air at the back of the tongue, but release it at the front.
pt	Catch some air with the lips, but release it at the front of the tongue.
sts	Let some air leak out at the front of the tongue, stop it, then let it leak out again.

<b>"L" BLENDS</b>	
pl	Catch some air with the lips, and then place the tip of the tongue on the gum ridge. Release the air simultaneously as the tongue flips down..
cl	Catch some air at the back of the tongue. Start Ito curl the tip of the tongue for the "l". Flip it off <i>the gum</i> ridge as you release the air into the vowel.
fl, vl	Start the "f" or "v" and keep it going while placing the tip of the tongue on the gum ridge. "R" BLENDS

<b>"R" BLENDS</b>	
Demonstrate the "r" blends first as a whispered "tr" with a whistling quality in the "r". Narrowing the face and puckering the muscles around the chin help get the tongue in the right shape for the "r".	
tr, dr	Catch some air at the front of the tongue and narrow the face for the "r".
cr, gr	Catch some air at the back of the tongue and narrow for the "r".
pr, br	Catch some air with the lips and tighten the muscles of the face for an "r".
fr	Start the "f," keep it going and narrow the face for the "r."
thr	Start the "th" keep it going and narrow the face for the "r."
shr	Start the "sh" and pucker for the "r."
str	Start the "s," stop the air with the lips, and pucker for the "r."
spr	Start the "s," stop the air with the lips, and pucker for the "r."
scr	Start the "s," stop the air with the back of the tongue and pucker for the "r."

<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
h	Get some air ready.
j (voiced) ch (unvoiced)	Catch air with the front of the tongue and pucker.
l	Place tip of the tongue on gum ridge with no sound.
qu	Catch air with the back of the tongue as for a “-L” and release with lips puckered as for a “w.”
r	Pucker with sides of the tongue against the gums with no sound.
w (voiced) wh (unvoiced)	Pucker with tongue relaxes.
x	Catch air with the back of the tongue as for a “lk” and release it at the front of the tongue as for an “s.”
y	This sounds like “ee.”

<b>ARTICULATION POSITION COMPARISON</b>	Lips	Front of the Tongue	Back of the Tongue
Cath air with, unvoiced	p	t	c, ck
Hum	m	n	ng
Catch air with, voiced	b	d	g

