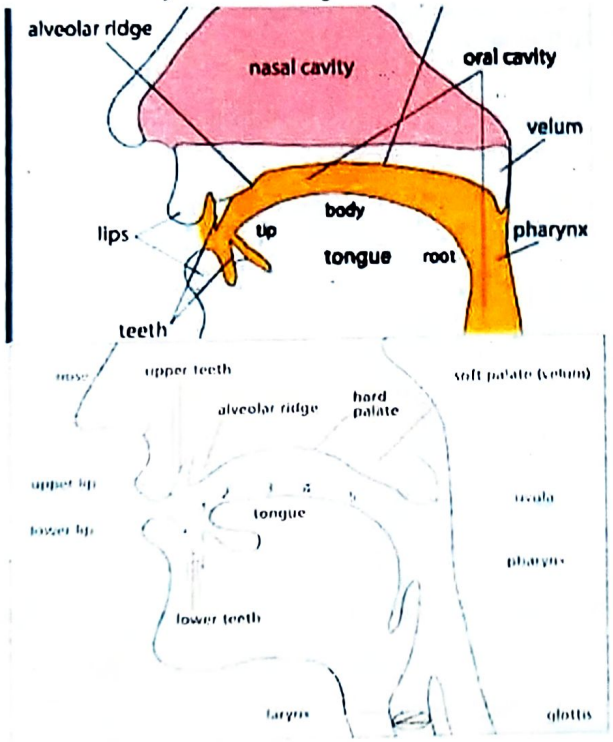
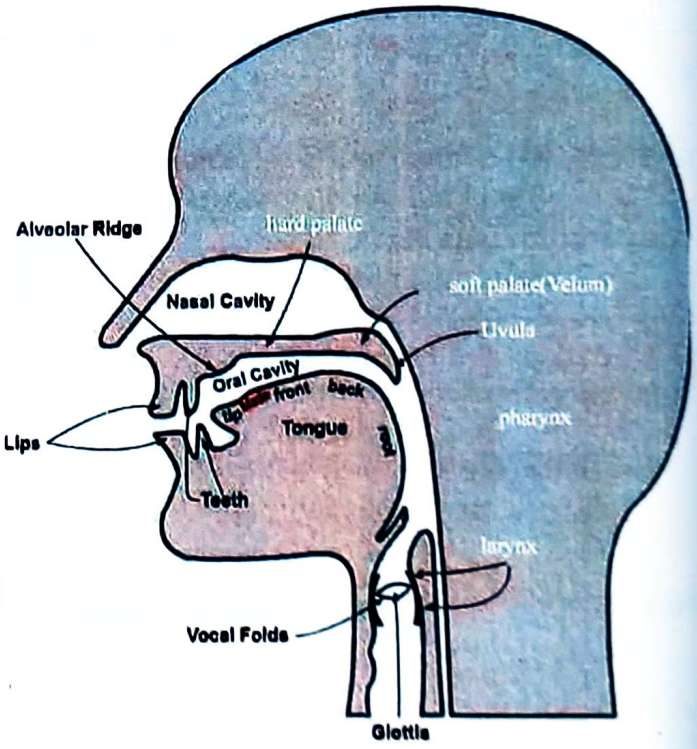
2. The Organs of the speech

In this chapter we are talking about the organs of speech, and how they work. In all languages when we are speaking, air comes out from lungs through the windpipes to the larynx, pharynx then out from the mouth. This operation passes through many organs to produce the speech. We have movable organs such as *lips, tongue, lower teeth, vocal cords and velum (soft palate)* and unmovable organs such as *upper teeth, the alveolar ridge and hard palate* which mean they do not move. In English language we have oral and nasal sounds, in oral, the sounds are produced by raising the soft palate and releasing air from the mouth. While in nasal, the sounds are produced by lowering the soft palate and releasing air from the nose. In English most of the sounds are oral and only three are nasal such as /m/, /n/ and /ŋ/.





The vocal cords are two small bands of elastic tissue lying opposite each othe across the air pass. They contain glottis and they can be opened or closed.

Glottis is a gap between the vocal cords in the larynx in which the air passes freely

Glottis stop means holding back the compressed air followed by a sudden releas when the vocal cords closed.

The pharynx (throat) is a tube above the larynx behind the tongue. It is 7cm lon in women and 8cm long in men.

x is a hollow tube connected pharynx with trachea (wind pipe), contained cords. Its functions are breathing, stop air, (glottal stop) and creating vocal

l.

uvula is a small organ lies at the end of the soft palate, at the back of the

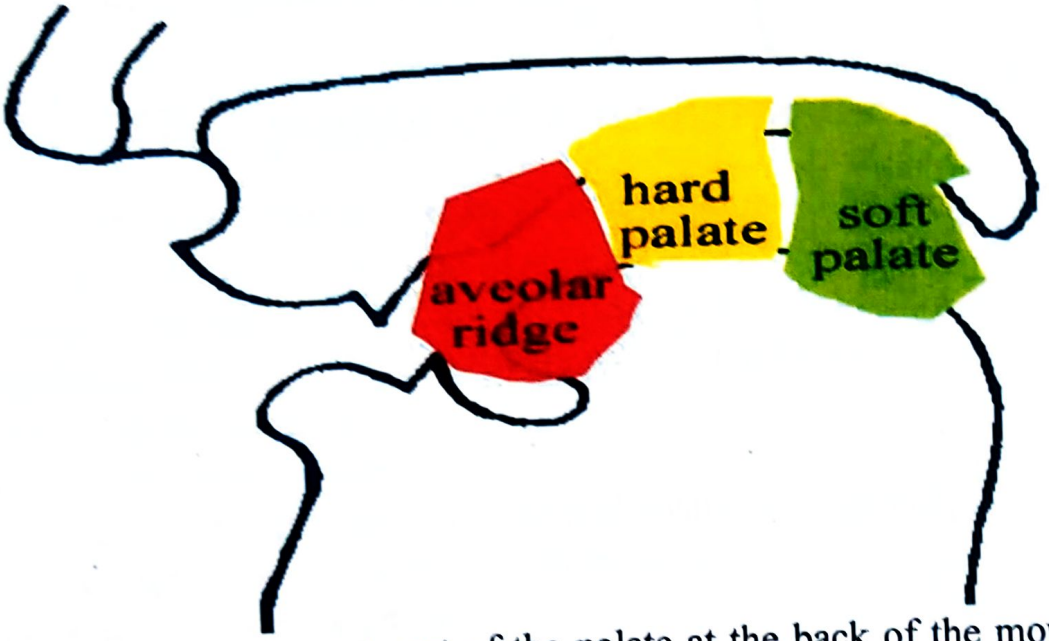
t.

s are two sponge-like structure, they are responsible of respiratory system

Palate is the roof of the mouth and separate the mouth cavity from the nose

ty. It divides into three parts

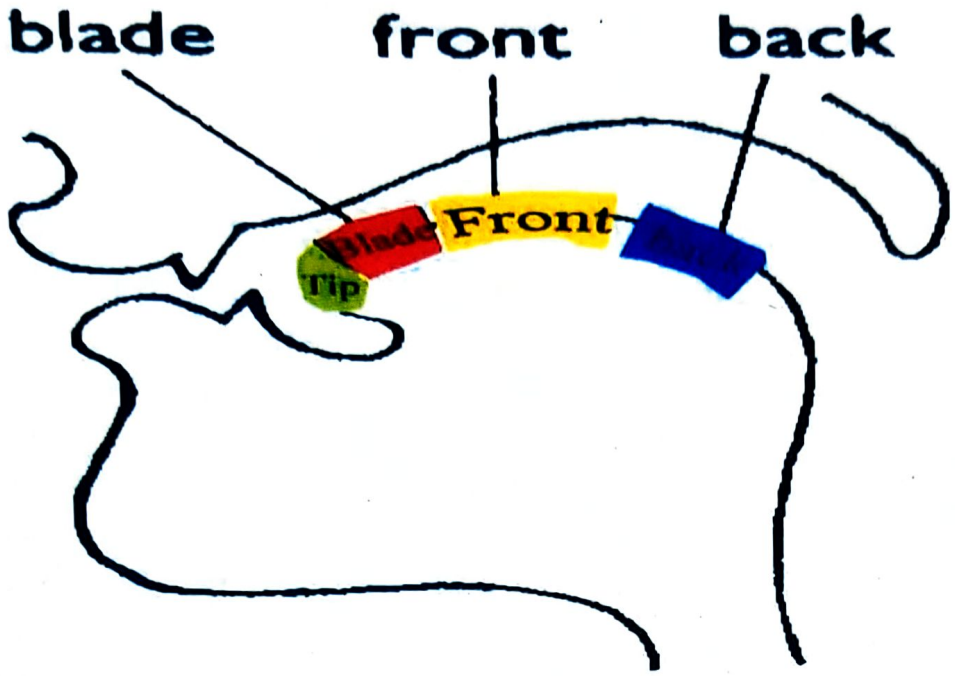
he hard palate is a highest part of the palate between the alveolar ridge and the beginning of the soft palate. It's very important in production the speech especially with tip-tongue.



The soft palate is the lowest part of the palate at the back of the mouth's roof that ends with uvula.

The alveolar ridge is an important organ in the pronunciation of sound like /t/, /d/, /n/. It lies behind the upper front-teeth.

The teeth consist of two parts, upper and lower teeth. Upper teeth are more important that lower teeth because most English are produced by them.



The parts of the tongue

The tongue is the most important organ in the operation of the speech production, it is divided into four parts. When the tongue is at rest;

1. tip and blade both lie under the alveolar ridge and has different positions, they can touch lips, teeth, alveolar ridge and the hard palate,
2. front lies under the hard palate,
3. back lies under the soft palate.

Lips are also very important, they have several positions in speech;

1. lips pressed together to block the mouth as in /p/,
2. lips can be apart unrounded as in /i:/,
3. lips can be rounded as in /u/.