

# Fricatives

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# What is a fricative sound?

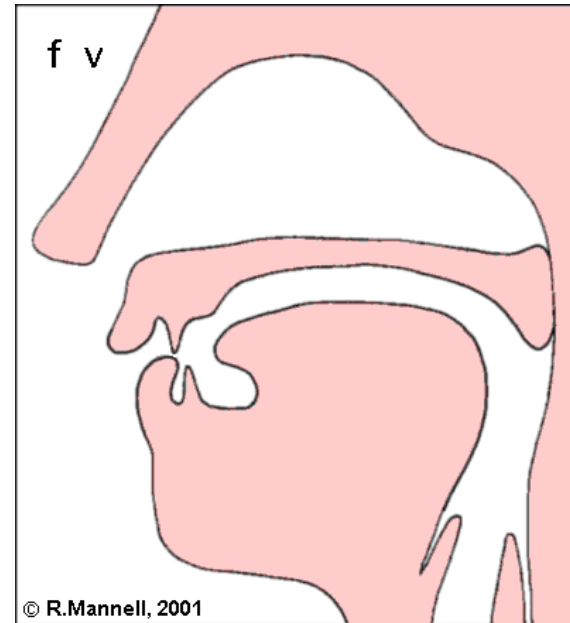
Fricatives are consonants produced by **air flowing through a narrow channel** made by placing **two articulating organs close together**.

They are **continuant consonants**, which means that **they can be made without interruption** as long as you have air in your lungs.

# English Fricatives:

**f, v:** They are labiodental, which means that they are produced when the lower lip is contact with the upper teeth.

**F**an, **V**an,  
**S**afe, **S**ave



## θ and ð

They are dental, which means that the tongue is placed between the teeth, while the air escapes through the gaps between the tongue and teeth.

θ : Think, thumb, thanks

ð : that, they, this

- ▶ **s, z**: They are Alveolar fricatives, which means that the air escapes through narrow passage along the centre of the tongue.

Sip/ Zip

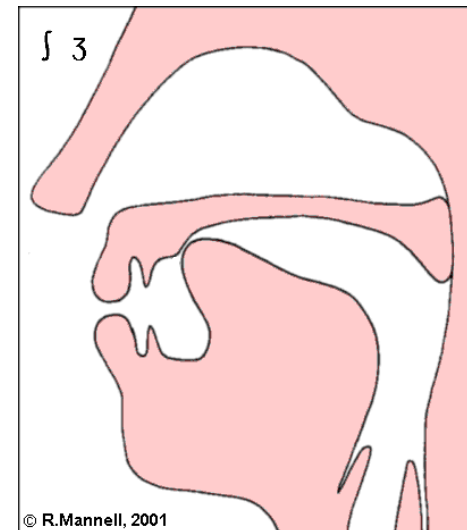
Eyes/ ice

Rise/ rice

ʃ,ʒ : They are post-alveolar, which means that the tongue is in contact with an area slightly further back than the alveolar fricatives. The air escapes through a passage along the centre of the tongue.

ʃ : shop, sheep, show

ʒ : measure, usually, casual



# The voiceless glottal fricative

- Most dialects of English have [h] as a **phoneme**, and it is represented by "h", as in *happy*.
- It usually occurs at the beginning of a **word**.

## A summary of the classification of fricative sounds

labiodental	dental	alveolar	Post-alveolar	glottal
f - v	θ - ð	s - z	ʃ - ʒ	h

The sounds on the left are voiceless  
And the ones on the right are voiced.



This is a useful link.

You can see a video with the pronunciation of every consonant.

Click on the icon below to see the video.

