“SPEECH ORGANS”

Speech organs (or vocal organs): those parts of the body used in speech production.

The primary function of the vocal organs is biological.

We do not have unique speech organs (organs developed for speech only) not found in other mammals.

SPEECH ORGANS:

1. LUNGS
2. TRACHEA (= windpipe)
3. LARYNX (containing the vocal folds)

NOTE:

VOCAL CORDS or VOCAL FOLDS

more commonly used term

4. SUPRAGLOTTAL ORGANS (those above the larynx)

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VOCAL TRACT: The air passages above the larynx.

ORAL CAVITY or ORAL TRACT

(Latin os/oralis ‘mouth’)

NASAL CAVITY or NASAL TRACT

(Latin nasus ‘nose’)

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1. **LUNGS**

The source of energy for speech production is the *steady stream of air* that comes from the lungs as we exhale.

The thorax (= chest) is bounded by the *vertebrae* in the back and the *sternum* (= breast bone) in the front. Completing the cylinder are 12 sets of ribs.

The lungs consist of *alveoli* (= air sacks). The act of breathing air in and out is controlled by various muscles of the rib cage, and by muscles of the abdomen and the *diaphragm*.

The muscular band that separates the chest from the abdomen; it plays a role in respiration and therefore in speech. During speech it is relaxed.

2. **TRACHEA** (Greek *trachea* ‘neck’)

- a tube consisting of cartilages
- it leads from the larynx, splits into two *bronchi* that connect to the lungs.

3. **LARYNX** (Greek *larynx* ‘upper part of the windpipe’)

“voice box”

It is a structure of cartilages and muscles situated atop the trachea.

There is a protuberance at the front (= Adam’s apple)

The functions of the larynx are:

a. **BIOLOGICAL:** protecting the lungs by preventing food particles and fluids from entering the trachea.

b. **LINGUISTIC:** involved in the production of several types of sound effects (e.g. voicing, pitch, whisper etc.).

The larynx contains the **VOCAL FOLDS**.

*two horizontal bands of ligament and muscle*

They vibrate during the articulation of vowels and of many consonants. The space between the vocal folds is called the **GLOTTIS**.

Articulation of the vocal folds: GLOTTAL articulation e.g., glottal stops [?]
HYOID BONE: it sits at the back of the base of the tongue and at the top of the larynx. It brings about a muscular interaction between the tongue and the larynx.

The larynx is made up of five cartilages:

i. EPIGLOTTIS
ii. THYROID CARTILAGE
iii. CRICOID CARTILAGE
iv. ARYTENOID CARTILAGES
v. 

STUDY THE HANDOUT!

4. SUPRAGLOTTAL ORGANS (those above the larynx)

a. Articulators in the oral cavity:
   i. UPPER ARTICULATORS: upper lip, upper teeth, upper surface of the mouth and the pharyngeal wall
   ii. LOWER ARTICULATORS: lower lip, lower teeth, tongue

b. PHARYNX

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