**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research  University of Djilali Bounaama Department of Foreign Languages First Year Students of English**

**The Organs of Speech**

**The pharynx:** Itis a tube which is just above the larynx. It is about 7cm long in women and 8cm in men. At its top end, it is divided into two: one part being the back of the mouth and the other being the way through the nasal cavity. If you look at the mirror with your mouth open, you can see the back of the pharynx.

**The velum (Soft Palate):** it is seen in the diagram in a position that allows the air to pass through the nose and the mouth. However; often in speech, it is raised so that the air cannot escape through the nose. Another important thing about the velum is that it is one of the articulators that can be touched by the tongue to produce the sounds /k, g/.

**The Hard palate**: it is often called “the roof of the mouth”. You can feel its smooth curved surface with your tongue.

**The alveolar-ridge**: It is between the top front teeth and the hard palate.You can feel its shape with your tongue. Its surface is really much rougher than it feel. It is covered with little ridges. You can only see these if you have a mirror small enough to go inside your mouth.

**The Tongue**: It is a very important articulator. It can move to many places and take different shapes.

 **The Teeth**: When the tongue is in contact with the upper side teeth for many speech sounds. Sounds made with the tongue touching the front teeth are called dental sounds.

**The Lips**: they are important in speech. They can be pressed together to produce the bilabial sounds /P, b/. They can be brought in contact with the teeth to produce the labio-dental sounds /f, v/. They take different shapes: they can be rounded, spread, or neutral.

**The larynx (The voice box**): It is noticeable at the front in the adult male neck known as Adam’s apple. Its function is both biological and linguistic. Biologically, the larynx acts as a valve to shut off the lungs. It helps the process of Exertion. Linguistically, it is involved in the production of several types to sounds effect.

**The Vocal cords (lips/folds**): They are very flexible, being shaped by the combined activities of the associated cartilage and muscles. The space between them is called the glottis. The vocal cords have several functions. Their main role in speech is to vibrate in such a manner as to produce voice. This process is called phonation. When they are not vibrating; two main alternative positions are available. They may be tight together as when the breath is held to produce the glottal stop, or they may remain o

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