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

 **English Consonant and Vowel Sounds**

Consonants are one of the two general categories used for the classification of speech sounds. They can be defined in terms of both phonetics and phonology. Phonetically, they are sounds made by either a closure or a narrowing in the vocal tract so that the airflow is completely blocked or restricted that audible friction is produced. They are described in terms of **place and manner of articulation** as well as the mode of vibration of the vocal cords **(voicing**).

Vowels are one of the general categories used for the classification of speech sounds. They can be described in terms of both phonetics and phonology. Phonetically, they are sounds made without a complete closure in the mouth or a degree of narrowing which would produce audible friction. The airflow escapes solely over the centre of the tongue. They can be described in terms of three variables:

-**The shape of the lips**: rounded, spread, neutral

-**The part of the tongue raised**: front, centre, the back

-**The height of the tongue in the mouth**.

**RP (Received Pronunciation):**

The name is given to the regionally neutral accent in British English. The term indicates that its prestige is the result of social factors not linguistic ones. RP is neither inferior nor superior to other accents, but it is an accent which is associated with teaching that dialect to foreigners.

The BBC adopted RP for its announcers because it is a form of pronunciation most likely to be nationally understood, and to attract least regional criticism**.**