

# The Organs of Speech



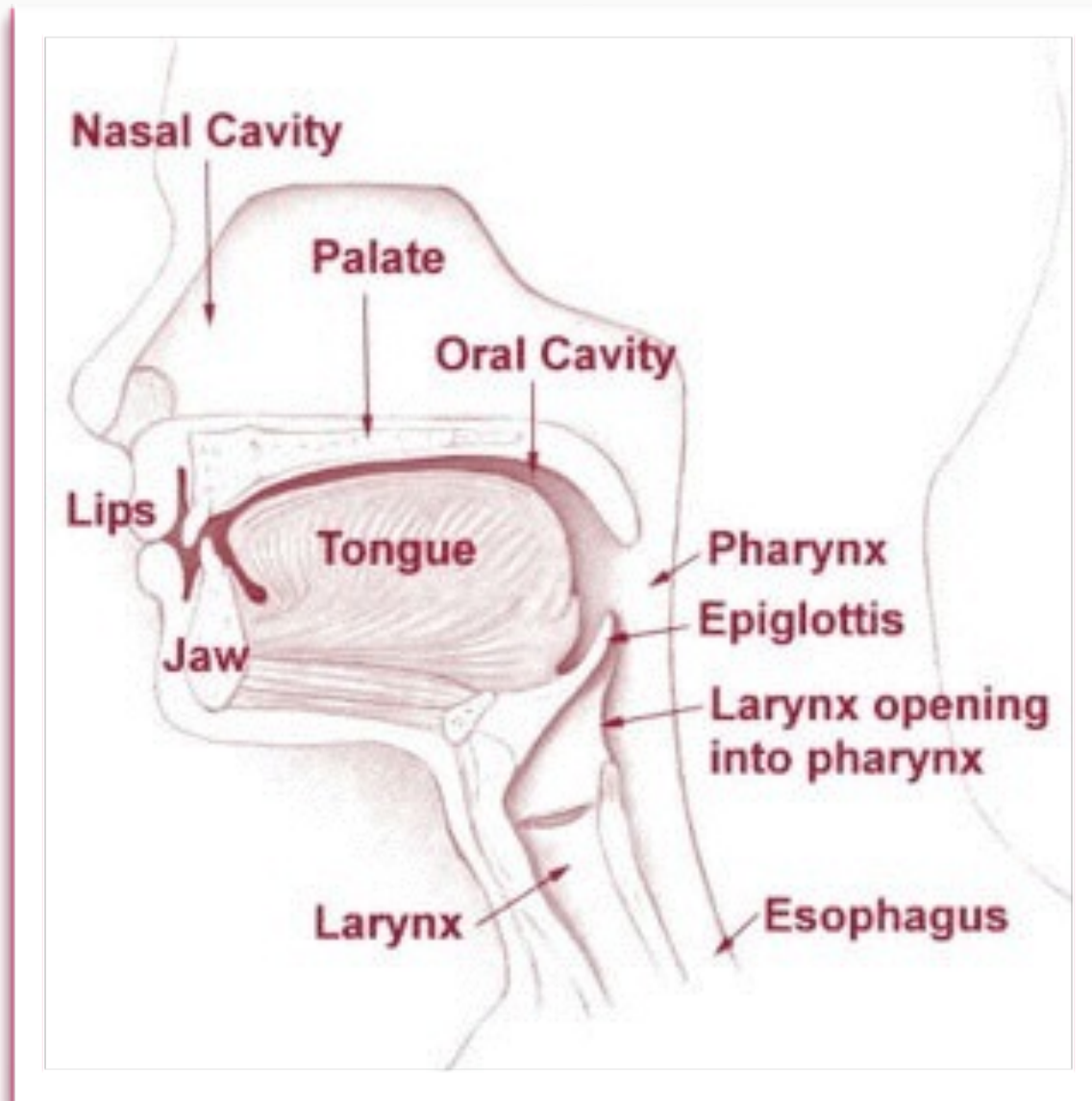
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- All sounds we make when we speak are the result of muscles contracting.

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- **When the air is pushed from the lungs to the larynx, it goes through the vocal tract.**

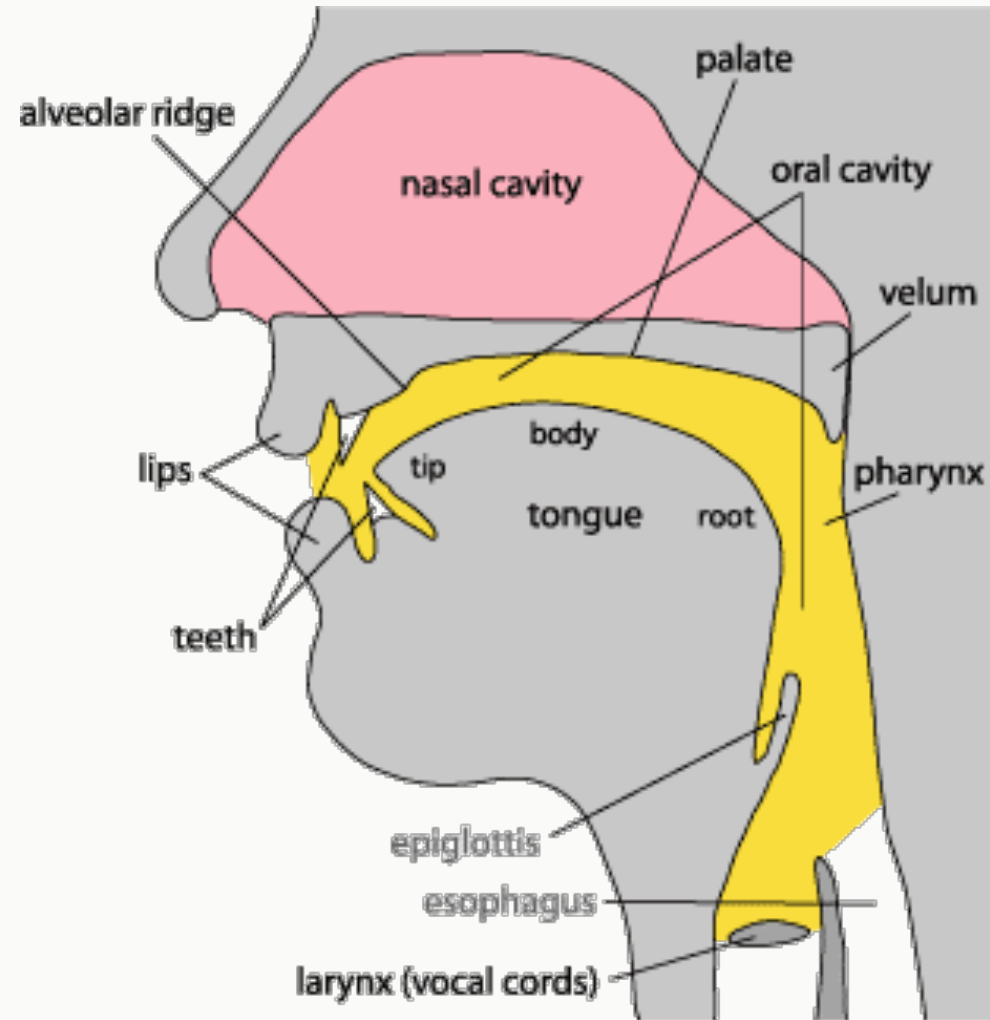
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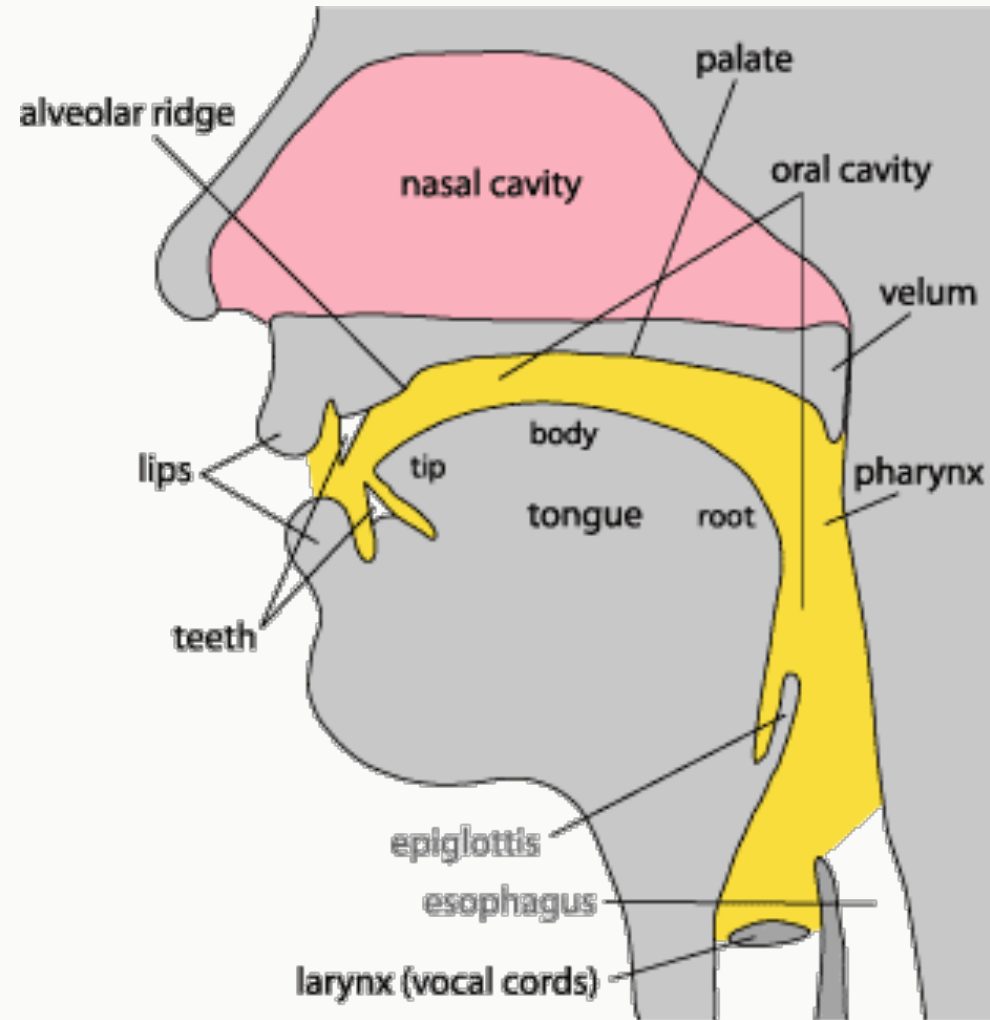
- The different parts of the vocal tract are called **articulators**, and the study of them is called **articulatory phonetics**.

1. The **pharynx**: is a tube which begins above the larynx. At its top end it is divided into two:

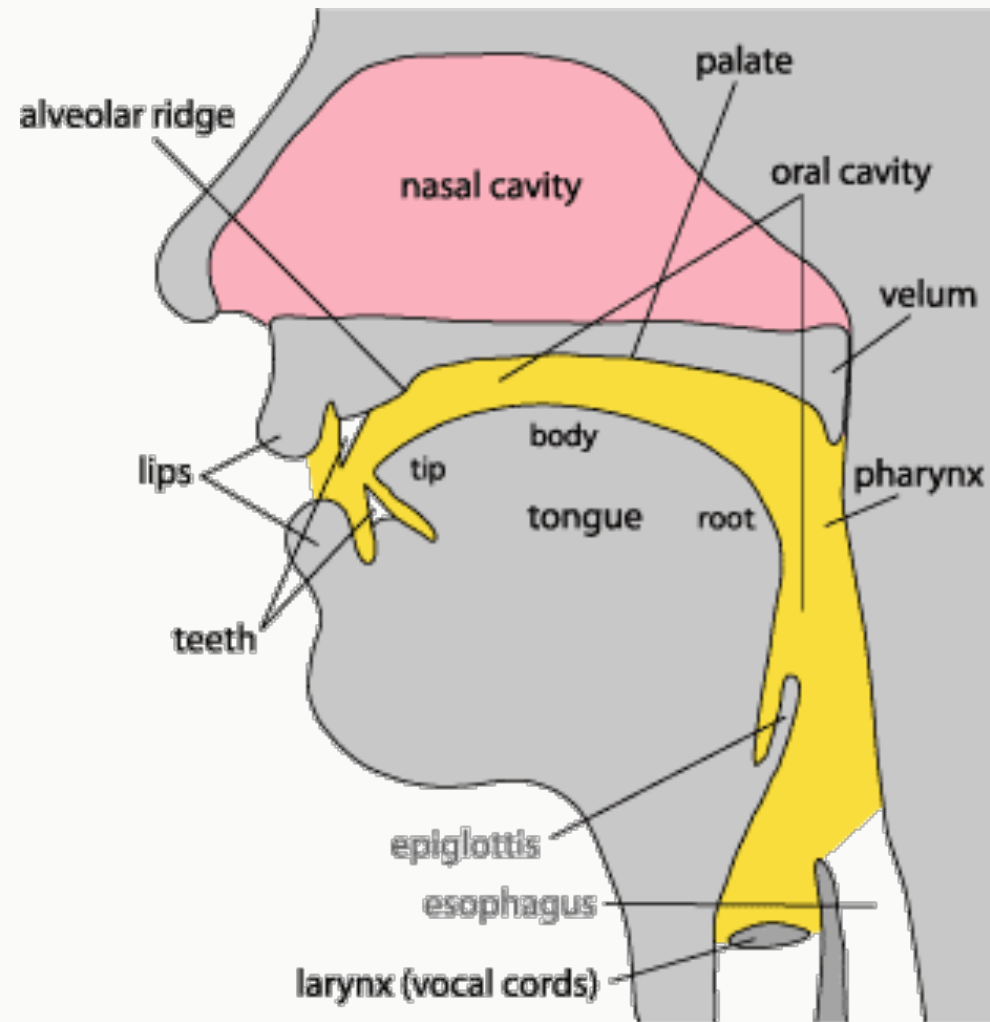


**1. the back of the mouth,**

**2. and the beginning of the way through the nasal cavity.**

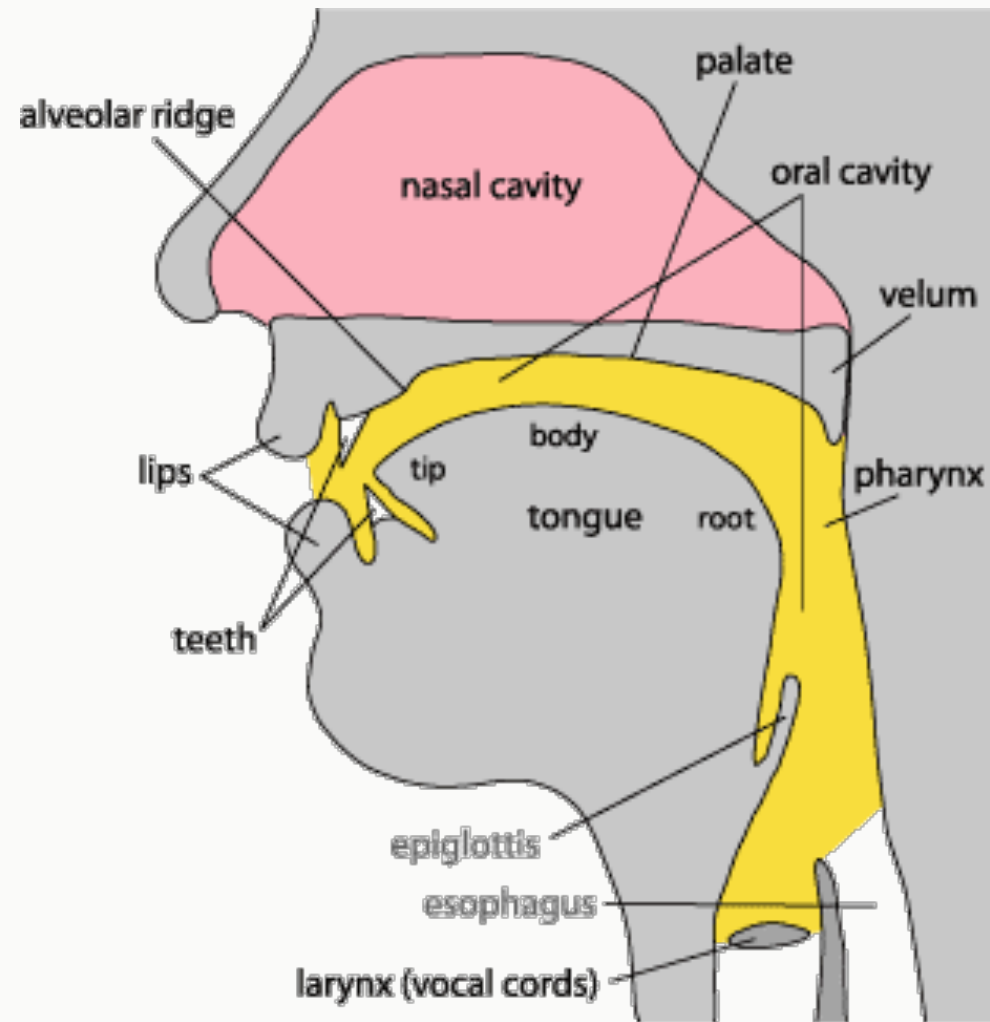


2. The **velum** or **soft palate**: is in a position that allows air to pass through the nose and through the mouth.

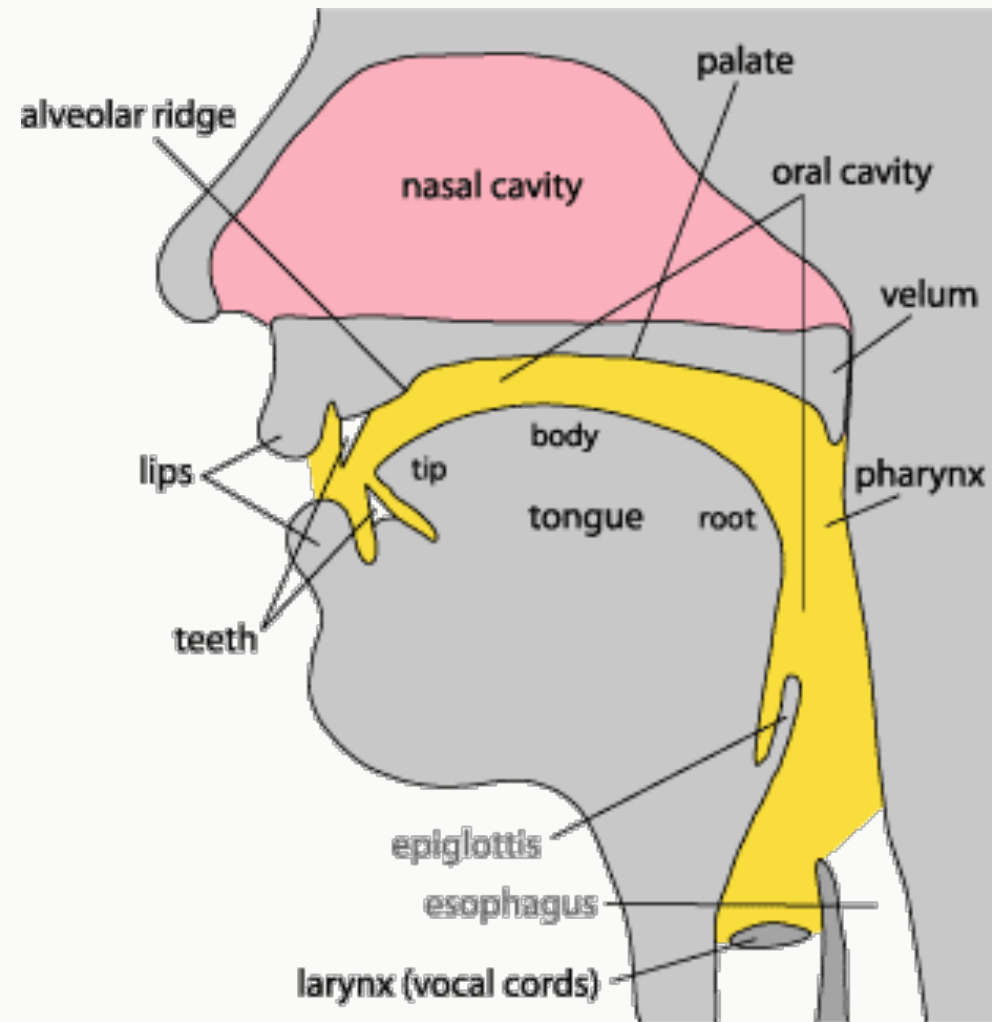




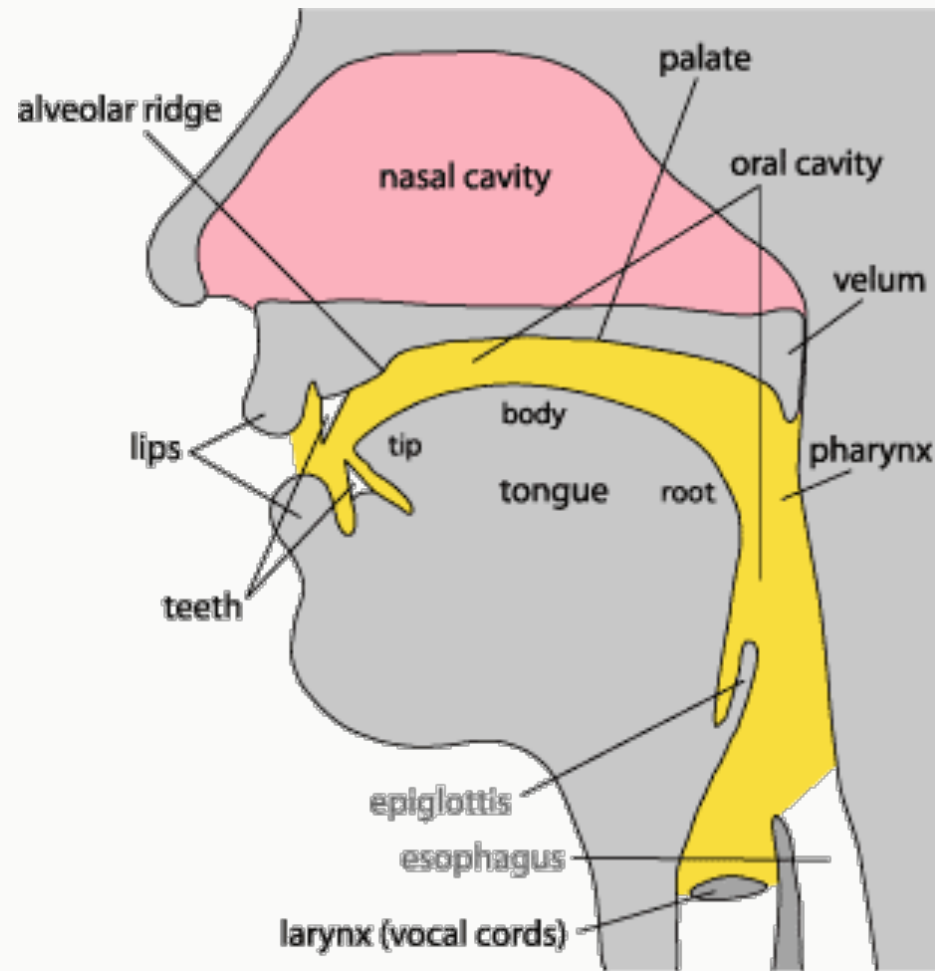
**Often in speech,  
it is raised so  
that air cannot  
escape through  
the nose.**



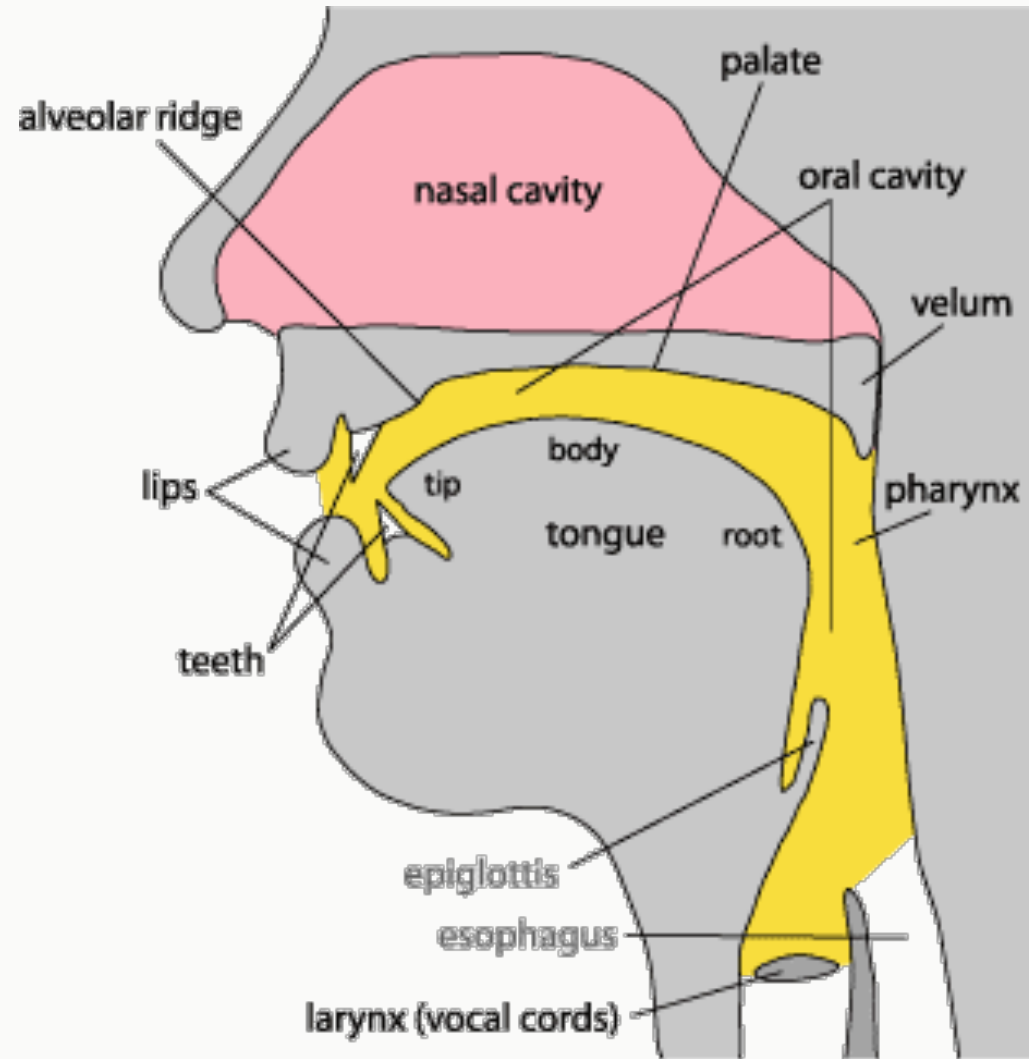
**The other important thing is that it is one of the articulators that can be touched by the tongue.**



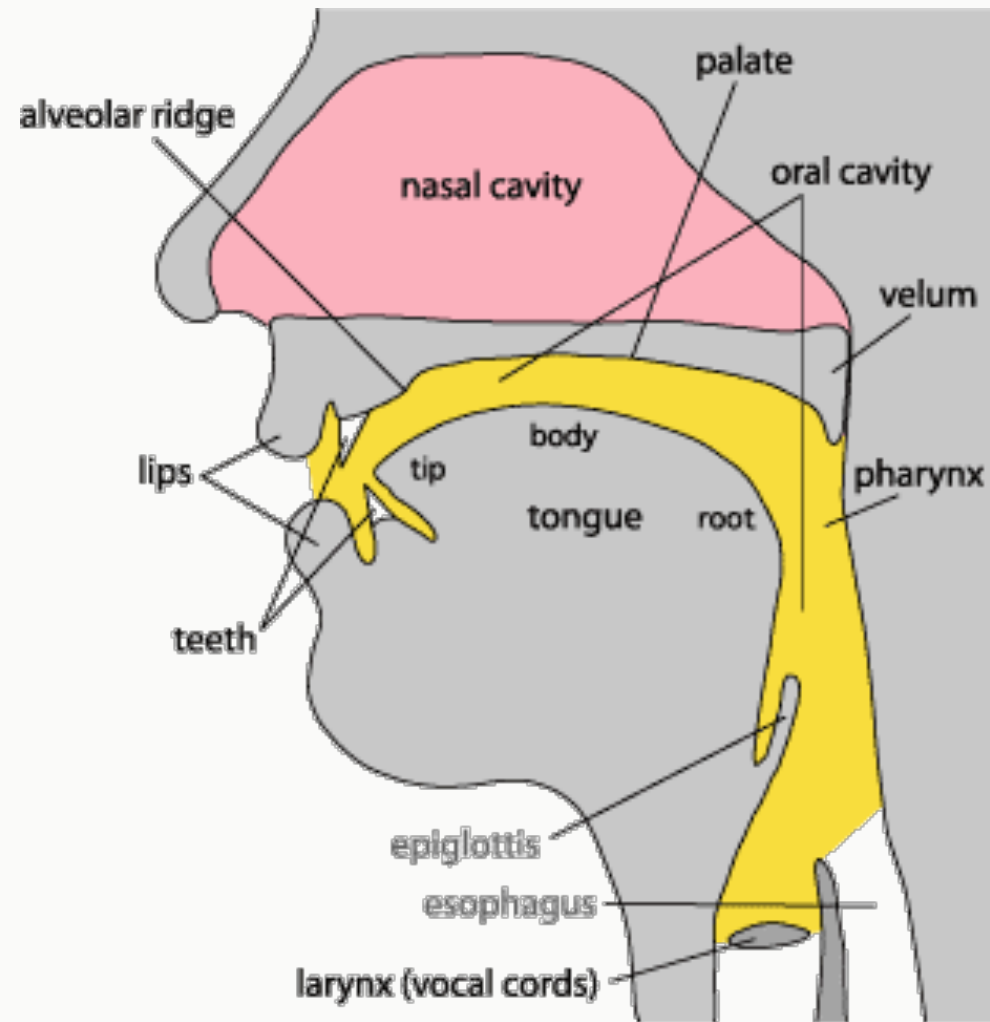
3. The **hard palate**:  
is often called the  
“**roof of the  
mouth**”. You can  
feel its smooth  
surface with  
your tongue.



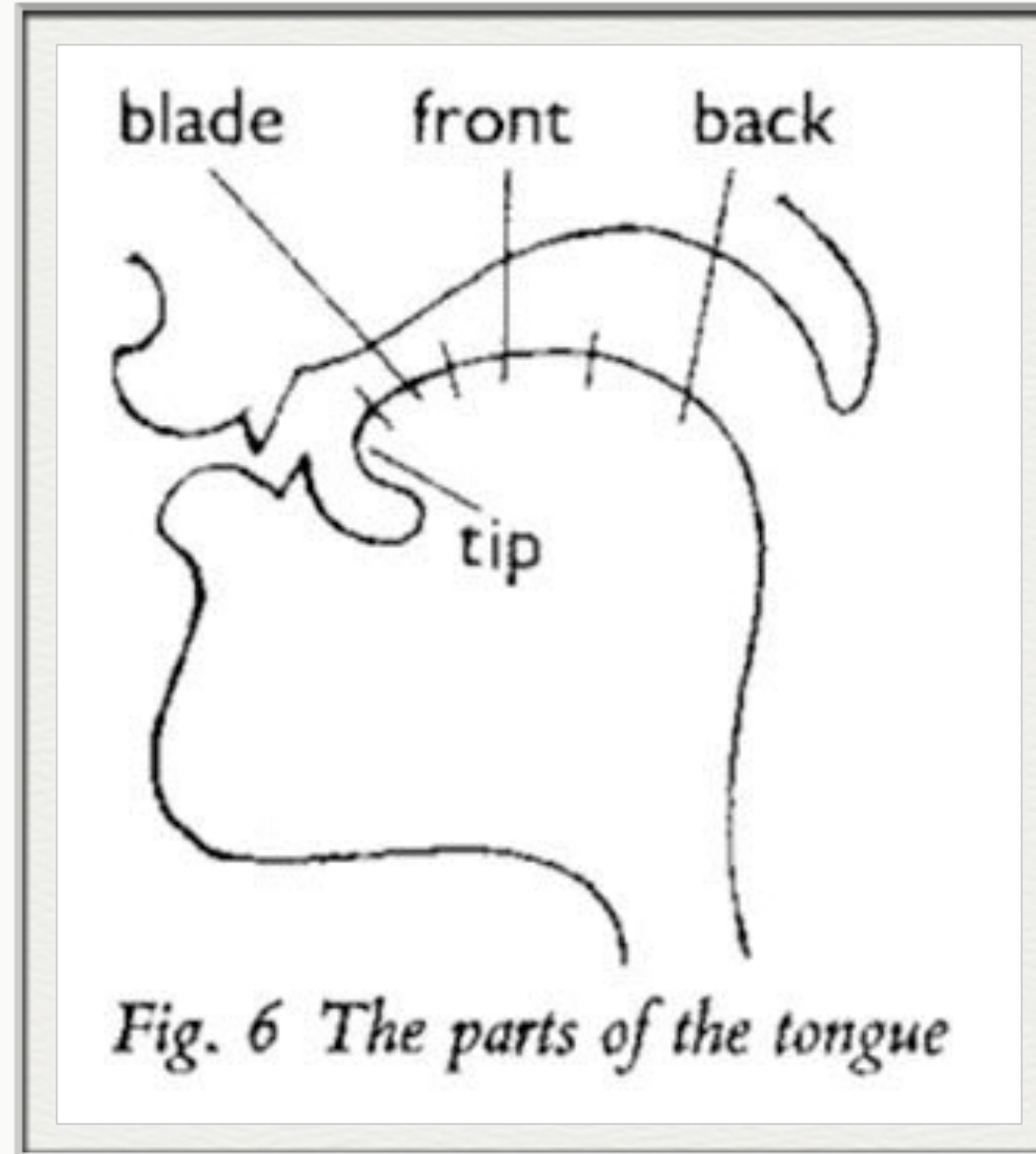
**4. The alveolar ridge:** is  
**between the top front teeth and the hard palate.**



5. The **tongue**: is a very important articulator which can be moved into many different places and shapes.



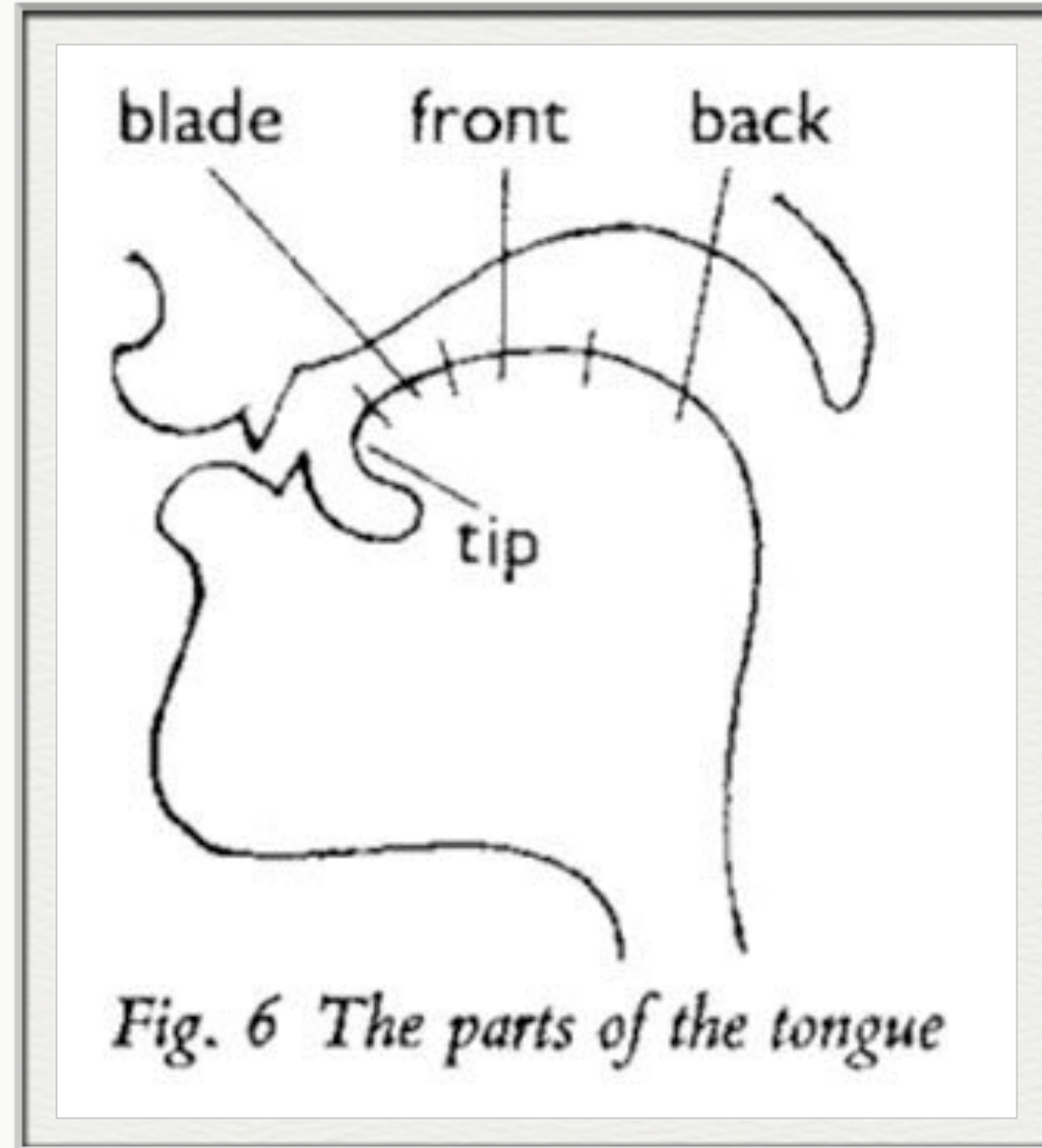
It is divided into different parts, though there are no clear dividing lines within the tongue.



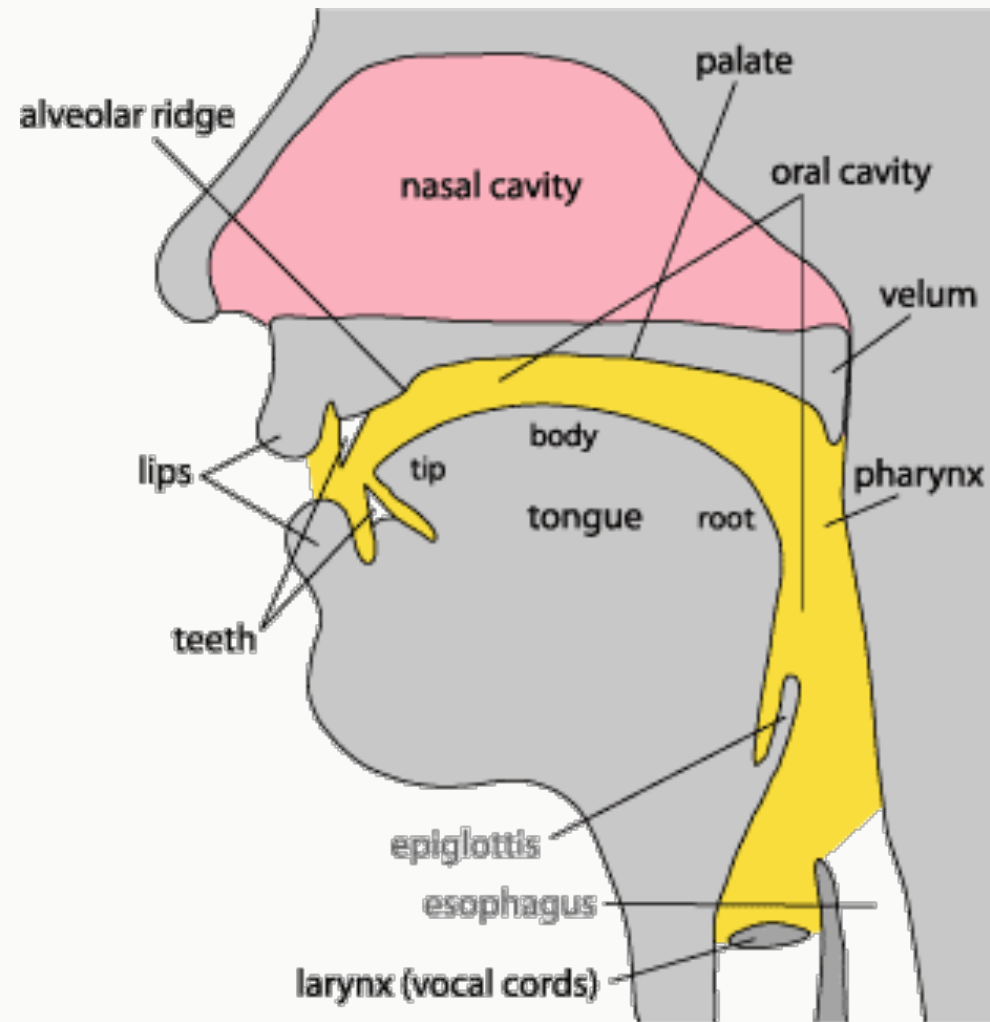
*Fig. 6 The parts of the tongue*

# The different parts are:

- 1.tip
- 2.blade
- 3.front
- 4.back



**6. The teeth:**  
(upper & lower) are shown at the front of the mouth behind the lips.

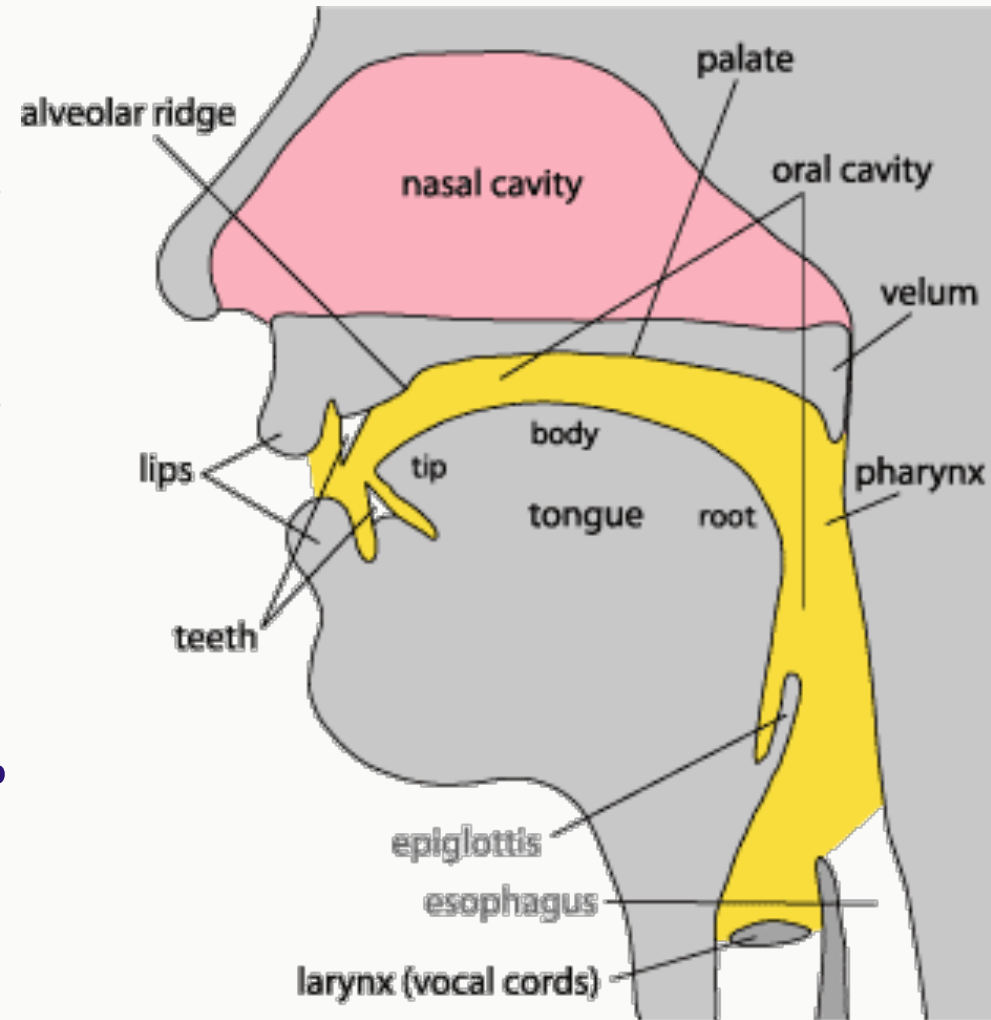




**The tongue is to contact with the upper side teeth for many speech sounds.**

7. The **lips:** are important in speech. They can be:

\* pressed together to produce *p*, *b*,



\* **brought into contact with the teeth as in *f*, *v*,**

\* **or rounded to produce the lip-shape for vowels like *o*.**

**The seven articulators**  
**described above are the**  
**main ones used in speech.**