

The Organs of Speech

Dr. Omayma Al-Mughrabi

Lect. Ghada Al-Kuwaihes

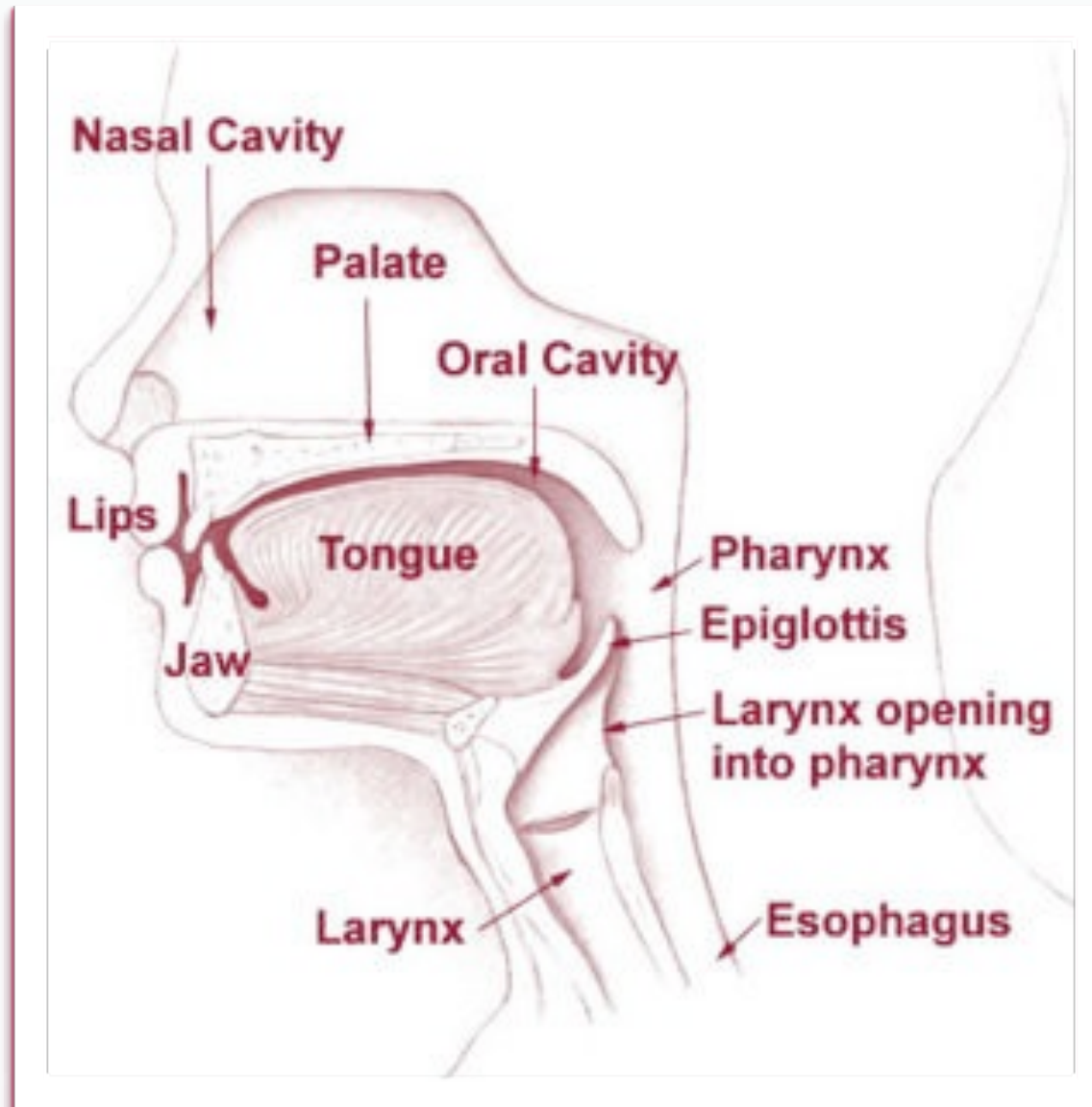
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- All sounds we make when we speak are the result of muscles contracting.

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

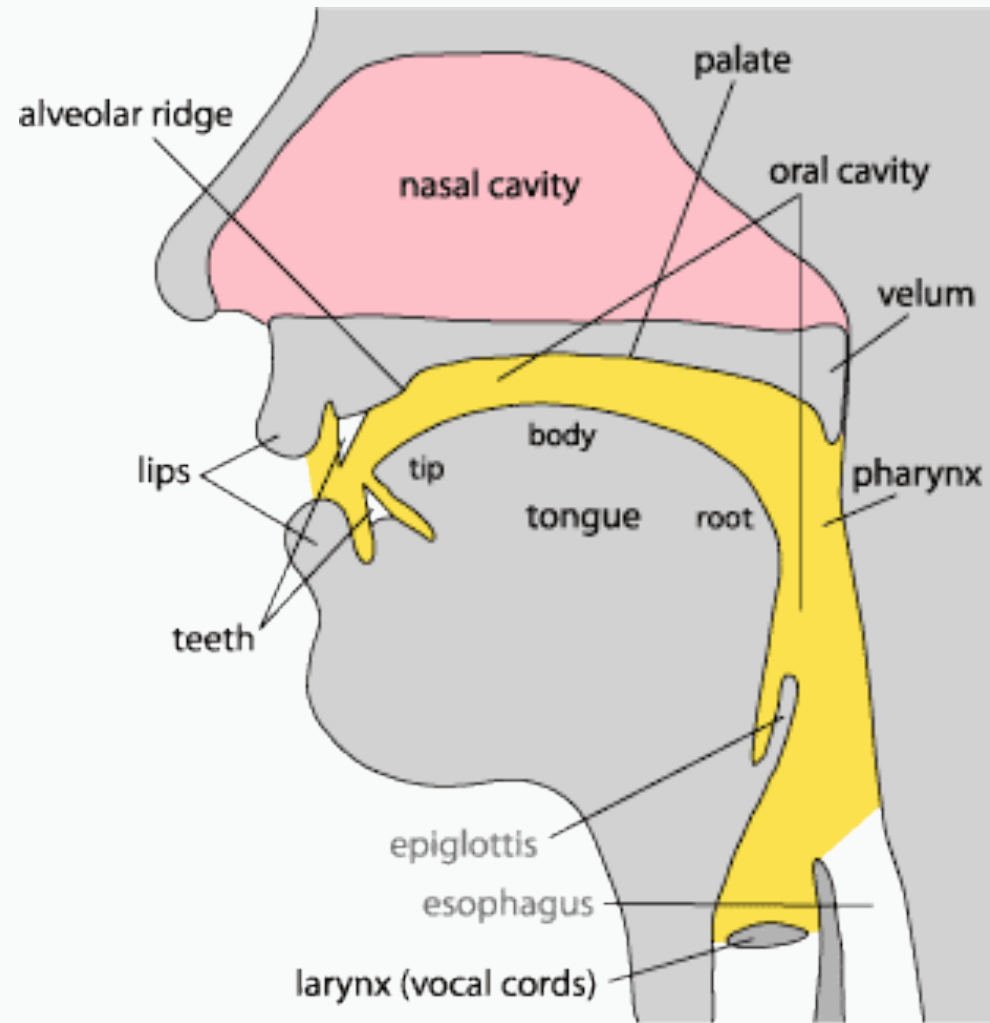
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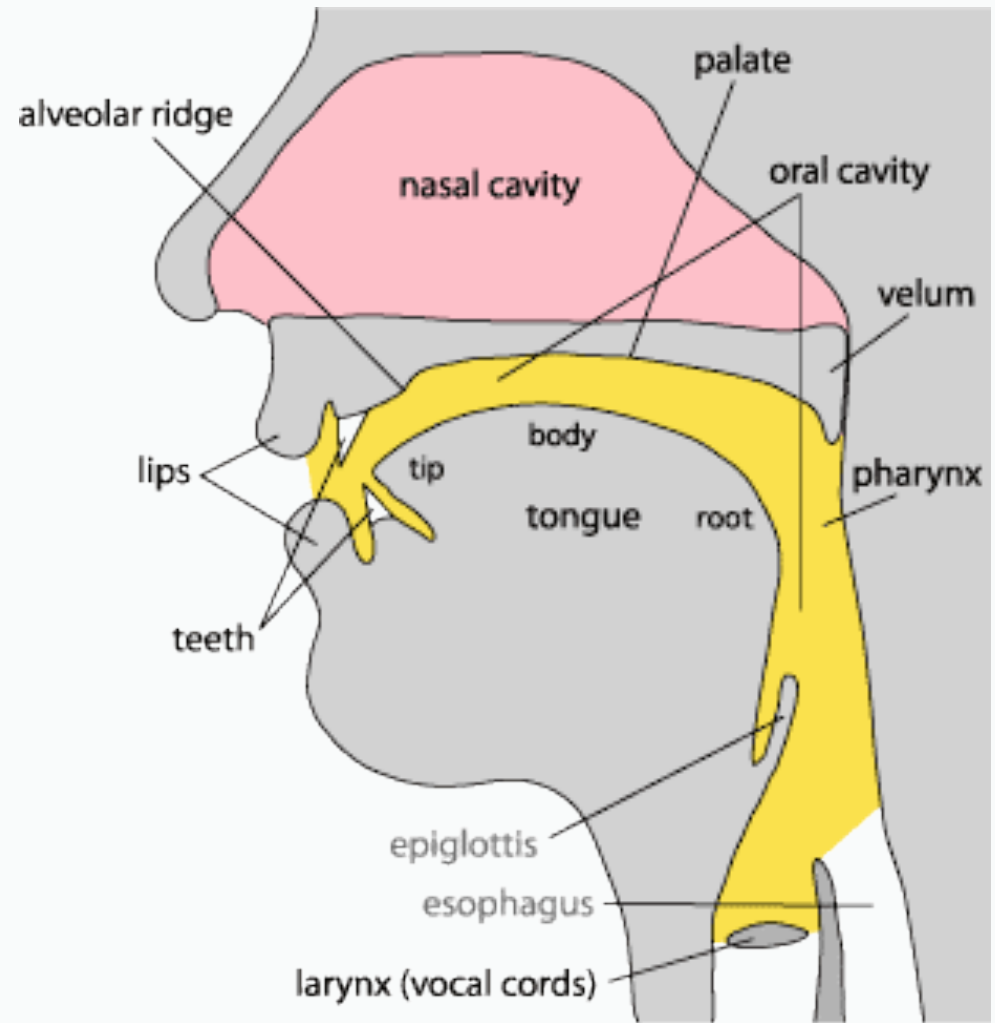
- The different parts of the vocal tract are called **articulators**, and the study of them is called **articulatory phonetics**.

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

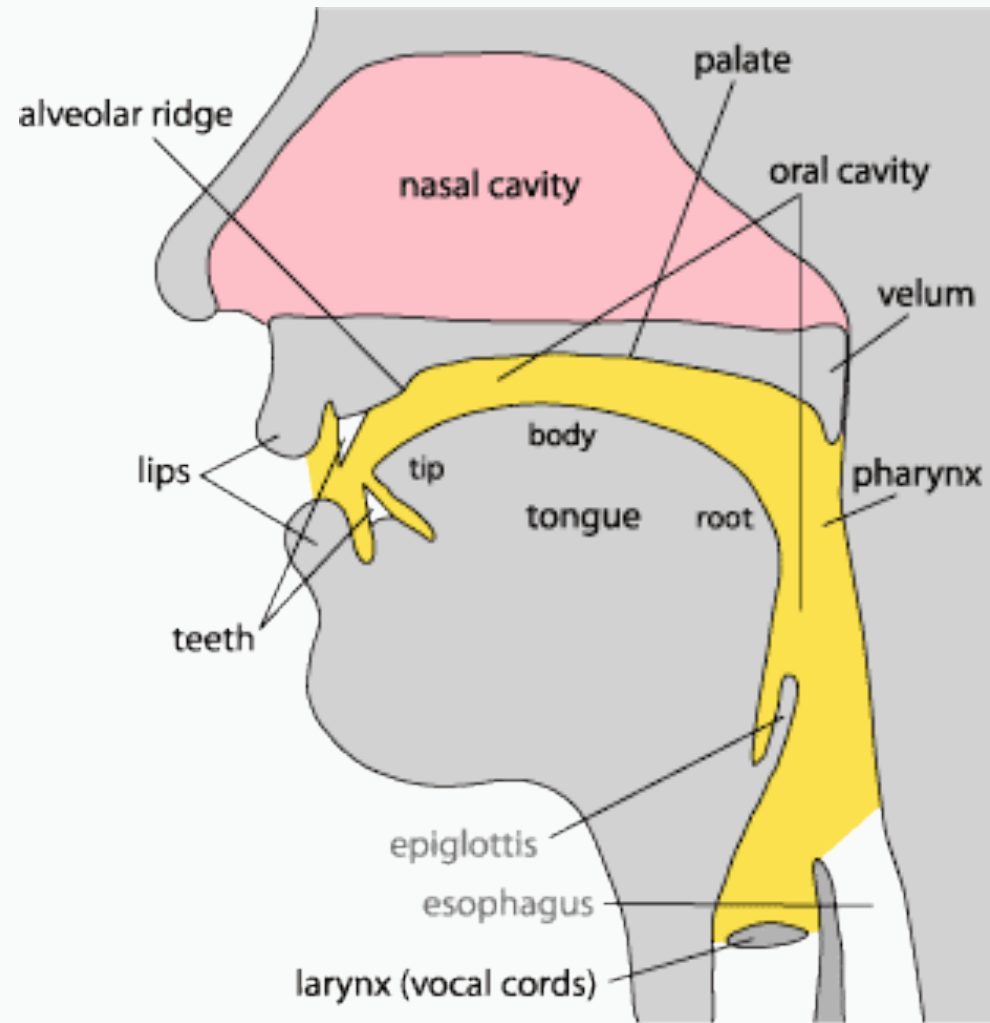


**1. the back of
the mouth,**

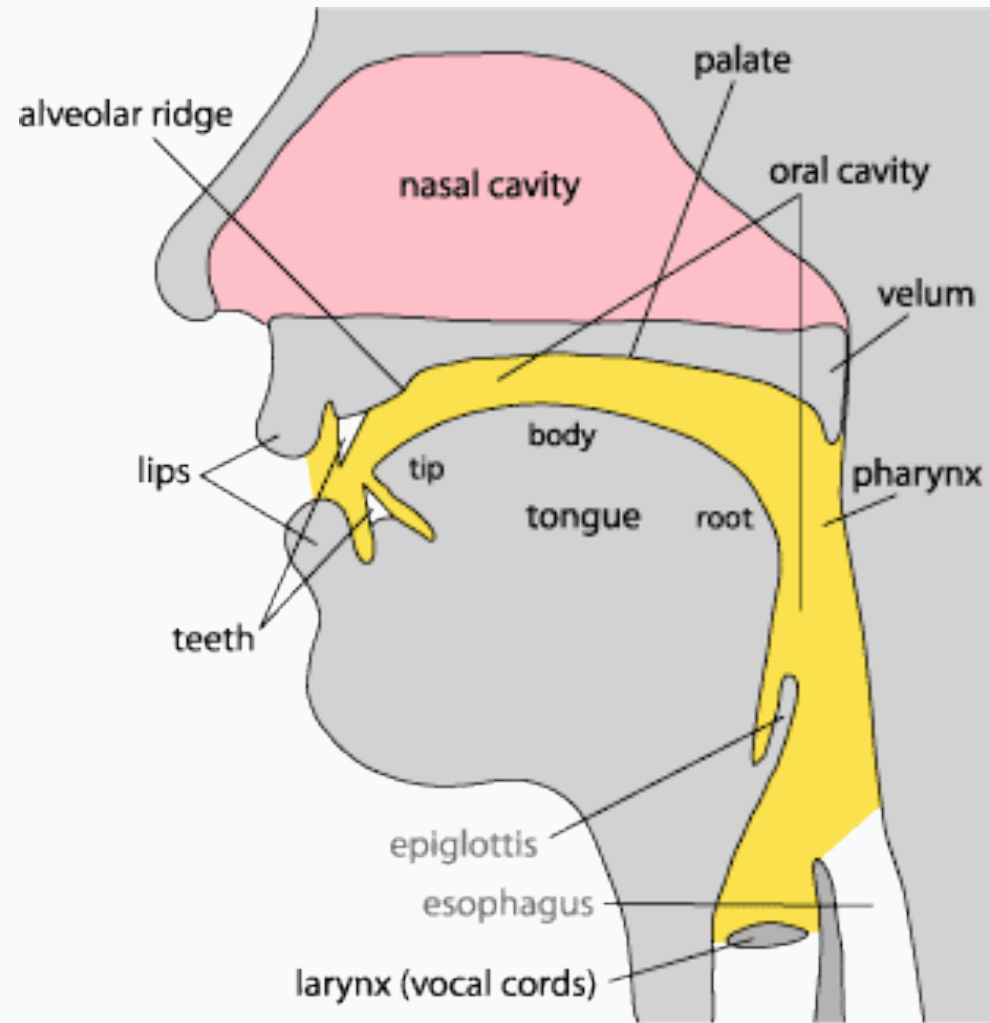
**2. and the
beginning of the
way through the
nasal cavity.**



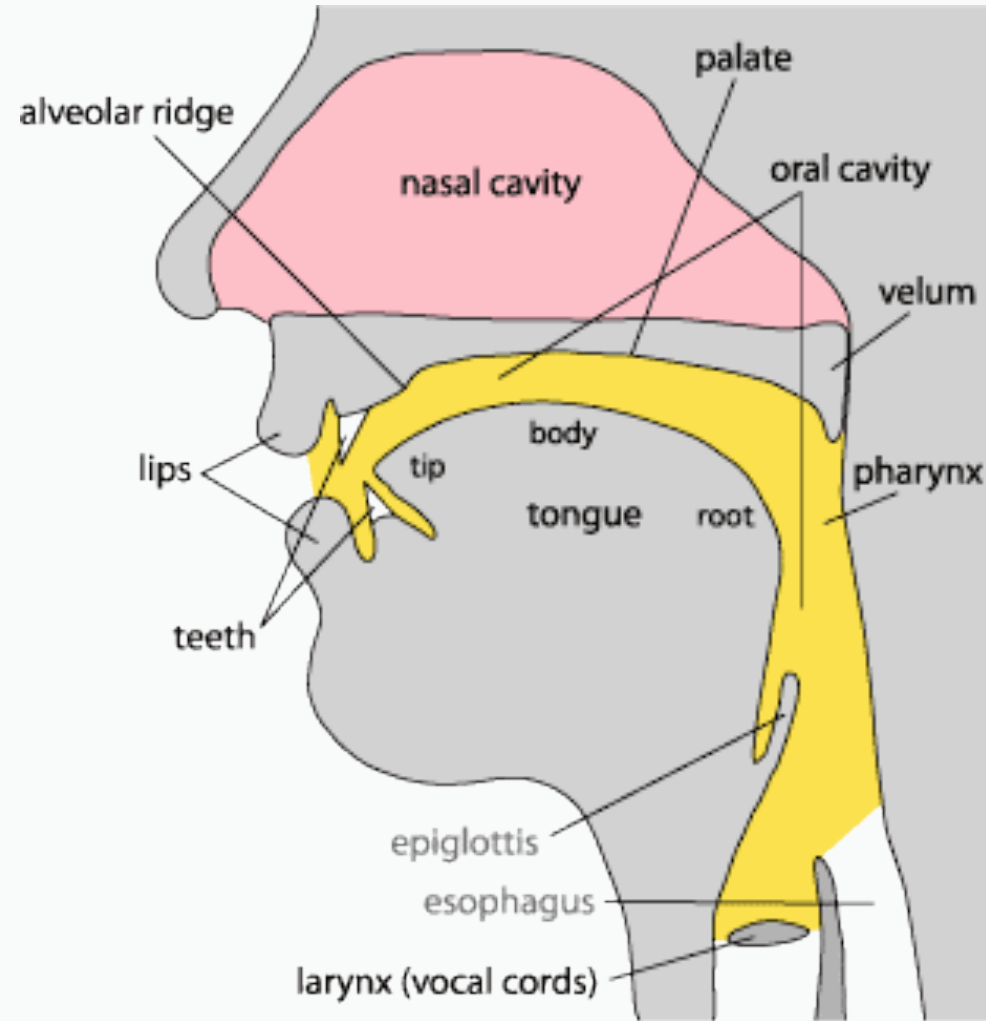
2. The **velum** or **soft palate**: is in a position that allows air to pass through the nose and through the mouth.



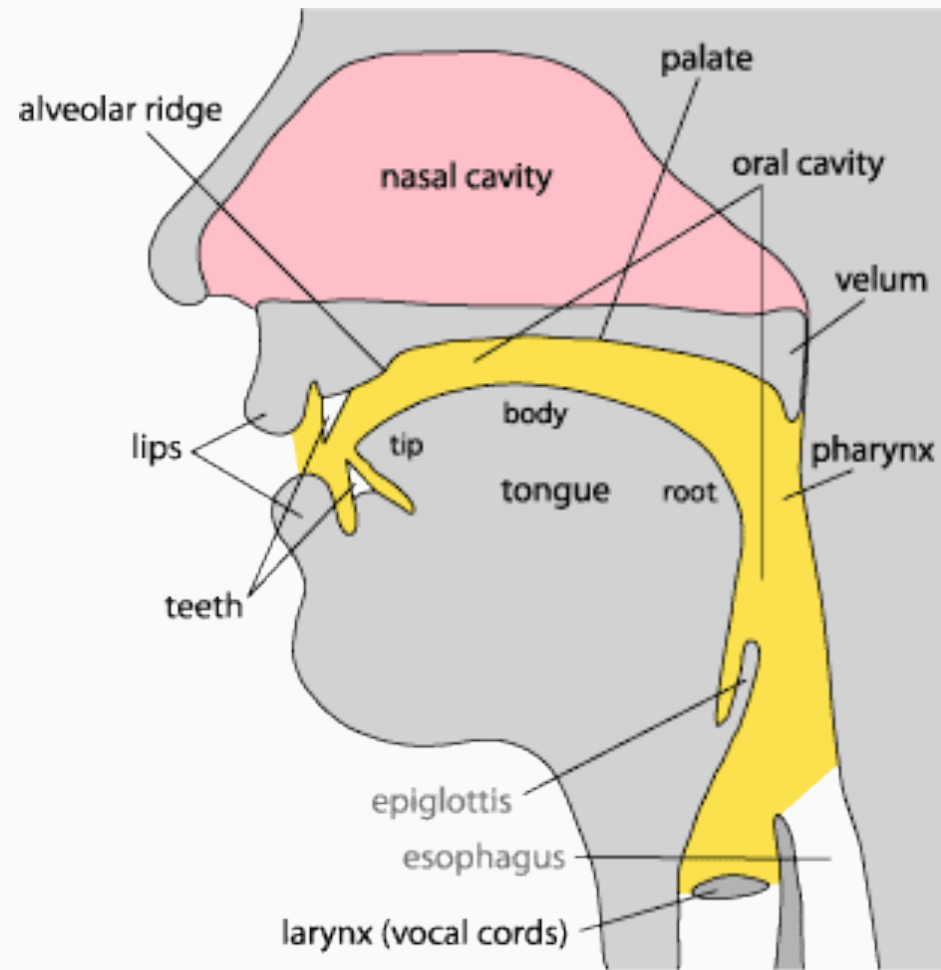
**Often in speech,
it is raised so
that air cannot
escape through
the nose.**



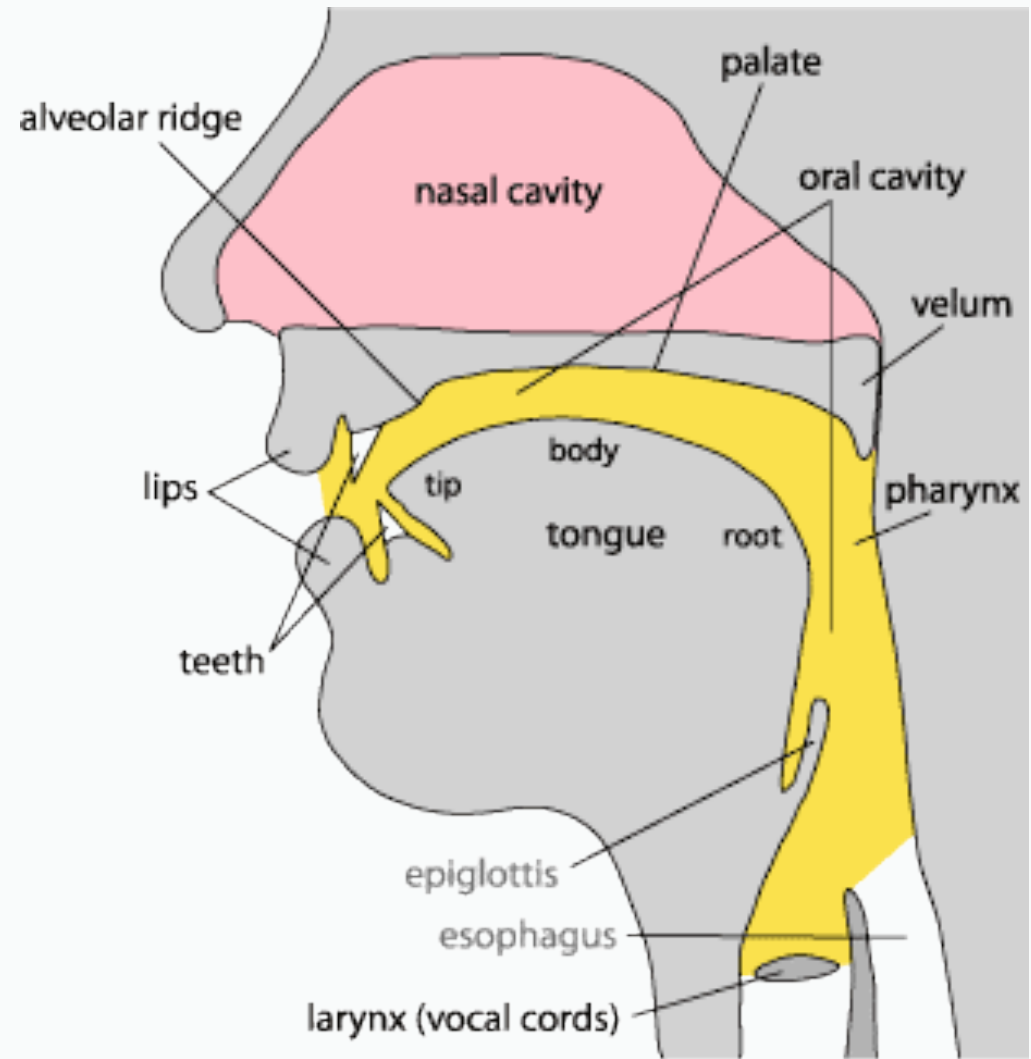
The other important thing is that it is one of the articulators that can be touched by the tongue.



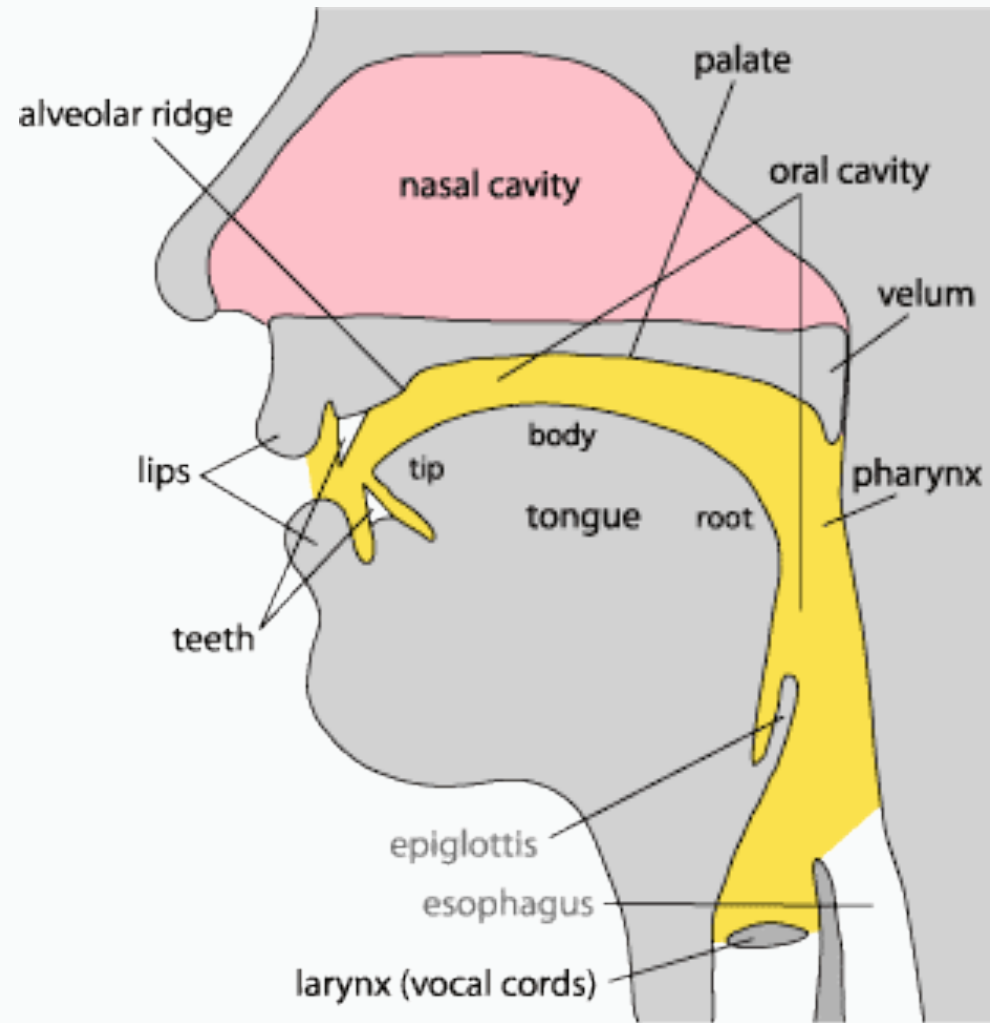
3. The hard palate:
is often called the
“**roof of the**
mouth”. You can
feel its smooth
surface with
your tongue.



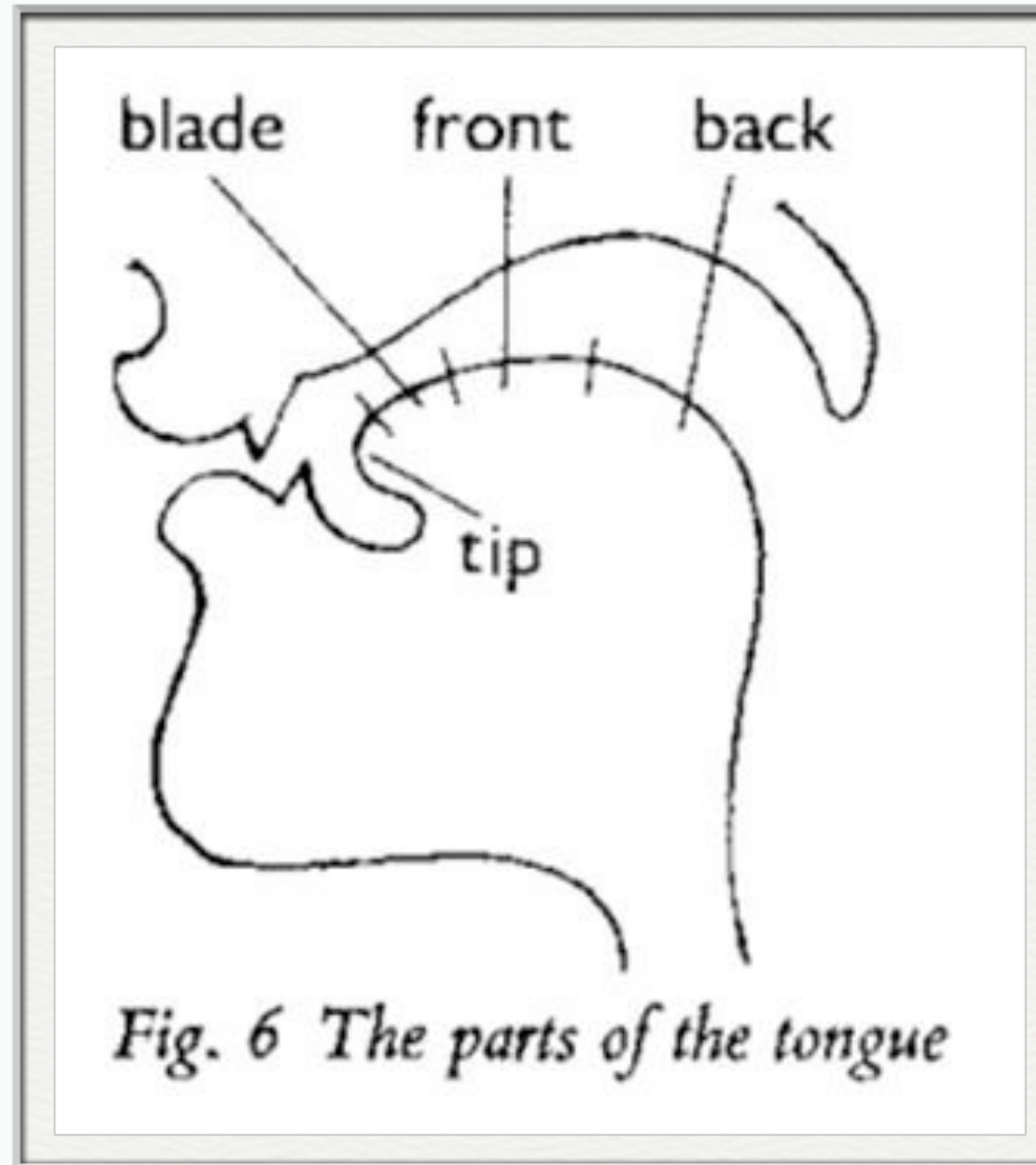
4. The alveolar ridge: is
between the top front teeth and the hard palate.



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

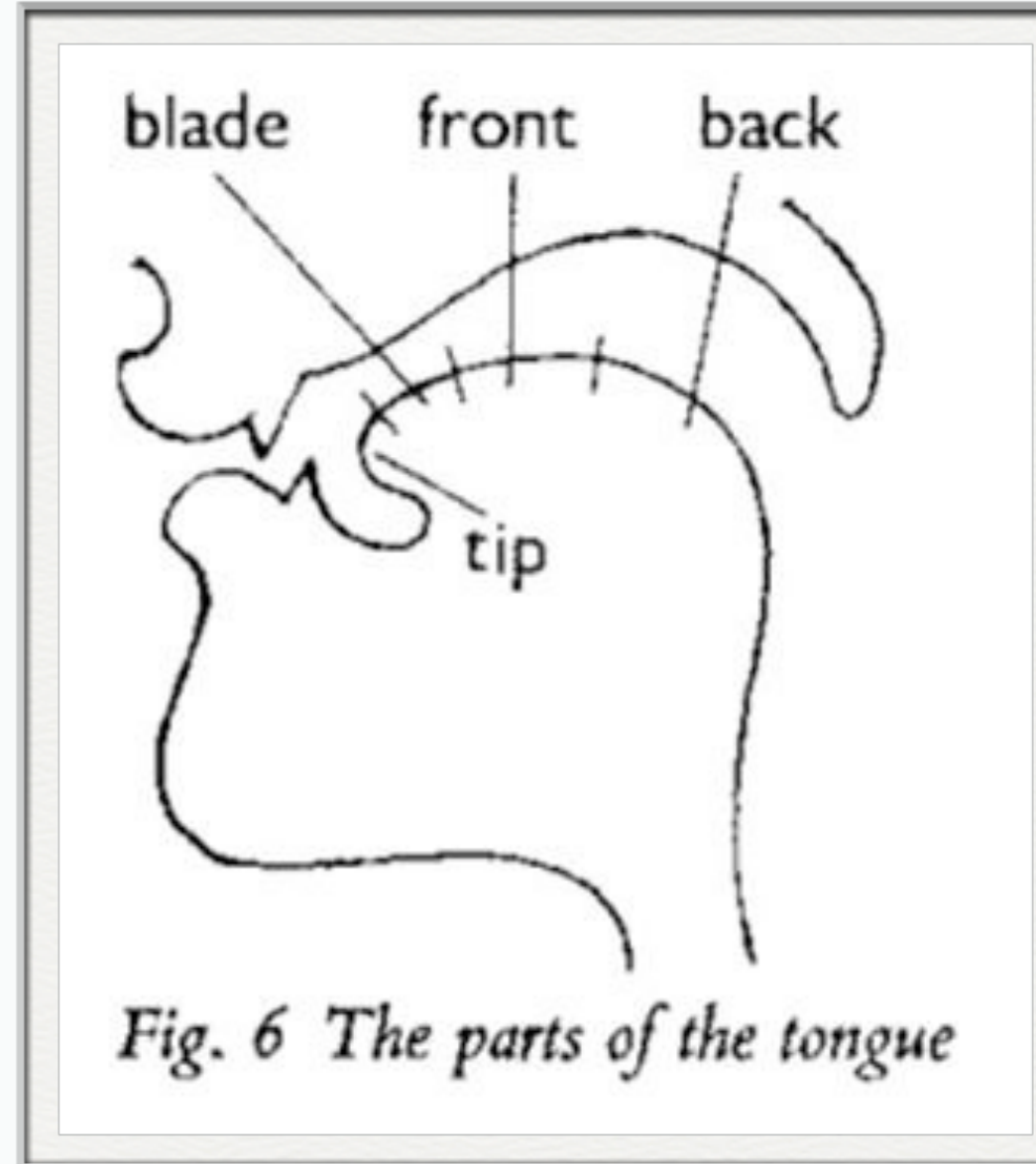


It is divided into different parts, though there are no clear dividing lines within the tongue.

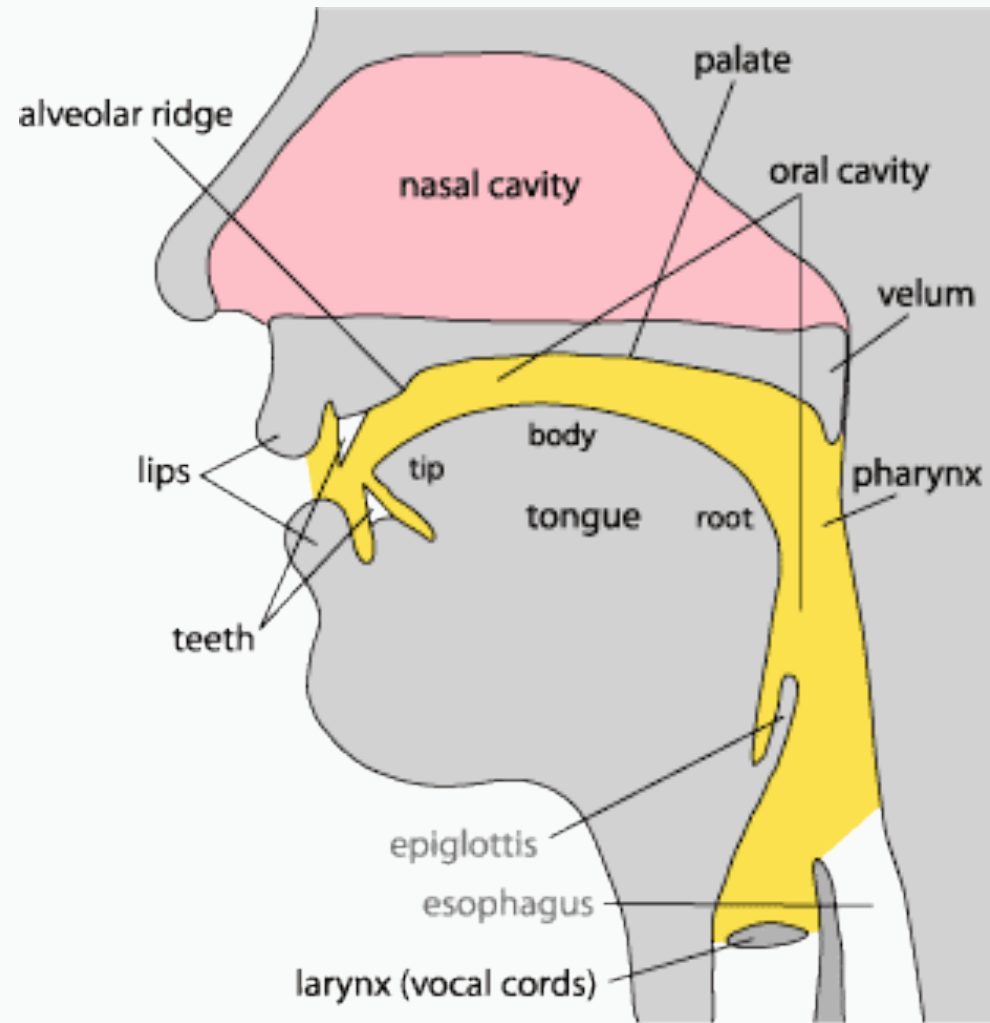


The different parts are:

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



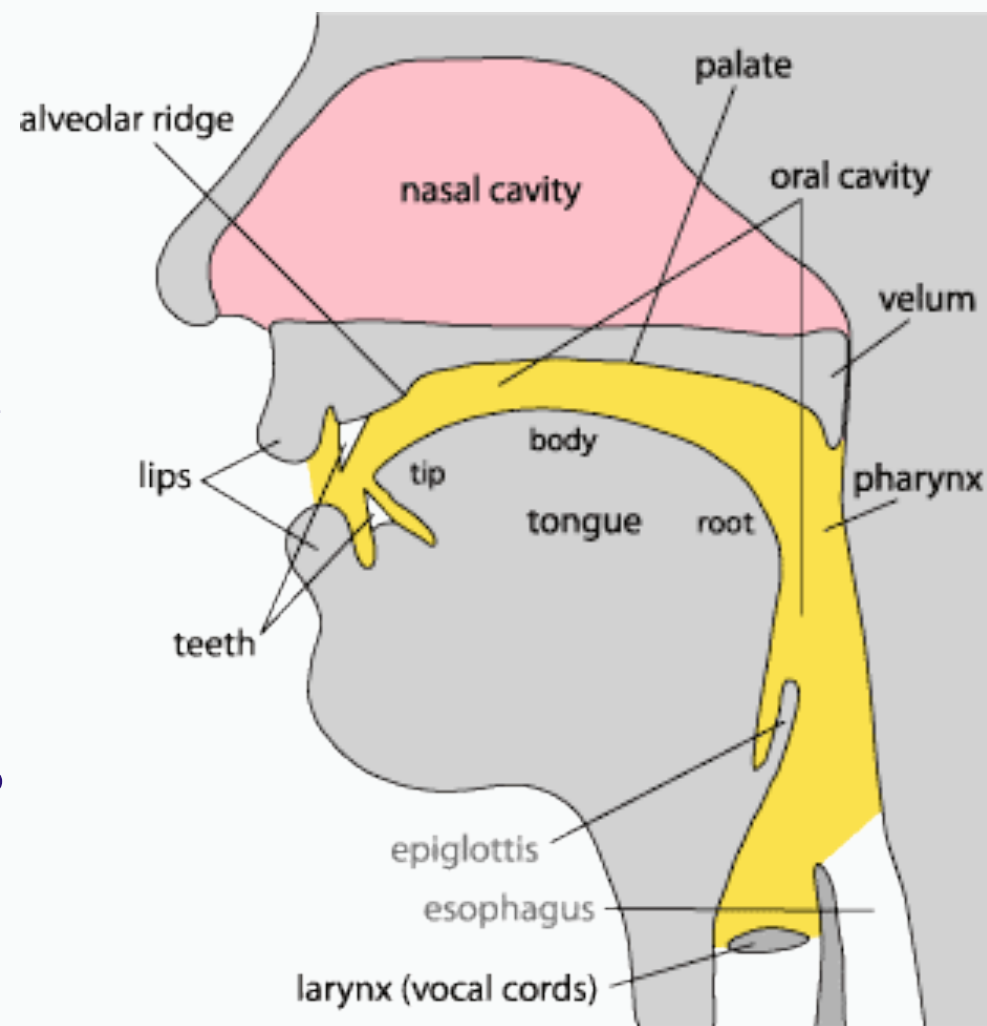
6. The teeth:
(upper & lower) are shown at the front of the mouth behind the lips.



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.