SOUND DESCRIPTION

Click on each sound to learn more about its description.

South African Multilingual Consonants Chat														
		LABIAL					DENTAL	ALVEOLAR		POST-ALVEOLAR	PALATAL	VELAR	GLOTTAL
		plain	dental	alveolar	Post-alveolar	velar		plain	lateral				
Stop	voiceless	p						t			c	k	ʔ
	voiced	b ɓ						d			ɟ	g ɠ	
Fricative	voiceless	ɸ	f fʃ	ɸs	ɸʃ		θ	s	ɬ	ʃ	ç	x	h
	voiced	β	v		βʒ		ð	z	ɮ	ʒ	ʝ	ɣ	ɦ
Affricate	voiceless		pf	ps	pʃ			ts	tɬ	tʃ		kx	
	voiced		b̪v	dβ				dz	dɮ	dʒ			
Click	voiceless						ǀ		ǁ		ǃ		
	voiced						ɡǀ		ɡǁ		ǂ		
Nasal		m	mɱ					n			ɲ	ŋ	
Rhotic								r					
Approximant						w			l		j		

NB:

In the images that show the production of each sound, the open glottis is indicated by an oval shape; the closed one with two parallel skewed lines.

1. Voiceless Bilabial Plosive

The /p/ sound is a bilabial sound, which means it is produced by pressing both lips together with a sudden release of air. This sound is made when the air is released through the lips and slightly open teeth. The sound you hear comes from the pressure of the air that is released. This sound has the following features:

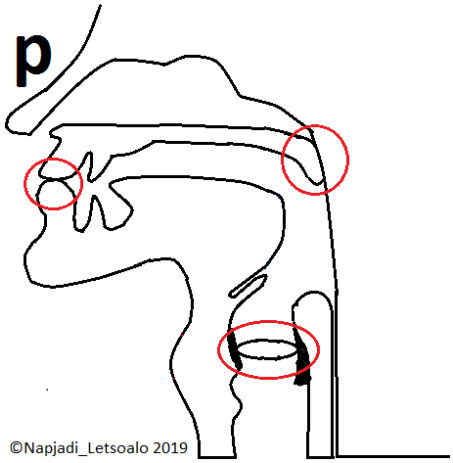
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiceless Bilabial Plosive /p/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
i**p**epile	**p**ala	**p**elo	to**p**
ipepile.m4a	Pala.mp4	Pelo.aac	top.aac

Voiceless Bilabial Aspirated Plosive /p^{h}/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
pheka	**ph**ala	**ph**ela	**p**ot
pheka.m4a	phala.mp4	Phela.aac	Pot.aac

2. Voiced Bilabial Plosive

The /b/ sound is a *bilabial* sound, which means it is produced by pressing both lips together, followed by a sudden release of air. This sound is made with the lips seemingly remaining at the same position. It is also a *voiced* sound, which means that the vocal cords are vibrating when the breath is released from the lips. The sound you

hear comes from the vibration of the speaker's vocal cords. It has the following features:

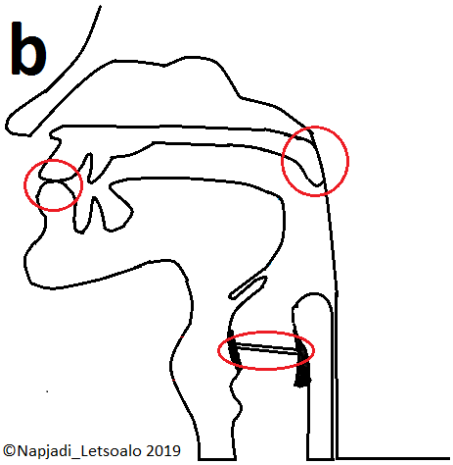
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
bala	**b**aba	-	**b**ay
bala.m4a	baba.mp4	-	Bay.aac

3. Voiced Bilabial Implosive

The /ɓ/ sound is a *bilabial* sound, that is produced by pressing both lips together and drawing air in by pumping the glottis downward. It is a voiced sound, which means that the vocal cords are vibrating when the breath is released from the lips. The sound you hear comes from the vibration of the speaker's vocal cords. This sound has the following features:

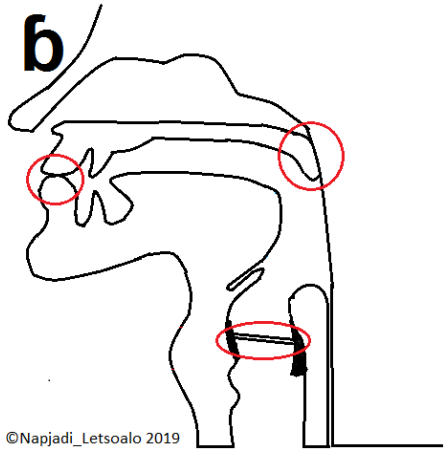
Airstream mechanism: Glottalic Ingressive

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
bhala	-	-	-
bhala.m4a	-	-	-

4. Voiceless Bilabial Fricative

The /ɸ/ sound is a bilabial fricative sound. The sound is produced by constricting airflow through a narrow channel between the lips when pressing both lips together, causing turbulence. This sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is a result of the friction between the lips. This sound has the following features:

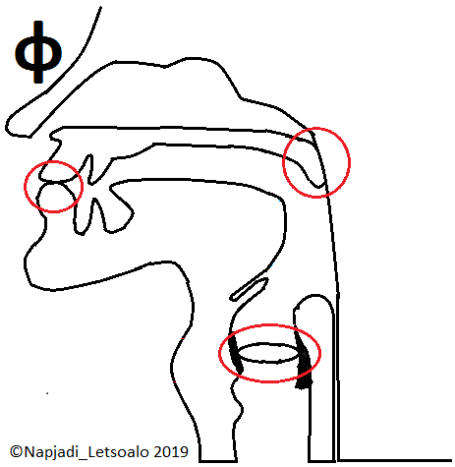
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	**fh**uri	-	-

-	Fhuri.mp4	-	-

5. Voiced Bilabial Fricative

The /β/ sound is a *bilabial* fricative sound. The sound is produced by constricting airflow through a narrow channel between the lips when pressing both lips together, causing turbulence. This sound is voiced, which means it is produced with vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is a result of the friction between the lips and the vocal folds' vibration. This sound has the following features:

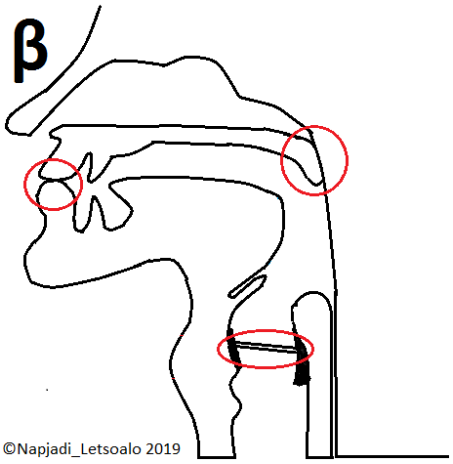
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	**vh**abebi	**b**aba	-
-	Vhabebi.mp4	Baba.aac	-

6. Voiced Bilabial Nasal

The /m/ sound is a nasal sound. It is produced by completely closing the mouth and lips. The velum is lowered to allow the air to travel through the nose. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear comes only from the movement of air through the nasal cavity and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

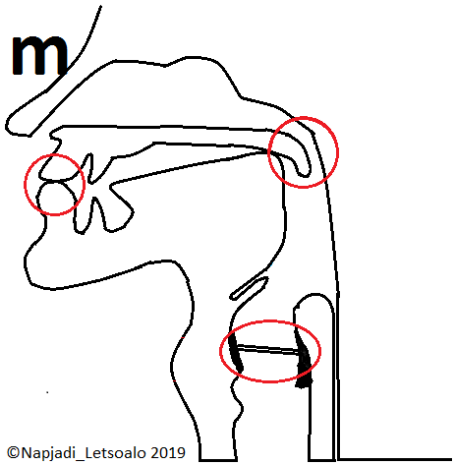
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Lowered

Place of articulation: Bilabial

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiced Bilabial Nasal /m/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
molo	**m**ali	**m**otho	**m**an
molo.m4a	Mali.mp4	Motho.aac	man.aac

Voiced Bilabial Aspirated Nasal /mʰ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
mhumha	-	-	-
mhumha.m4a	-	-	-

7. Voiceless Labiodental Fricative

The /f/ sound is a labiodental sound. It is produced by lightly placing the lower lip between the front teeth and blowing the air through. The contact of the active and passive articulators constrict airflow through a narrow channel between them, causing turbulence. This sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is because of the friction between the lower lip and the front teeth. This sound has the following features:

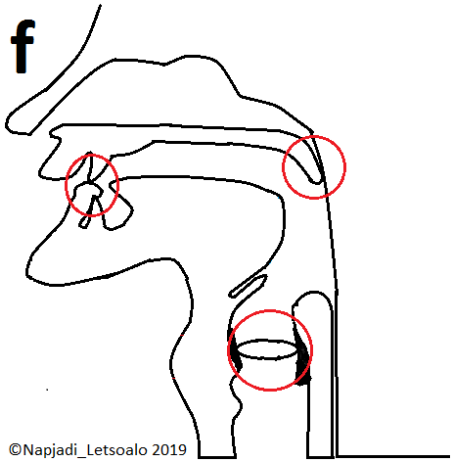
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Labiodental

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
fihla	fula	fofa	fee
fihla.m4a	Fula.mp4	Fofa.aac	Fee.aac

8. Voiceless Labiodental-Postalveolar Fricative

The /fʃ/ sound is a labiodental postalveolar sound. It is produced by lightly placing the lower lip between the front teeth and slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth without touching the roof of the mouth. The contact of the active and passive articulators constrict airflow through a narrow channel between them, causing turbulence. This sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound produced is because of the friction between the lower lip, the front teeth and the roof of the mouth. This sound has the following features:

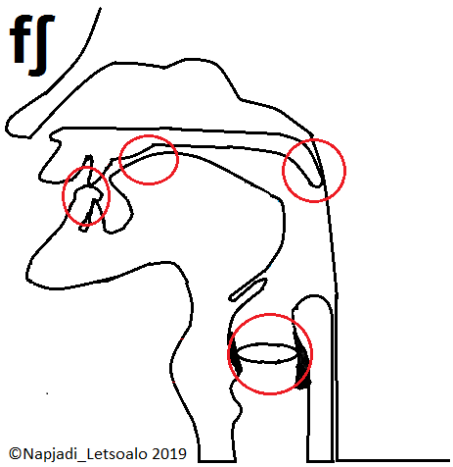
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Labiodental Post-alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	le**fš**iega	-
-	-	Lefsiega.aac	-

9. Voiced Labiodental Fricative

The /v/ sound is labiodental; it is produced by gently placing the lower lip between the front teeth and blowing the air through. The contact of the active and passive articulators constrict airflow through a narrow channel between them, causing turbulence. This sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is a result of the friction between the lower lip and the front teeth, and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

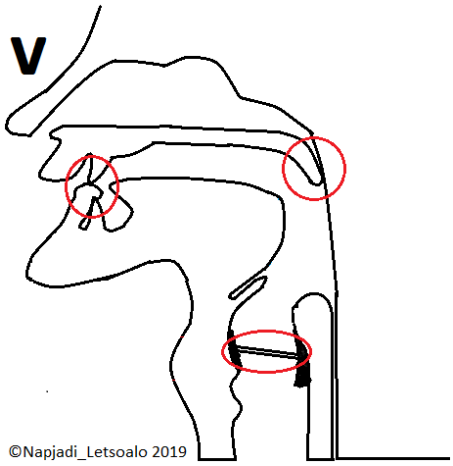
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Labiodental

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
vula	**v**ula	-	**v**ow
vula.m4a	Vula.mp4	-	Vow.aac

10. Voiceless Labiodental Affricate

The /pf/ sound is labiodental. It is produced by first stopping the airflow entirely by lightly putting the lower lip between the front teeth, then blowing the air through a constricted channel at the place of articulation, causing turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you

hear is because of the air passing between the lower lip and teeth. This sound has the following features:

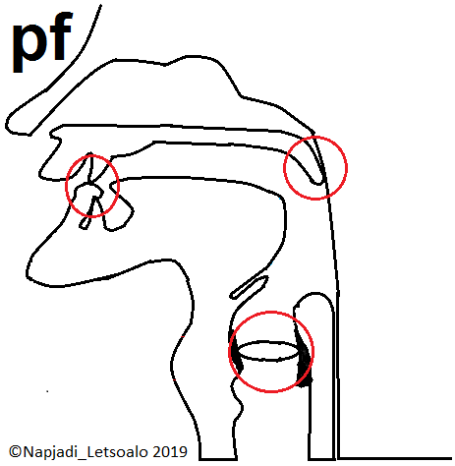
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Labiodental

Manner of articulation: Affricate



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	**pf**ano	-	-
-	Pfano.mp4	-	-

11. Voiced Labiodental Affricate

The /p̪v/ sound is labiodental. It is produced by first stopping the airflow entirely by lightly putting the lower lip between the front teeth, and then blowing the air to allow it through a constricted channel at the place of articulation, causing turbulence. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the lower lip and teeth, and also the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

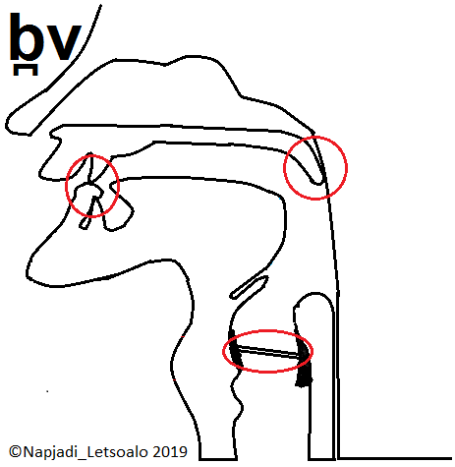
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Labiodental

Manner of articulation: Affricate



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	**bv**umo	-	-
-	Bvumo.mp4	-	-

12. Voiced Labiodental Nasal

The /ɱ/ sound is a labiodental nasal sound. It is produced by first stopping the airflow in the mouth by lightly putting the lower lip between the front teeth; the velum is then lowered to allow the air to travel through the nose, then the lower lip is released from the teeth and the velum raised to allow the air to also escape through the mouth. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear results only from the movement of air through the nasal cavity and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

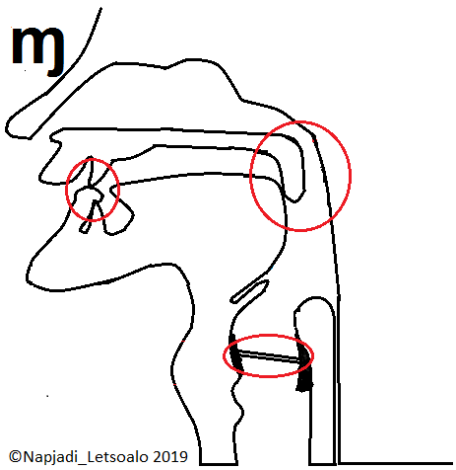
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Lowered

Place of articulation: Labiodental

Manner of articulation: Stop



13. Voiceless Bilabial Alveolar Fricative

The sound /ɸs/ is a bilabial alveolar fricative. It is produced by pressing both lips together while placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and raising the front part of the tongue towards the small ridge just behind the teeth. The contact of the active and passive articulators constrict airflow through a narrow channel between them, causing turbulence and leaving a passage for air through the middle of the tongue. This sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear comes as a result of the friction between the lower lip and the front teeth. This sound has the following features:

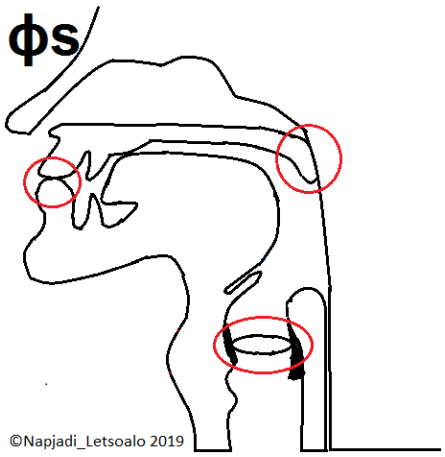
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	lefsifsi	-
-	-	Lefsifsi.aac	-

14. Voiceless Labio-Alveolar Affricate

The /ps/ sound is a labio-alveolar sound. It is produced by pressing both lips together while placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and raising the front part of the tongue towards the small ridge just behind the teeth, without the tongue touching the roof of the mouth leaving a passage for air through the middle of the tongue. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the roof of the mouth, then directing the airflow with the tongue to the sharp edge of the teeth, causing high-frequency turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

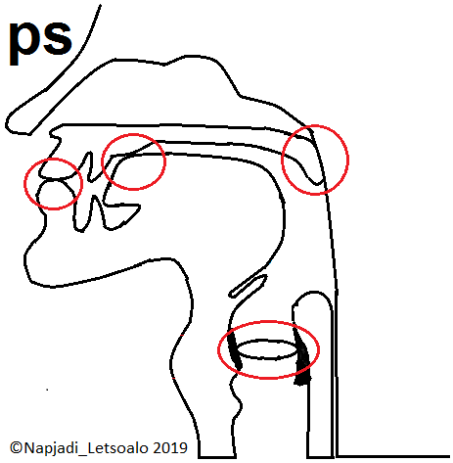
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



Voiceless Labio-alveolar Affricate /ps/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	psila	-
-	-	Psila.aac	-

Voiceless Labio-alveolar Aspirated Affricate /ps^{h}/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	pshio	-
-	-	Pshio.aac	-

15. Voiceless Bilabial Post-Alveolar Fricative

The sound /ɸʃ/ is a bilabial alveolar fricative. It is produced by pressing both lips together while placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth without touching the roof of the mouth. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the upper side teeth channelling airflow along a groove in the back of the tongue up to the post alveolar region. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is as a result of the air passing through the middle of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

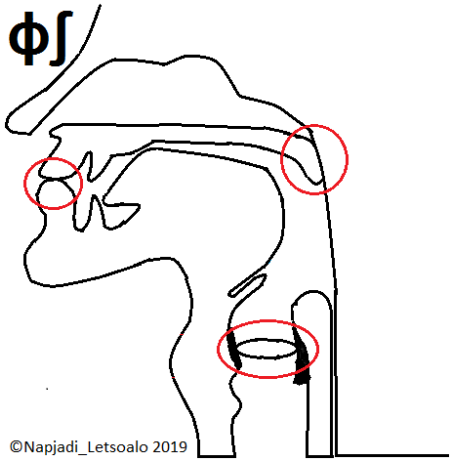
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial Post-Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	bofša	-
-	-	Bofsa.aac	-

16. Voiced Bilabial Post-Alveolar Fricative

The sound /βʒ/ is a bilabial alveolar fricative. It is produced by pressing both lips together while placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth without touching the roof of the mouth. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the upper side teeth channelling airflow along a groove in the back of the tongue to the post alveolar region. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is as a result of the air passing through the middle of the tongue and the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

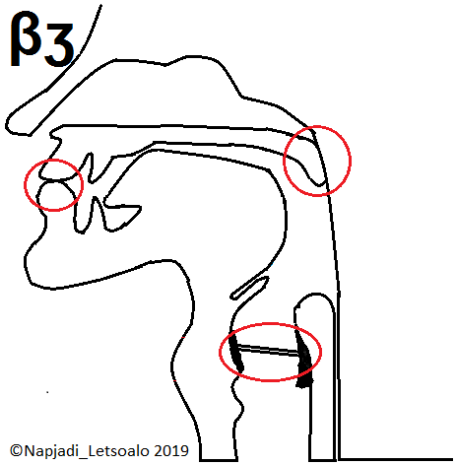
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Bilabial Post-Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	**bj**ala	-
-	-	Bjala.aac	-

17. Voiceless Labio-Postalveolar Affricate

The /pʃ/ sound is a labio-postalveolar sound. It is produced by pressing both lips together while slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth without touching the roof of the mouth. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the upper side teeth channelling airflow along a groove in the back of the tongue up to the post alveolar region. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

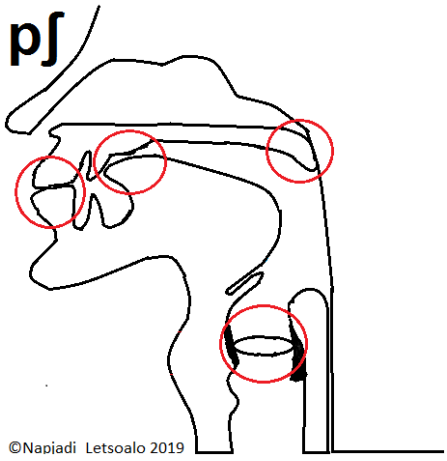
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Labio-Postalveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



Voiceless Labio-Postalveolar Affricate /pʃ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	m**pš**a	-
-	-	Mpsa.aac	-

Voiceless Labio-Postalveolar Aspirated Affricate /pʃʰ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	**pšh**atla	-
-	-	Pshatla.aac	-

18. Voiced Labio-Velar Approximant

The /w/ sound is a labio-velar sound. It is produced with the back part of the tongue raised toward the soft palate while rounding the lips. The movement of the tongue narrows the vocal tract at the velum, then directs the airstream along the center of the tongue. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is because of the air passing along the center of the tongue as well as the vibrations from the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

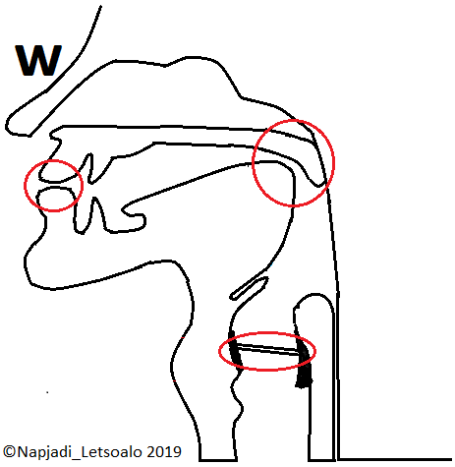
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Lowered

Place of articulation: Labio-Velar

Manner of articulation: Approximant



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
wena	**w**ana	**w**ešo	**w**in

wena.m4a	Wana.mp4	Weso.aac	Win.aac

19. Voiceless Interdental Fricative

The /θ/ sound is an interdental sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue between the front teeth, which constrict airflow through a narrow channel between the articulators, causing turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound produced is because of the air passing between the tongue and the front teeth. This sound has the following features:

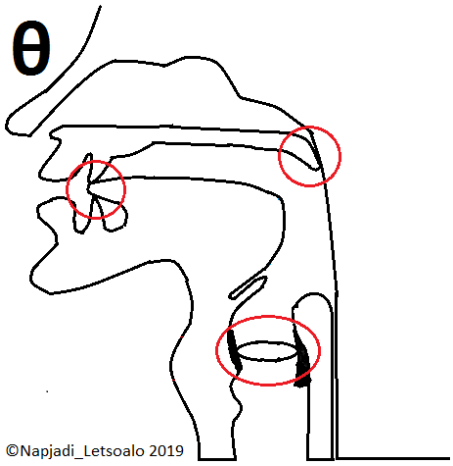
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Dental

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	-	thigh
-	-	-	Thigh.aac

20. Voiced Interdental Fricative

The /ð/ sound is an interdental sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue between the front teeth, which constrict airflow through a narrow channel between the articulators, causing turbulence. The sound is voiced, which means that the vocal folds vibrate when the sound is produced. The sound you hear is because of the air passing between the tongue and the front teeth, and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

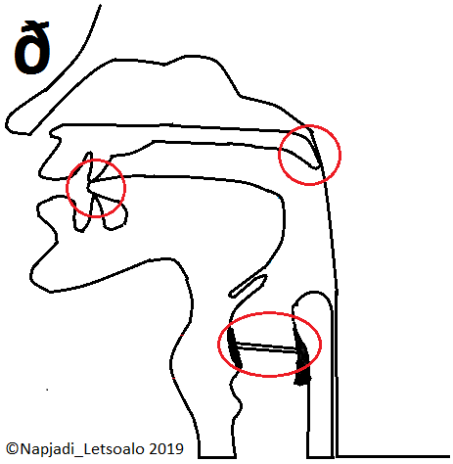
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Dental

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	-	them
-	-	-	Them.aac

21. Voiceless Dental Click

The /ǀ/ sound is a dental sound. It is produced with either the tip or the blade of the tongue at the upper teeth. During the production of the sound, the tip or blade of the tongue stops the airflow at the dental region, then directs the airstream along the center of the tongue. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is solely because of the release of air. This sound has the following features:

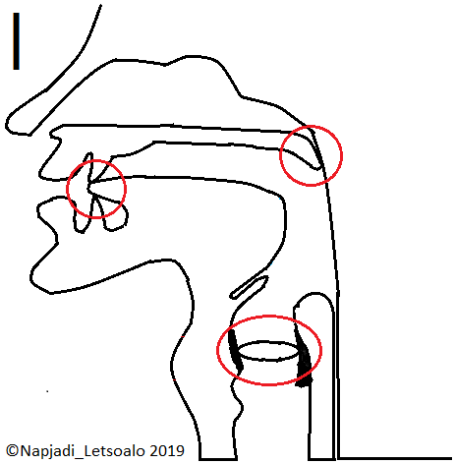
Airstream mechanism: Velaric ingressive

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Dental

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
cela	-	-	-
cela.m4a	-	-	-

22. Voiced Dental Click

The /ʛ|/ sound is a dental sound. It is produced with either the tip or the blade of the tongue at the upper teeth. During the production of the sound, the tip or blade of the tongue stops the airflow at the dental region, then directs the airstream along the center of the tongue. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is as a result of the release of air and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

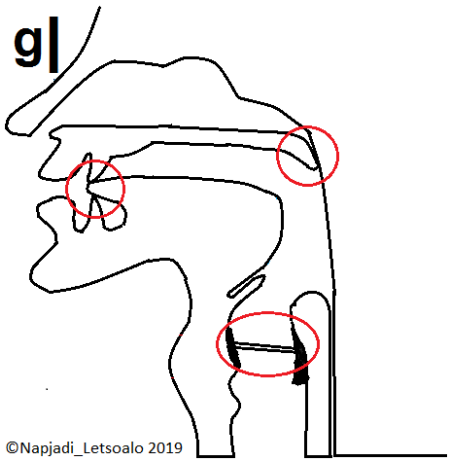
Airstream mechanism: Velaric ingressive

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Dental

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English

umgcagco	-	-	-
umgcagco.m4a	-	-	-

23. Voiceless Alveolar Plosive

The /t/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by simply placing the tip of the tongue on the small ridge just behind the teeth. During the production of the sound, the air that is pushed through the mouth is stopped by the tongue and then released. The sound you hear comes only from that release of air. This sound has the following features:

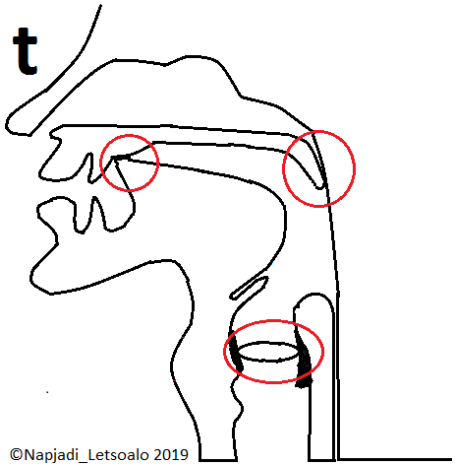
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiceless Alveolar Plosive /t/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
tata	tupula	toka	stop
Tata.m4a	Tupula.mp4	Toka.aac	Stop.aac

Voiceless Alveolar Aspirated Plosive /t^h/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
theta	thula	thopa	tie

thetha.m4a	Thula.mp4	Thopa.aac	Tie.aac

24. Voiced Alveolar Plosive

The /d/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue on the small ridge just behind the teeth. During the production of the sound, the air that is pushed through the mouth is stopped by the tongue and then released. The sound you hear comes from the combination of the vocal cords vibrating and the release of air. This sound has the following features:

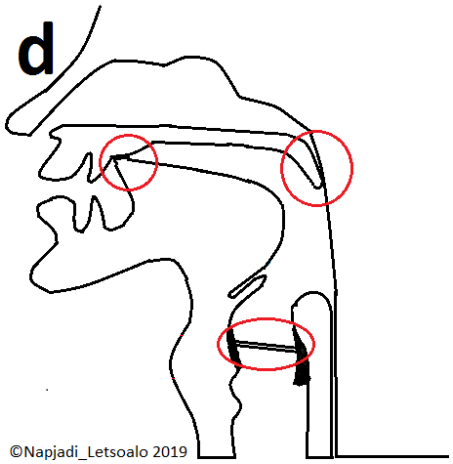
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
i**d**olo	**d**anga	**d**ula	**d**ay
idolo.m4a	Danga.mp4	Dula.aac	Day.aac

25. Voiceless Alveolar Fricative

The /s/ sound is an alveolar sound. it is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the front teeth, without the tongue touching the roof of the mouth leaving a passage for air through the middle of the tongue. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the roof of the mouth. The sound produced is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of air passing through the middle of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

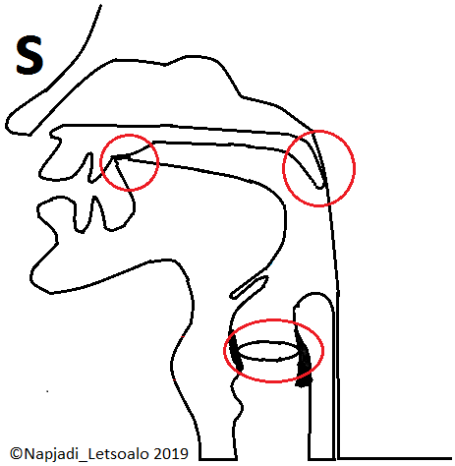
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
sela	sumba	sesi	son
sela.m4a	Sumba.mp4	Sesi.aac	Son.aac

26. Voiced Alveolar Fricative

The /z/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the front teeth, without the tongue touching the roof of the mouth leaving a passage for air through the middle of the tongue. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the roof of the mouth. The sound is voiced, which means that the vocal folds vibrate when the sound is produced. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue, and also the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

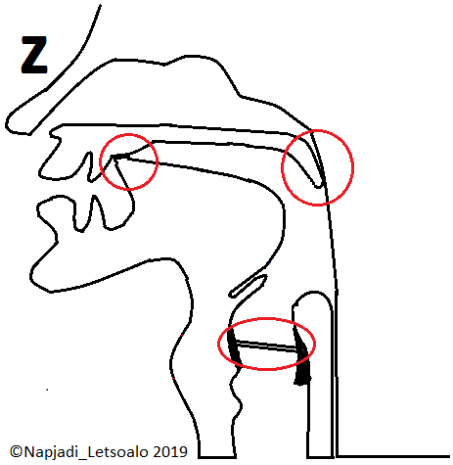
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
zoba	zuza	-	zebra
zoba.m4a	Zuza.mp4	-	Zebra.aac

27. Voiceless Alveolar Affricate

The /ts/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the front teeth, without the tongue touching the roof of the mouth leaving a passage for air through the middle of the tongue. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the roof of the mouth, then directing the airflow with the tongue to the sharp edge of the teeth, causing high-frequency turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of air passing through the middle of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

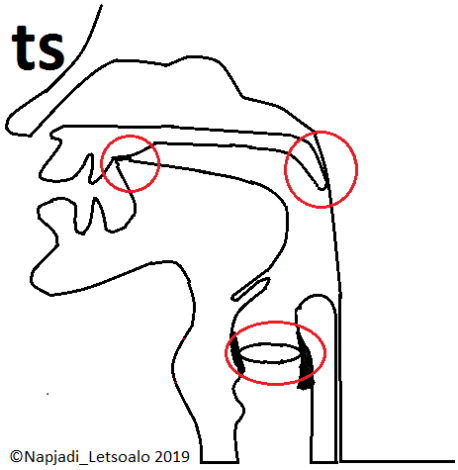
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



Voiceless Alveolar Affricate /ts/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
tsala	-	**ts**ela	-
tsala.m4a	-	Tsela.aac	-

Voiceless Alveolar Aspirated Affricate /ts^{h}/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	**ts**evho	**tsh**adi	-
-	Tsevho.mp4	Tshadi.aac	-

28. Voiced Alveolar Affricate

The /dz/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the front teeth, without the tongue touching the roof of the mouth leaving a passage for air through the middle of the tongue. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the roof of the mouth, which entirely stops the airflow, then directing it with the tongue to the sharp edge of the teeth, causing high-frequency turbulence. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

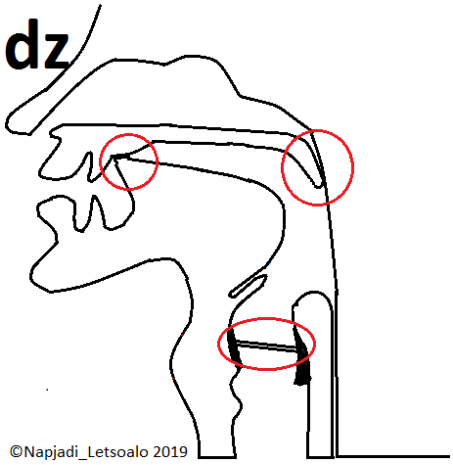
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
n**dz**umo	**dz**ula	-	-
ndzumo.m4a	Dzula.mp4	-	-

29. Voiced Alveolar Nasal

The /n/ sound is a nasal sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the front teeth and raising the sides of the tongue to touch the roof of the mouth, which entirely stops the airflow in the mouth. The velum is lowered to allow the air to travel through the nose. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear results solely from the movement of air through the nasal cavity and the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

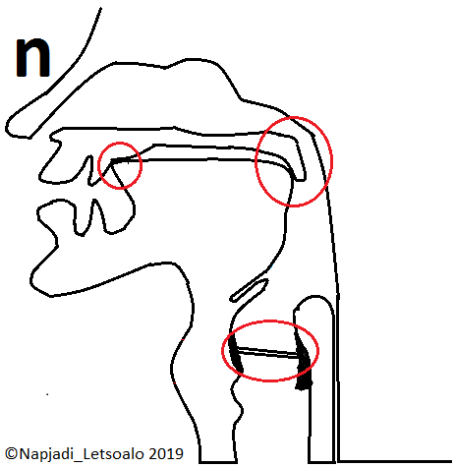
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Lowered

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiced Alveolar Nasal /n/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
nina	nanga	nama	never
nina.m4a	nanga.mp4	Nama.aac	Never.aac

Voiced Alveolar Aspirated Nasal /nʰ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
isinhanha	-	-	-
isinhanha.m4a	-	-	-

30. Voiced Alveolar Rhotic

The /r/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the upper front teeth, the front part of the tongue raises to partially touch the roof of the mouth and the sides of the tongue do not touch other parts of the mouth. The obstruction caused by the movement of the tongue at the alveolar region directs the airstream along the of the tongue. The sound is voiced, which means the vocal folds vibrate when it is produced. The sound you hear is because of the air passing over the sides of the tongue as well as the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

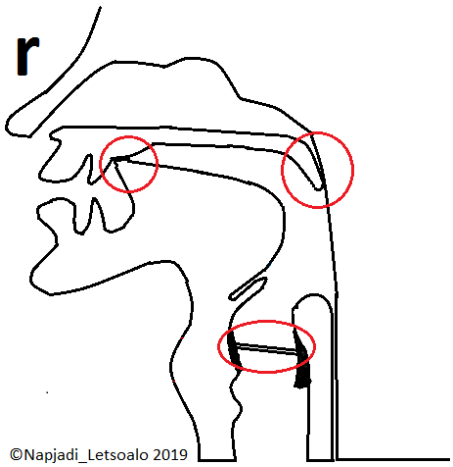
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Approximant



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
uronta	runga	roma	run

uronta.m4a	runga.mp4	Roma.aac	Run.aac

31. Voiceless Alveolar Lateral Fricative

The /ɬ/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue on the alveolar ridge. During the production, airflow is constricted through a narrow channel between the tip of the tongue and the alveolar ridge, causing turbulence. The sides of the tongue, however, do not touch other parts of the mouth, and the air travels around the tongue to produce the sound. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is as a result of the air passing through the sides of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

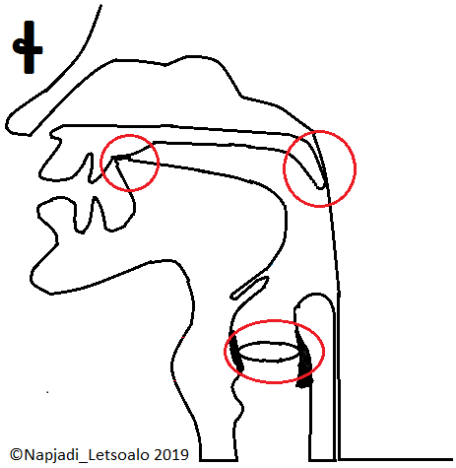
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



Voiceless Alveolar Lateral Fricative

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
hleka	-	**hl**oma	-
hleka.m4a	-	Hloma.aac	-

Voiceless Alveolar Lateral Aspirated Fricative /tɬ^{h}/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	**tlh**ago	-
-	-	Tlhago.aac	-

32. Voiced Alveolar Lateral Fricative

The /ɮ/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue on the alveolar ridge. During the production the airflow is constricted through a narrow channel between the tip of the tongue and the alveolar ridge, causing turbulence. The sides of the tongue, however, do not touch other parts of the mouth, and the air travels around the tongue to produce the sound. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the sides of the tongue and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

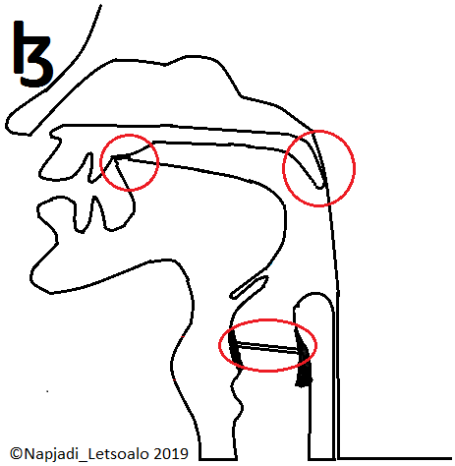
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
dlala	-	-	-
dlala.m4a	-	-	-

33. Voiceless Alveolar Lateral Affricate

The /tɬ/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the upper front teeth, the front part of the tongue raises to partially touch the roof of the mouth while the sides of the tongue do not touch other parts of the mouth. The movement of the tongue entirely stops the airflow at the alveolar region, then directing the airstream over the sides of the tongue, causing high-frequency turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing over the sides of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

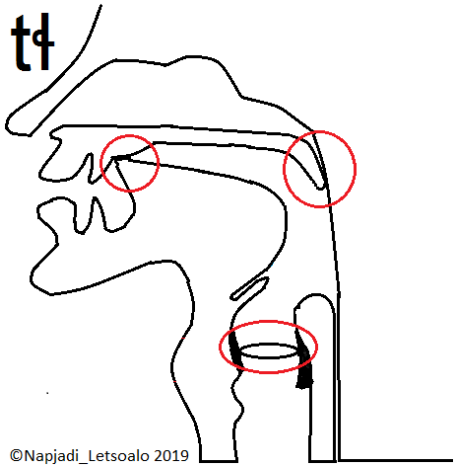
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



Voiceless alveolar lateral affricate [tɬ]

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
in**tl**ama	-	**tl**ala	-
intlama.m4a	-	Tlala.aac	-

34. Voiced Alveolar Lateral Affricate

The /dɮ/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the upper front teeth, the front part of the tongue raises to partially touch the roof of the mouth while the sides of the tongue do not touch other parts of the mouth. The movement of the tongue entirely stops the airflow at the alveolar region, then directing the airstream over the sides of the tongue, causing high-frequency turbulence. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is as a result of air passing over the sides of the tongue as well as the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

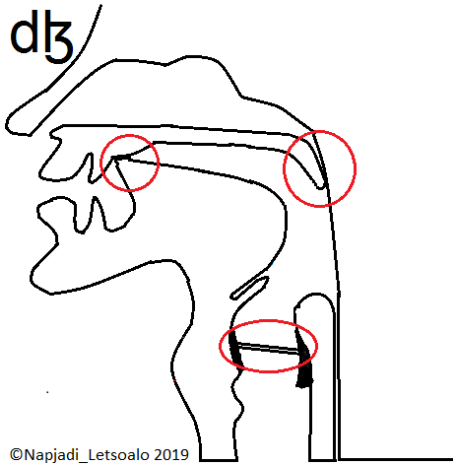
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



35. Voiceless Alveolar Lateral Click

The /ǁ/ sound is an alveolar lateral click. It is produced with either the tip or the blade of the tongue at the alveolar ridge. During the production of the sound, the tip or blade of the tongue stops the airflow at the alveolar region, then directs the airstream over the sides of the tongue. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is only from the release of air. This sound has the following features:

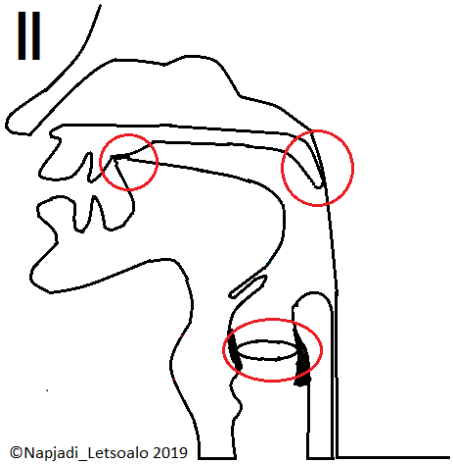
Airstream mechanism: Velaric ingressive

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
xoxa	-	-	-
xoxa.m4a	-	-	-

36. Voiced Alveolar Lateral Click

The /ǁ/ sound is an alveolar lateral click. It is produced with either the tip or the blade of the tongue at the alveolar ridge. During the production of the sound, the tip or blade of the tongue stops the airflow at the alveolar region, then directs the airstream over the sides of the tongue. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound produced is as a result of the release of air and the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

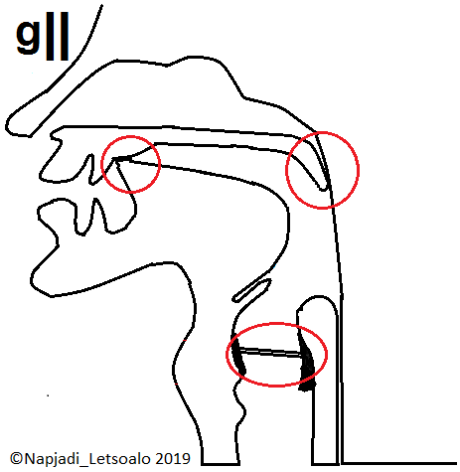
Airstream mechanism: Velaric ingressive

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
gxabeka	-	-	-
gxabeka.m4a	-	-	-

37. Voiced Alveolar Lateral

The /l/ sound is an alveolar sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue very close behind the upper front teeth, the front part of the tongue raises to partially touch the roof of the mouth while the sides of the tongue do not touch other parts of the mouth. The obstruction caused by the movement of the tongue at the alveolar region is narrow enough to allow air to flow relatively unhindered along the sides of the obstruction. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing over the sides of the tongue as well as the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

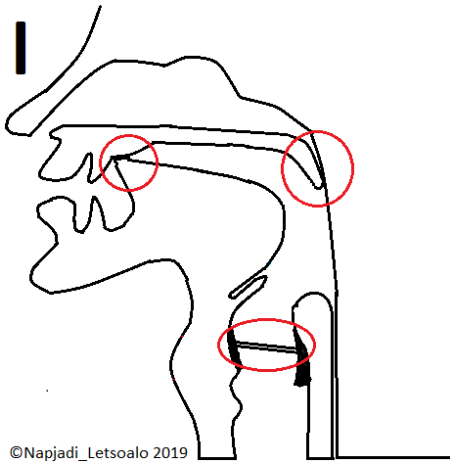
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Approximant



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
lala	ladza	lema	love
lala.m4a	ladza.mp4	Lema.aac	Love.aac

38. Voiceless Post-Alveolar Fricative

The /ʃ/ sound is a post alveolar sound. It is produced by slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth without touching the roof of the mouth. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the upper side teeth channelling airflow along a groove in the back of the tongue up to the post alveolar region. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

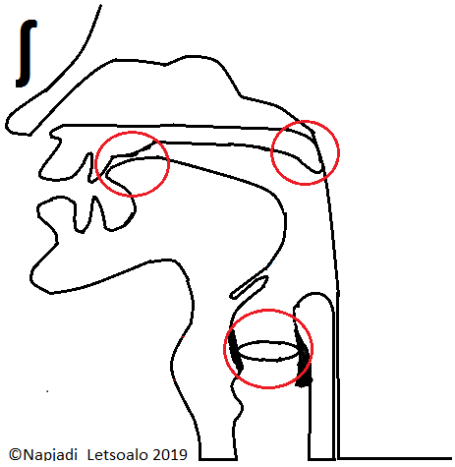
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Post-Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
i**sh**umi	**sh**ango	**š**oma	**sh**op
ishumi.m4a	Shango.mp4	Shoma.aac	Shop.aac

39. Voiced Post-Alveolar Fricative

The /ʒ/ sound is a post alveolar sound. It is produced by slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth partially touching the roof of the mouth. The sides of the tongue are raised to touch the upper side teeth channelling airflow along a groove in the back of the tongue up to the post alveolar region. The sound is voiced, which means the vocal folds vibrate when it is produced. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue and also the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

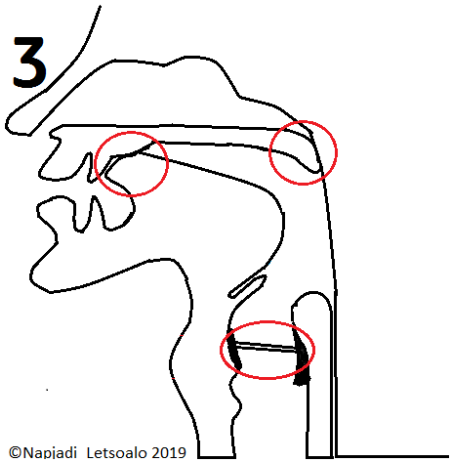
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Post-Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	**zh**ana	-	mea**sure**
-	Zhana.mp4	-	Measure.aac

40. Voiceless Post-Alveolar Affricate

The /tʃ/ sound is a post alveolar sound. It is produced by slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth without touching the roof of the mouth. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the upper side teeth which entirely stops the airflow, then directing it with the tongue to the sharp edge of the teeth, causing high-frequency turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue. This sound has the following features:

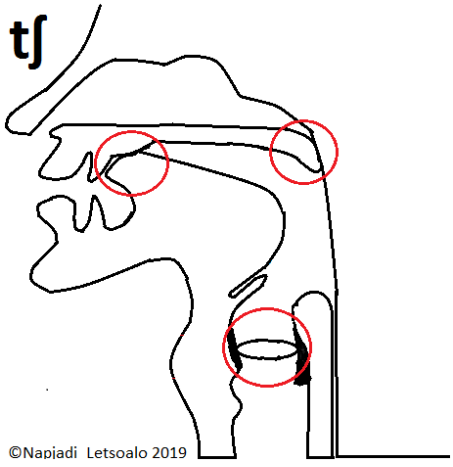
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Post-Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



Voiceless Post-Alveolar Affricate /tʃ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
in**tsh**a	-	**tš**aka	-
intsha.m4a	-	Tsaka.aac	-

Voiceless Post-Alveolar Aspirated Affricate /tʃʰ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
tshata	**tsh**alo	**tšh**aba	**ch**at

tshata.m4a	Tshalo.mp4	Tshaba.aac	Chat.aac

41. Voiced Post-Alveolar Affricate

The /ʤ/ sound is a post alveolar sound. It is produced by slightly raising the front part of the tongue towards the upper front teeth without touching the roof of the mouth. It is the sides of the tongue that are raised to touch the upper side teeth which entirely stops the airflow, then directing it with the tongue to the sharp edge of the teeth, causing high-frequency turbulence. The sound is voiced, which means its production causes the vocal folds to vibrate. The sound you hear is because of the air passing through the middle of the tongue and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

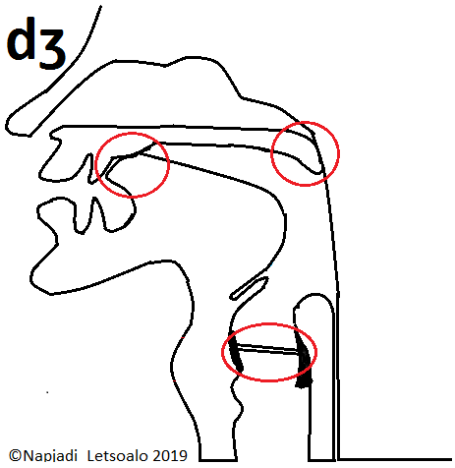
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Post-Alveolar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
jonga	dzhia	-	joke
jonga.m4a	Dzhia.mp4	-	Joke.aac

42. Voiceless Palatal Plosive

The /c/ sound is a palatal sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and raising the middle of the tongue towards the palate (the roof of the mouth). The middle part of the tongue come into contact with the palate to obstruct the airflow in the vocal tract and the middle-center of the tongue creates a way for air to move through the mouth. The sound you hear comes only from the

release of air between the middle-center of the tongue and the palate. This sound has the following features:

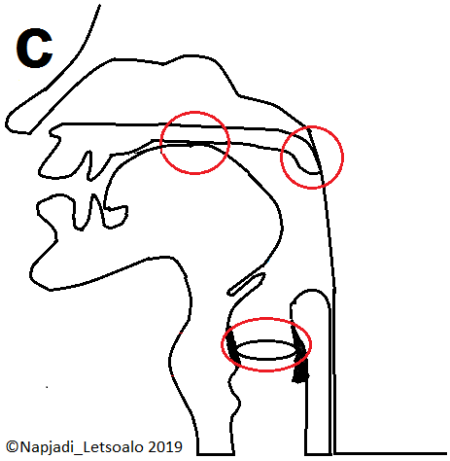
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiceless palatal Plosive /c/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
ityala	-	-	-
ityala.m4a	-	-	-

Voiceless palatal Aspirated Plosive /c^h/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
ityhefu	-	-	-
ityhefu.m4a	-	-	-

43. Voiced Palatal Plosive

The /ɟ/ sound is a palatal sound; it is produced by placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and raising the middle of the tongue towards the palate (the roof of the mouth). The middle sides of the tongue come into contact with the palate to obstruct the airflow in the vocal tract and the middle-center of the tongue creates a way for air through the mouth. The sound you hear comes from the release of air between the middle-center of the tongue and the palate, and the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

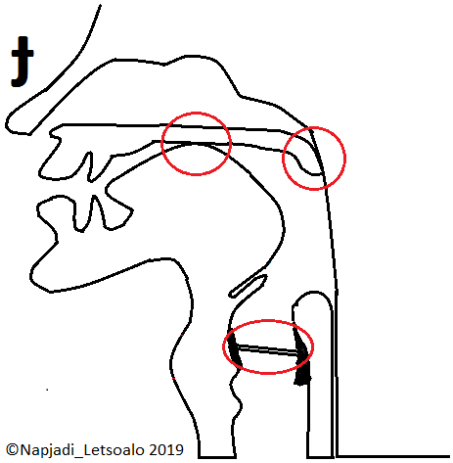
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
in**dy**ebo	**dy**ela	-	-
indyebo.m4a	dyela.ogg	-	-

44. Voiceless Palatal Fricative

The sound /ç/ is a palatal sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and raising the middle of the tongue towards the palate (the roof of the mouth). It is the middle sides of the tongue that come into contact with the palate whilst the middle-center of the tongue creates a way for air to move through the mouth. The airflow is then constricted through a narrow channel at the palatal region, causing turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear comes only from the release of air between the middle-center of the tongue and the palate. This sound has the following features:

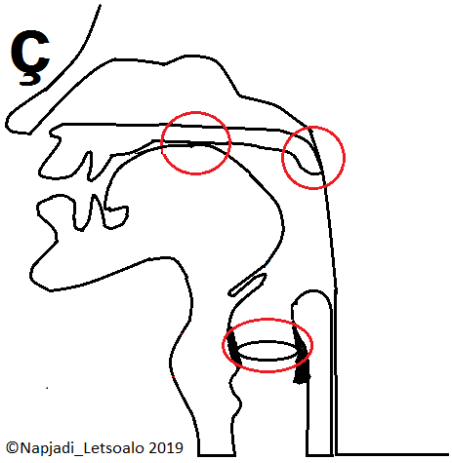
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Fricative



45. Voiced Palatal Fricative

The sound /ʝ/ is a palatal sound. It is produced by placing the tip of the tongue behind the lower front teeth and raising the middle of the tongue towards the palate (the roof of the mouth). It is the middle sides of the tongue that come into contact with the palate whilst the middle-center of the tongue creates a way for air to move through the mouth. The airflow is then constricted through a narrow channel at the palatal region, causing turbulence. The sound is voiced, which means that the vocal folds vibrate when it is produced. The sound you hear comes only from the release of air between the middle-center of the tongue and the palate as well as the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

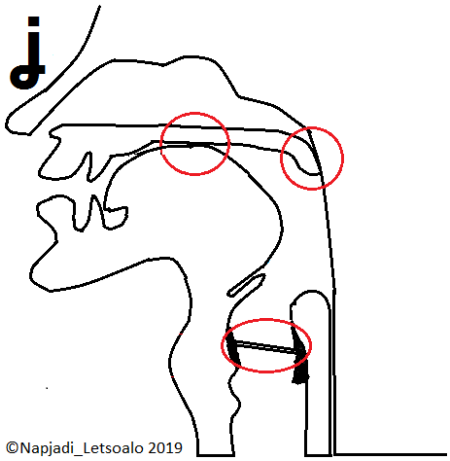
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Fricative



46. Voiceless Palatal Click

The /ǃ/ sound is a palatal click. It is produced with either the middle or back part of the tongue raised to the hard palate. During the production of the sound, the middle or back part of the tongue stops the airflow at the palatal region, then directs the airstream along the center of the tongue. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the release of air. This sound has the following features:

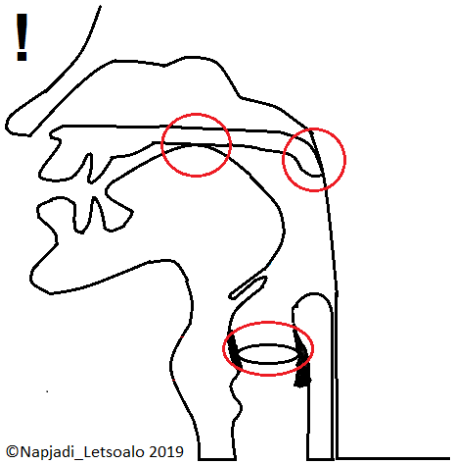
Airstream mechanism: Velaric ingressive

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
qala	-	-	-
qala.m4a	-	-	-

47. Voiced Palatal Click

The /ǂ/ sound is a palatal click. It is produced with either the middle or back part of the tongue raised to the hard palate. During the production of the sound, the middle or back part of the tongue stops the airflow at the palatal region, then directs the airstream along the center of the tongue. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is because of the release of air and the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

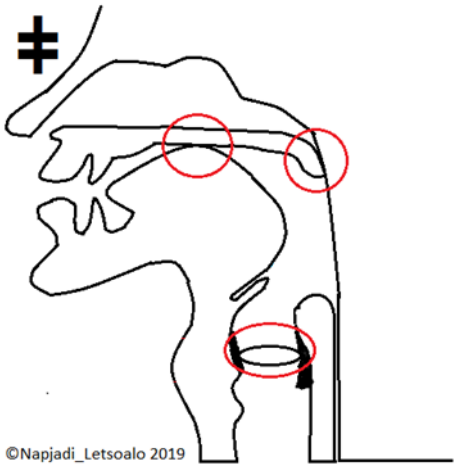
Airstream mechanism: Velaric ingressive

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
gqiba	-	-	-
gqiba.m4a	-	-	-

48. Voiced Palatal Nasal

The /ɲ/ sound is a nasal sound. It is produced by placing the middle or back part of the tongue raised to the hard palate, with the velum lowered, which entirely stops the airflow in the mouth. The lowering of the velum allows the air to travel through the nose. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is only from the movement of air through the nasal cavity and the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

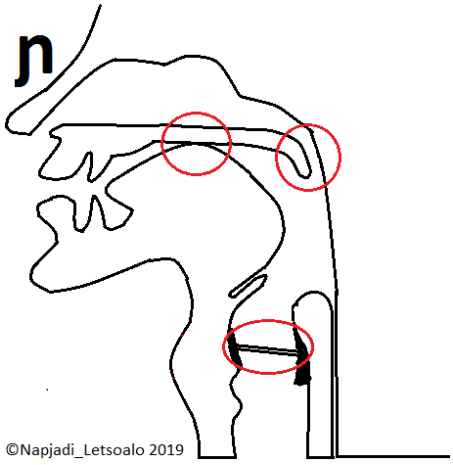
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Lowered

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiced Palatal Nasal /ɲ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
i**ny**ama	**ny**ambo	**ny**ala	-
inyama.m4a	nyambo.mp4	Nyala.aac	-

Voiced Palatal Aspirated Nasal /ɲʰ/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
i**nyh**oloba	-	-	-
inyholoba.m4a	-	-	-

49. Voiced Palatal Approximant

The /j/ sound is a palatal sound. It is produced with either the middle or back part of the tongue raised to the hard palate. During the production of the sound, the movement of the tongue narrows the vocal tract at the hard palate, then directs the airstream along the center of the tongue. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is because of the air passing along the center of the tongue as well as vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

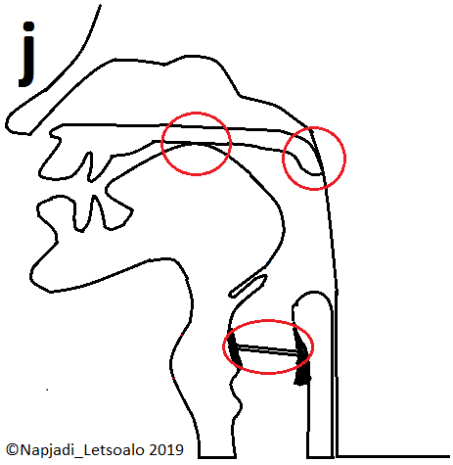
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Lowered

Place of articulation: Palatal

Manner of articulation: Approximant



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
iyeza	yashu	yena	yes
iyeza.m4a	Yashu.mp4	Yena.aac	Yes.aac

50. Voiceless Velar Plosive

The /k/ sound is a velar sound. It is produced when the back part of the tongue is put against the soft palate (the top back part of the mouth called the velum). With your tongue in this position, draw air through your mouth and release it by lowering your tongue. The back of the tongue temporarily stops the airflow and then releases it. The sound you hear comes only from the release of air. This sound has the following features:

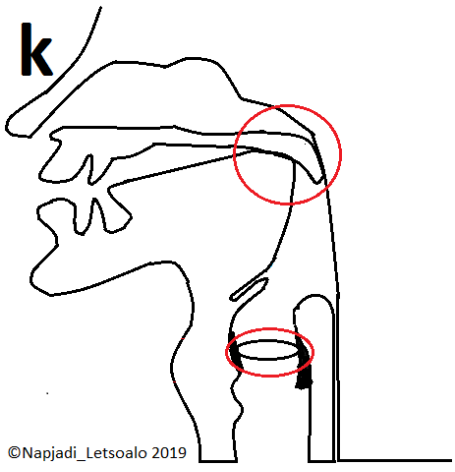
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Velar

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiceless Velar Plosive /k/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
ikamva	kana	koma	take
ikamva.m4a	kana.mp4	Koma.aac	Take.aac

Voiceless Velar Aspirated Plosive /k^h/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
khokha	khuhu	khudu	can
khokha.m4a	khuhu.mp4	Khudu.aac	Can.aac

51. Voiced Velar Plosive

The /g/ sound is a velar sound. It is produced when the back part of the tongue is put against the soft palate (the top back part of the mouth called the velum). The back of the tongue temporarily stops the airflow and then releases it. When producing this sound, the vocal cords vibrate as the air is passed through the mouth. The sound you hear comes from the combination of the vocal cords vibrating and the release of air. This sound has the following features:

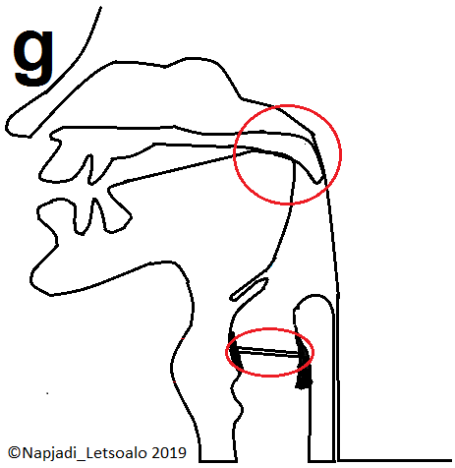
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Velar

Manner of articulation: Stop



Voiced Velar Plosive /g/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
galela	gera	-	go

galela.m4a	gera.mp4	-	Go.aac

52. Voiced Velar Implosive

The /ɠ/ sound is a velar sound. It is produced when the back part of the tongue is placed against the soft palate (the top back part of the mouth) and pulling air in by pumping the glottis downward. The back of the tongue temporarily stops the airflow and then releases it. When producing this sound, the vocal cords vibrates as the air is passed through the mouth. The sound you hear comes from the combination of the vocal cords vibrating and the release of air. This sound has the following features:

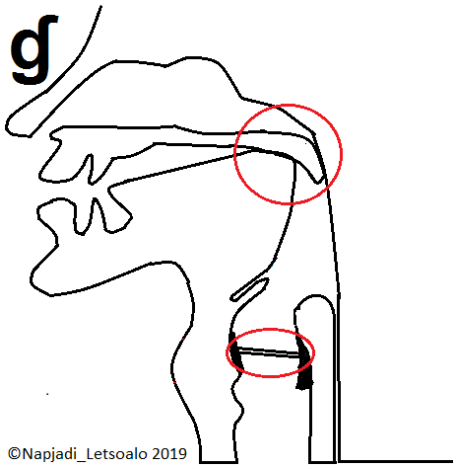
Airstream mechanism: Glottalic Ingressive

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Velar

Manner of articulation: Stop



53. Voiceless Velar Fricative

The /x/ sound is a velar sound. It is produced when the back part of the tongue is put against the soft palate (the top back part of the mouth). During the production of the sound, the back of the tongue temporarily stops the airflow at the velar region, thus the airflow is constricted through a narrow channel at the velar region, causing turbulence; the air is then released by lowering the tongue. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear comes only from the release of air. This sound has the following features:

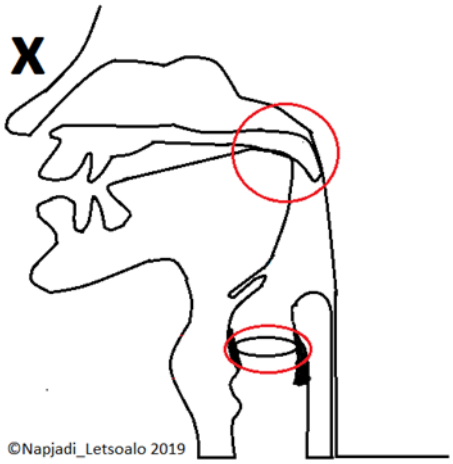
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Velar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
i**rh**orho	**x**ela	-	-
irhorho.m4a	Xela.mp4	-	-

54. Voiced Velar Fricative

The /ɣ/ sound is a velar sound. It is produced when the back part of the tongue is put against the soft palate (the top back part of the mouth). During the production of the sound, the back of the tongue temporarily stops the airflow at the velar region, thus the airflow is constricted through a narrow channel at the velar region, causing turbulence; the air is then released by lowering the tongue. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vibrations of the vocal folds. The sound you hear is because of the release of air and the vocal folds vibrating. This sound has the following features:

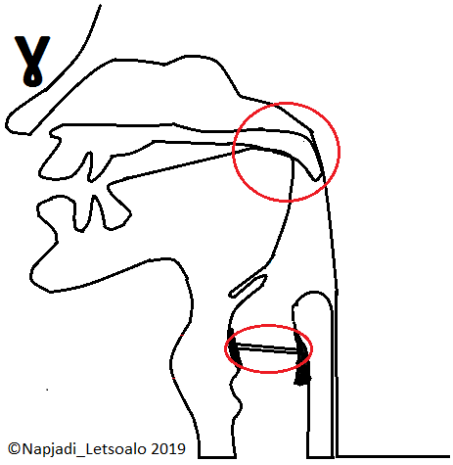
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Velar

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
ukugragrama	-	goga	-
ukugragrama.m4a	-	Goga.aac	-

55. Voiceless Velar Affricate

The /kx/ sound is a velar sound. It is produced when the back part of the tongue is put against the soft palate (the top back part of the mouth). During the production of the sound, the back of the tongue entirely stops the airflow at the velar region, then directs the airstream along the center of the tongue. The airflow is directed through a constricted channel at the velar region, causing turbulence. The sound is voiceless, which means it is produced without the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is only from the release of air. This sound has the following features:

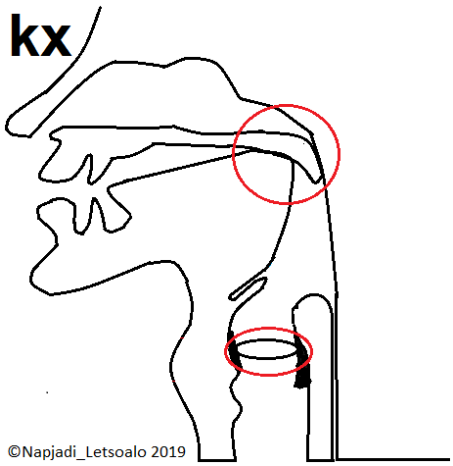
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Velar

Manner of articulation: Affricate



Voiceless Velar Affricate /kx/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
krazula	-	-	-
krazula.m4a	-	-	-

Voiceless Velar Aspirated Affricate /kx^{h}/

isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	-	**kg**omo	-
-	-	Kgomo.aac	-

56. Voiced Velar Nasal

The /ŋ/ sound is a nasal sound. It is produced by raising the back part of the tongue to the soft palate, which entirely stops the airflow in the mouth. The velum is lowered to allow the air to travel through the nose. The sound is voiced, which means it is produced with the vocal folds vibrating. The sound you hear is a result of the movement of air through the nasal cavity and the vibration of the vocal folds. This sound has the following features:

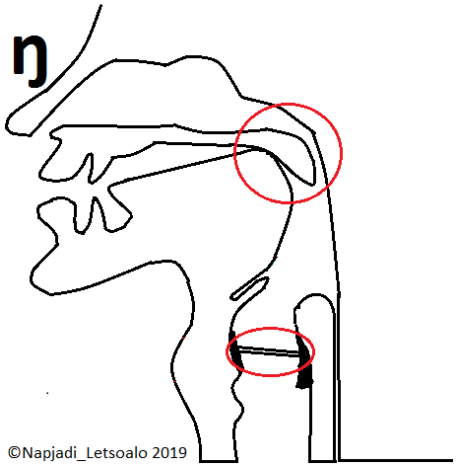
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Lowered

Place of articulation: Velar

Manner of articulation: Stop



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
i**ng**oma	**ṅ**aṅa	**ng**aka	si**ng**

ingoma.m4a	nganga.mp4	Ngaka.aac	Sing.aac

57. Voiceless Glottal Plosive

The /ʔ/ sound is a glottal sound. It is produced by rapidly closing the vocal folds. The voiceless glottal plosive is produced without a vibration because the vocal folds are held tightly together, preventing vibration. The airflow is temporarily stopped when the vocal folds are brought together then released when the vocal folds are apart. The sound you hear comes only from the release of air. This sound has the following features:

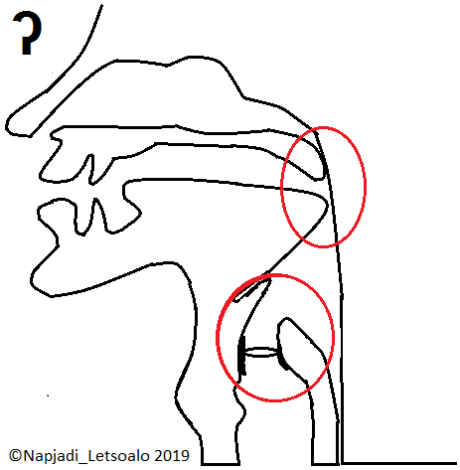
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Glottal

Manner of articulation: Stop



58. Voiceless Glottal Fricative

The /h/ sound is a glottal sound. It is produced by rapidly closing the vocal folds. This sound is produced with the vocal cords actively separated, preventing vibration. During the production of the sound there is no other constriction to produce friction or turbulence in the vocal tract. The sound you hear comes only from the movement of the air through your throat and mouth. This sound has the following features:

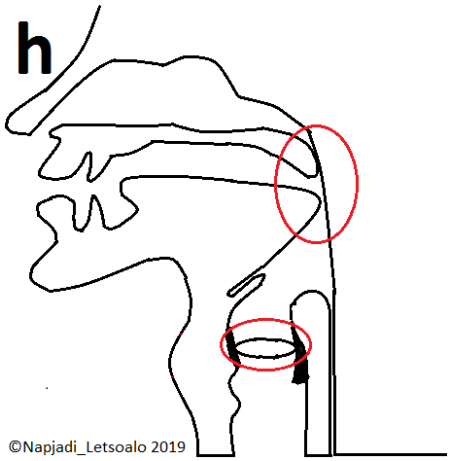
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Open

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Glottal

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
hamba	-	**h**ema	**h**ello
hamba.m4a	-	Hema.aac	Go.aac

59. Voiced Glottal Fricative

The /ɦ/ sound is a glottal sound. It is produced by rapidly closing the vocal folds. This sound is produced with a loose vibration with more air escaping than in a modally voiced sound. With most sounds there is an individual place of articulation with the state of the glottis, but with the glottal sounds the vocal folds are the articulators of the sounds. When producing this sound, the vocal cords vibrates as the air is passed through the mouth. The sound you hear comes from the combination of the vocal cords vibrating and the movement of air. This sound has the following features:

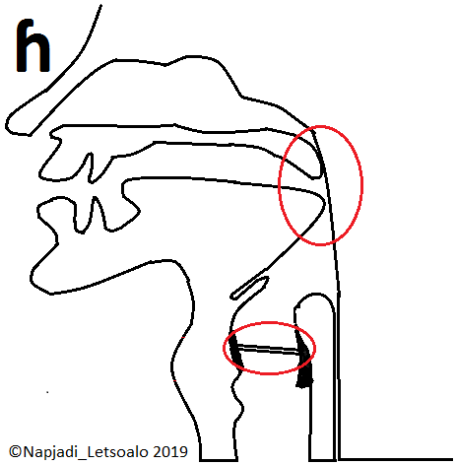
Airstream mechanism: Pulmonic

State of the glottis: Closed

State of the velum: Raised

Place of articulation: Glottal

Manner of articulation: Fricative



isiXhosa	Tshivenda	Sepedi	English
-	**h**ana	le**h**ono	-
-	Hana.mp4	Lehono.aac	-

Voice over artists

Sepedi: Kganathi Shaku

IsiXhosa: Hlumela Mkabile

Tshivenda: Dakalo Takalani

English: Napjadi Letsoalo

Editor

Fiona Ferris