

## Application Task: Classifying Consonants

**Instructions:** Consonants are a class of sounds that are formed when the airstream is obstructed in some way. They can be further classified according to their place and manner of articulation and whether or not they are voiced. Follow these steps to complete the chart below.

### First Pass: Voicing

1. Read the whole word aloud. Then isolate the highlighted consonant sound and repeat it.
2. Place your finger on your larynx (adam's apple / voice box) and repeat the sound several times.
3. If you feel a vibration as you pronounce the sound, classify it as VOICED. If there is no vibration, classify it as VOICELESS.

|    | Word and Consonant    | Voicing   | Place    | Manner           |
|----|-----------------------|-----------|----------|------------------|
| 1  | <b>P</b> art          | Voiceless | bilabial | plosive          |
| 2  | f <b>a</b> se         | Voiceless |          | fricative        |
| 3  | <b>C</b> hild         | Voiceless |          | <b>Affricate</b> |
| 4  | F <b>a</b> vorite     | Voiced    |          | fricative        |
| 5  | S <b>t</b> art        | Voiceless |          | plosive          |
| 6  | <b>T</b> hink         | Voiceless |          | <b>Fricative</b> |
| 7  | San <b>F</b> rancisco | Voiceless |          |                  |
| 8  | W <b>i</b> sh         | Voiceless |          |                  |
| 9  | <b>T</b> hose         | Voiced    |          |                  |
| 10 | P <b>l</b> ease       | Voiced    |          |                  |
| 11 | J <b>u</b> stice      | Voiced    |          |                  |
| 12 | <b>B</b> ored         | Voiced    |          |                  |
| 13 | R <b>e</b> ality      | Voiced    |          |                  |
| 14 | <b>C</b> osta Rica    | Voiceless |          |                  |
| 15 | <b>Z</b> oo           | Voiced    |          |                  |
| 16 | <b>D</b> ark          | Voiced    |          |                  |

## Second Pass: Manner of Articulation

1. Read the whole word aloud. Then isolate the highlighted consonant sound and repeat it.
2. Pay close attention to how the sound is articulated.
3. Use the chart below to decide which manner of articulation is used and write it in the chart.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Plosive</b>     | The airstream is completely stopped and then released.                                                                                         |
| <b>Fricative</b>   | The obstruction allows the airstream to pass but it causes a friction that gives the escaping air vibrating or hissing sound ( <i>s/seo</i> ). |
| <b>Affricate</b>   | A combination of a plosive and a fricative. The airstream is completely stopped and then released in a way that causes friction.               |
| <b>Nasal</b>       | The airstream is blocked in the oral cavity and exits through the nose instead.                                                                |
| <b>Approximant</b> | The articulators are farther apart than with a fricative and the escaping air does not have any noticeable friction.                           |

## Third Pass: Place of Articulation

4. Read the whole word aloud. Then isolate the highlighted consonant sound and repeat it.
5. Pay close attention to what parts of your vocal tract are used to produce this sound.
6. Use this chart to help you remember the technical terms. Write the technical name for the place of articulation in the chart.

| <b>Place</b>    | <b>Active Articulator(s)</b> | <b>Passive Articulator(s)</b>  |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bilabial        | Lower Lip                    | Upper Lip                      |
| Labio-dental    | Lower Lip                    | Upper Front Teeth              |
| Dental          | Tongue Tip                   | Upper Front Teeth              |
| Alveolar        | Tongue Tip                   | Alveolar Ridge                 |
| Post-Alveolar   | Tongue Tip                   | Rear of Alveolar Ridge         |
| Palato-alveolar | Tongue Tip, Blade, and Front | Alveolar Ridge and Hard Palate |
| Palatal         | Front of Tongue              | Hard Palate                    |
| Velar           | Back of Tongue               | Soft Palate                    |