

Voiced and unvoiced consonants

Voiced and unvoiced consonants

Some consonant sounds (e.g. /p/ and /b/, /t/ and /d/) are made using the tongue and lips in the same way. The different sounds come from pushing more air out (/p/ and /t/) or from using your voice (/b/ and /d/) – you can feel your vocal cords vibrating if you touch your throat as you say these sounds).

A Practise saying the consonants below. Push air out for the first consonant; feel your vocal cords vibrate for the second.

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| 1 | /f/ | /v / |
| 2 | /p/ | /b/ |
| 3 | /t/ | /d/ |
| 4 | /s/ | /z/ |
| 5 | /ch/ | /dj/ |
| 6 | /k/ | /g/ |

B Work in groups. Listen and practise saying these phrases. Who do you think has the best pronunciation?

- 1 a leave a **leaflet**
b a **veteran** farmer
- 2 a a **property boom**
b combat **poverty**
- 3 a a **dedicated to** teaching
b a **military dictator**
- 4 a cause **widespread** disease
b put a **strain** on scarce resources
- 5 a change the **bandage**
b the **judge's** choice
- 6 a a government **campaign**
b stick it together with **glue**

C Use the Vocabulary Builder (<http://www.eltoutcomes.com/vocabulary-builder>) to check you understand the meaning of the words in bold. Read the examples and collocations in the Vocabulary Builder and note any that you think are interesting or useful.