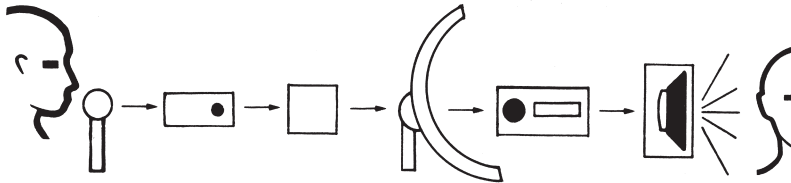


Figure 8
Electronic Communication



Microphone Amplifier Transmitter Satellite Receiver Speaker

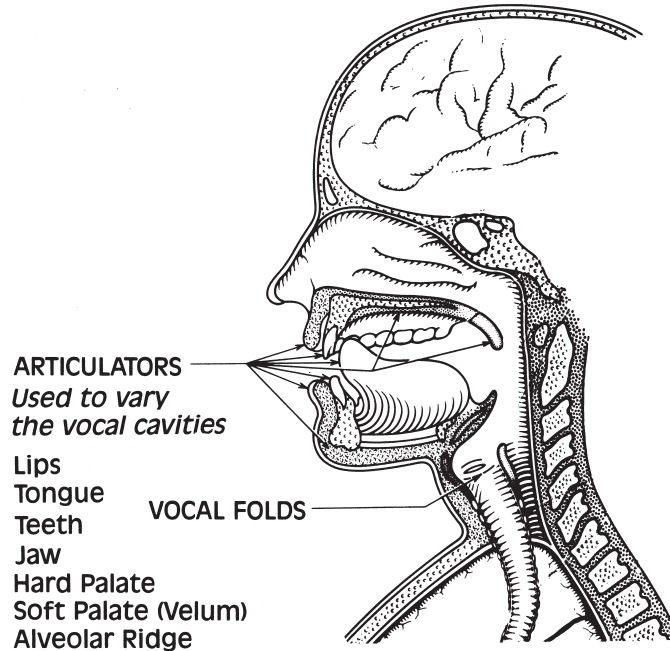
Articulation Anatomy

To shape sound, we use our lips, teeth, tongue, jaw, hard and soft palate (see Figure 9). These structures are called our articulators. We move our articulators in many ways to speak, and they are most active for consonants.

To feel the articulation of a series of consonants, first make a /p/ sound. The lips come together to stop the air and let it explode out to make the /p/. Now try a “th” sound. Begin to say the word “thin,” and feel the friction that results from forcing air through the opening between the front teeth and the tongue. Now make a /t/ sound and feel the tongue tip coming in contact with the **alveolar ridge** (the ridge behind the upper, front teeth). The soft palate helps with the production of /k/ and /g/ sounds. The tongue comes up to contact the soft palate. Begin to say the word “kick,” and feel this movement.

Vowel sounds are made by changing the shape of the oral cavity, thereby changing the resonance. Compare the “ee” sound with “ah.” The “ee” sound is produced with a limited mouth opening and a tense, high tongue. For “ah,” the jaw and tongue drop to increase the size of the resonating cavity. All vowels depend on the

Figure 9
Articulators



(Courtesy of AT & T Archives)

tension of the mouth, the height of the tongue, and the shape of the lips for their production.

Flexibility

The expressions “lazy tongue” or “lazy mouth” indicate the importance of flexibility for good articulation. If the articulators are sluggish, it is difficult to articulate sounds clearly. Frequently this is also referred to as “sloppy speech.” Sometimes this is adequate in relaxed conversation, but poor articulation is never acceptable for broadcast voice.

The agility of our articulators is very important for good