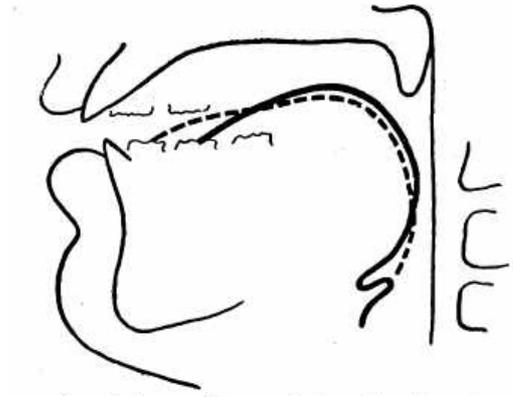


The English Vowel [P]

In pronouncing the English [P] the tongue, in comparison with its neutral position, is retracted and lowered. The back of the tongue is raised towards the back part of the soft palate (fig. 2.26).

Fig. 2.26.
Tongue-position:
English [P] —————
English [R] - - - - -



The resonance chamber is considerably enlarged in the front and middle parts of the mouth cavity.

The jaw is also lowered and occupies approximately the same position as for the English [R].

The lips are flat and slightly rounded, forming a wide oval-shaped opening.

The English [P] is a short lax slightly labialized back open vowel phoneme of the wide variety.

The English [P] resembles the Ukrainian [O]. The Ukrainian [O], like the English [P], is a short labialized back vowel phoneme.

But in spite of the common features of articulation there is a considerable difference between them.

1. The English [P] is more open than the Ukrainian [O] (fig. 2.27).

Fig. 2.27.
Tongue-position:
English [P] —————
Ukrainian [O] - - - - -



2. The position of the lips for these two sounds differs.

In the production of the Ukrainian [O] the lips are rounded and protruded, forming a round opening, which is smaller than for the English [P].

In articulating the English [P] the lips are not protruded and their rounding is flat (fig. 2.28, 2.29).



Fig. 2.28.
Lip-position of English [P]



Fig. 2.29.
Lip-position of Ukrainian [O]

The correct pronunciation of the English [P] can often be acquired by starting from the corresponding Ukrainian vowel. The tongue is to be moved forward and

placed a little lower than in pronouncing the Ukrainian [O]. The lips are to be slightly rounded without any protrusion.

The English [P] may be also acquired by starting from the Ukrainian [A] as pronounced between non-palatalized consonants. The tongue should be somewhat retracted, the distance between the jaws should be narrowed.

Flat rounding of the lips is to be carefully observed. This method may be advised only to the students who replace the English [P] by the Ukrainian [O].

If students are apt to pronounce the English [P] like an [A]-sound they should start from the Ukrainian [O], observing carefully the difference between the English [P] and the Ukrainian [O].