

## CHAPTER 9

### The English Consonants

The consonantal phonemes are classified into two general categories:

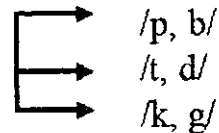
- Those articulations in which there is a total closure or a stricture causing friction, both groups being typically associated with a noise component, e.g. /p, b, t, d, k, g, tʃ, dʒ, f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ/.
- Those articulations in which there is only a partial closure or unimpeded oral or nasal escape of air, e.g. /m, n, l, r, ŋ, h, j, w/.

The pulmonic egressive plosive or stop consists of three stages:

- *The closing stage*, during which the articulating organs move together in order to form the obstruction.
- *The hold or compression stage*, during which lung action compresses the air behind the closure.
- *The release or explosion stage*, during which the organs forming the obstruction part rapidly, allowing the compressed air to escape abruptly.

\*) Pulmonic → the air-stream is set in motion by the lungs.

The Received Pronunciation (RP)  
plosive phonemes comprise three pairs



The following are the examples of the three pairs in three different positions:

Phonetic Features  
of English Plosives

- Place of articulation  
/p, b/, bilabial; /t, d/, alveolar;  
/k, g/, velar
- Force of articulation  
/p, t, k/ tend to be pronounced with  
more muscular energy and a stronger  
breath effort than /b, d, g/.
- Aspiration  
/p, t, k/ when initial in an accented  
syllable, are usually accompanied  
by aspiration.
- Voicing  
/b, d, g/ may have full voice during  
their second stage when they occur  
in positions between voiced sounds,  
e.g. *labour, eager*.
- Length of preceding sounds  
Compare the fully long vowels or  
diphthongs in *robe, heard, league*  
with the reduced values in *rope,*  
*hurt, leak*.

The main variants  
of English plosives

- No audible release in final positions  
e.g. mao, mat, mack, robe, road.
- No audible release in stop cluster  
e.g. dropped (/p/ + /t/),  
rubbed (/b/ + /d/).
- Glottal reinforcement of final /p, t, k/  
e.g. shop, shot, shock.
- Nasal release  
e.g. topmost /p/ + /m/,  
submerge /b/ + /m/.
- Lateral release  
e.g. cattle, medal.
- Affrication of plosives  
e.g. time [t<sup>s</sup>], day [d<sup>ʒ</sup>].

## Bilabial Plosives /p, b/

### (1) Examples

/p/—*fortis* (regularly spelt with *p*; note ‘hiccough’ /'hɪkəp/, and silent *p* in ‘pneumonia, psalm, ptarmigan, receipt, cupboard’, etc.)

*accented, aspirated*—pin, pill, pain, appear, impatient; play, pray,  
pew

*accented after /s/, unaspirated*—spin, spill, Spain, spear; splay,  
spray, spew

*weakly accented, relatively unaspirated*—upper, capable, oppor-  
tunity, gospel; simply, apricot, champion

*syllable final*—cheap, lip, lap, shape, lisp, pulp, pump; upright,  
chaplain, upward

*with no audible release*—captain, topcoat, wiped, hop picker, top  
boy, top girl, top dog, ripe cheese

*followed by nasal consonant*—topmost, halfpenny, happen, cheap  
meat

*followed by lateral consonant*—apple, couple, please, up late

/b/—*lenis* (regularly spelt with *b*; note silent *b* in ‘limb, thumb, comb’,  
etc., and ‘debt, subtle, doubt’)

*initial, partially devoiced*—big, boast, banana, begin; blow, brain,  
beauty

*intervocalic,<sup>1</sup> voiced*—rubber, labour, harbour, husband, symbol  
*final, voiceless*—rib, ebb, sob, robe, bulb

*with no audible release*—obtain, rubbed, subconscious, sob bitterly,  
sub-prefect, Bob goes, object

Intervocalic → refers to a consonant sound used between two vowels,  
as in the /t/ of *attack*.

## Alveolar Plosives /t, d/

### (1) *Examples*

*/t/*—*fortis* (regularly spelt *t*, *tt*; sometimes with *th*, e.g. 'Thames Thomas'; also *-ed* in verbal past tenses and participles after fortis consonants other than */t/*, e.g. 'jumped, looked, laughed, guessed, pushed'; *t* silent in 'castle, Christmas', etc.)

*accented, aspirated*—take, tall, tone, attend, obtain; try, between, tune

*accented after /s/, unaspirated*—steak, stall, stone

*weakly accented, relatively unaspirated*—butter, letter, after, taxation, phonetic; entry, antler, outward

*syllable final*—beat, boat, late, past, sent, halt, tuft, rushed, act, fetched

*with no audible release*—outpost, hatpin, football, catgut, white tic, that dog, white chalk, great joke

*with homorganic nasal release*—cotton, button, eaten, not now

*followed by /m/*—nutmeg, utmost, that man

*with homorganic lateral release*—little, cattle, atlas, at last

*/d/*—*lenis* (regularly spelt *d*, *dd*)

*initial, partially devoiced*—do, dog, double, date; dry, dwindle, duke

*intervocalic, voiced*—leader, order, adorn, hiding, London, elder, under, middle, sundry, fiddler, endways

*final, voiceless*—bid, mad, road, rubbed, bend, old, loved, bathed, raised, judged

*with no audible release*—head boy, head girl, bad pain, red car, good dog, bed time, good judge, good cheese

*with homorganic nasal release*—sudden, madness, red nose

*followed by /m/*—admit, road map

*with homorganic lateral release*—middle, padlock, headless, badly, good luck

*Compare /t/, /d/*—town, down; latter, ladder; water, warder; written, ridden; metal, medal; fated, faded; sat, sad; wrote, road; kilt, killed; bent, bend; train, drain; twin, dwindle; tune, dune

*/t/, /θ/*—tin, thin; taught, thought; eater, ether; fort, fourth; tent, tenth; welt, wealth

*/d/, /ð/*—dough, though; day, they; den, then; udder, other; loading, loathing; breed, breathe; side, scythe

## Velar Plosives /k, g/

### (1) *Examples*

- /k/*—*fortis* (spelt *k*; *c*, *cc* + *a*, *o*, *u*; *qu*; *ch*, e.g. 'kind, cake, accord, conquer, stomach, chemist, bouquet'; *qu* = /kw/ in 'quiet, quart', etc.; silent *c* or *k* in 'muscle, knew, knit', etc.)  
*accented, aspirated*—come, car, kin, incur, according; cry, clean, quick, queue  
*accented after /s/, unaspirated*—scum, scar, skin  
*weakly accented, relatively unaspirated*—income, baker, talking, biscuit, anchor; secret, duckling, equal, dockyard  
*syllable final*—leak, duck, rock, choke, bank, bulk, desk  
*with no audible release*—Blackpool, locked, black board, thick dust, black cat, dark grey, deckchair, lock-jaw  
*followed by nasal consonant*—acknowledge, dark night, thicken (sometimes /'θɪkŋ/), black magic  
*followed by lateral consonant*—buckle, clean, close, blackleg
- /g/*—*lenis* (regularly spelt *g*, *gg*; sometimes *gh*, *gu*, e.g. 'ghost, guard'; *g* silent in 'gnaw, gnat, diaphragm, sign, reign', etc.)  
*initial, partially devoiced*—go, geese, guess, girl; glass, grass, Gwen  
*intervocalic, voiced*—eager, hunger, figure, ago, begin, eagle; juggling, angry, anguish, argue  
*final, voiceless*—dog, leg, rogue, vague  
*with no audible release*—rugby, begged, bagpipes, wagtail, big game, eggcup, big jaw, big chin  
*followed by nasal consonant*—dogma, ignore, quagmire, big man, drag-net, organ-grinder  
*followed by lateral consonant*—bugle, struggle, glow, wriggling, dog lead
- Compare /k/, /g/*—cap, gap; coat, goat; clue, glue; decree, degree; bicker, bigger; stacker, stagger; lacked, lagged; ankle, angle; hackle, haggle; pick pig; back, bag; duck, dug; crate, great

## Glottal Plosive

In the case of the glottal plosive (stop), the obstruction to the air-stream is formed by the closure of the vocal folds, thereby interrupting the passage of air into the supra-glottal organs. The air pressure below the glottis is released by the sudden separation of the vocal folds, e.g. *co-operate*, *geometry*, *day after day*.

\* Supra-glottal organs → refer to the whole area of the vocal tract above the glottis.

## Palato-alveolar Affricates /tʃ, dʒ/

### (1) *Examples*

/tʃ/—*fortis* (spelt *ch*, *tch*, *t + ure*, *cous*, and *t + ion* when *t* is preceded by *s*, e.g. 'chain, watch, nature, righteous, question')

*word initial*—cheese, chin, charge, churn, choke, cheer

*word medial (intervocalic)*—feature, richer, wretched, orchard, butcher, nature, merchant

*(consonant preceding)*—gesture, posture, mischief, juncture, capture, lecture, pilchard, culture, adventure

*word final*—wretch, catch, larch, porch, much, coach

*(consonant preceding)*—inch, conch, bench, branch, fish, mulch

/dʒ/—*lenis* (spelt *j*, *g*, *dg*, sometimes *gg*, *dj*, *de*, *di*, *ch*, e.g. 'jam, gem, midget, suggest, adjacent, grandeur, soldier, Norwich')

*word initial*—gin, jest, jar, jaunty, Jew, jerk, joke, joist, jeer

*word medial (intervocalic)*—midget, ledger, margin, fragile, urgent, orgy, adjacent, agenda, major

*(consonant preceding)*—avenger, danger, stringent, soldier, Belgian, bulge, object

*word final*—ridge, edge, large, dodge, judge, huge, age, doge, gouge

*(consonant preceding)*—bilge, bulge, hinge, sponge, change

*Compare* /tʃ/, /dʒ/—chin, gin; chest, jest; choose, Jews; choke, joke; cheer, jeer; catches, cadges; nature, major; a venture, avenger; riches, ridges; leech, liege; larch, large; perch, purge; lunch, lunge; cinch, singe; beseech, besiege

(2) *Description*.—The soft palate being raised and the nasal resonator shut off, the obstacle to the air-stream is formed by a closure made between the tip, blade, and rims of the tongue and the upper alveolar ridge and side teeth. At the same time, the front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate in readiness for the fricative release. The closure is released slowly, the air escaping in a diffuse manner

## Post-alveolar Affricates /tr, dr/

### (1) *Examples*

/tr/—*fortis* (spelt *tr*; note 'naturally' often /'nætʃrəlt/, and /tr/ < /tɔrɪ/, e.g. 'history, territory', etc.)

*word initial*—tree, trick, trend, trod, true, truck, tripe

*word medial (initial in syllable)*—attract, poetry, petrol, sultry, mattress, poultry, pastry, country, entrance (n.) /'entrəns/, entrance (v.) /ɪn'treɪns/

/dr/—*lenis* (spelt *dr*; note /dri/ < /dɔrɪ/, e.g. 'boundary', etc.)

*word initial*—dream, drip, dram, drop, drawl, drum, draft, drove, drought, dreary, Drury

*word medial (initial in syllable)*—address, adroit, hydrangea, tawdry, sundry, hindrance, Andrew

*Compare /tr/, /dr/*—trip, drip; trench, drench; tram, dram; trunk, drunk; troop, droop; try, dry

*/tr/, /tʃ/*—trees, cheese; trip, chip; trap, chap; true, chew; train, chain

*/dr/, /dʒ/*—drill, gill; dressed, jest; draw, jaw; drew, Jew; dram, jam; drear, jeer; Drury, jury



## Labio-dental Fricatives /f, v/

### (1) Examples

/f/—*fortis* (spelt *f, ff, ph, gh*, e.g. 'fork, off, physics, enough')  
word initial—feet, fit, fat, father, fool, fail, photo  
word medial—affair, defend, offer, tougher, loafer, suffer, selfish, comfort  
word final—leaf, laugh, cough, stuff, roof, loaf, strife  
in word initial clusters—fry, fly, few, sphere  
in word final clusters—/fθ(s)/ fifth(s), /ft(s)/ raft(s), /mf(s)/ triumph(s), /lf(s)/ wolf('s), /lft/ engulfed, /lθ(s)/ twelfth(s), /fn(z, d)/ soften (s, ed), /fl(z, d)/ baffle(s, ed), /fs/ coughs.

/v/—*lenis* (spelt *v, f, ph*, e.g. 'vine, of, nephew')  
word initial—veal, vex, vat, vast, vain, vice, voice  
word medial—ever, nephew, over, silver, cover, event, canvas  
word final—leave, give, have, of, move, dove, grove  
in word initial clusters—/vj/ view  
in word final clusters—/vz/ loaves, /vd/ loved, /vn(z)/ oven(s), /v(z, d)/ solve(s, d), /vl(z, d)/ grovel (s, ed), etc.

Compare /f/, /v/—fine, vine; fat, vat; few, view; offer, hover; surface, service; laughter, larva; camphor, canvas; leaf, leave; proof, prove; safes, saves

(2) *Description*.—The soft palate being raised and the nasal resonator shut off, the inner surface of the lower lip makes a light contact

Cluster → refers to any sequence of adjacent consonants occurring initially or finally in a syllable, such as the initial [br-] of *bread*, or the final [-st] of *best*.

## Dental Fricatives /θ, ð/

### (1) Examples

/θ/—*fortis* (spelt always *th*)

*word initial*—thief, thick, thatch, thong, thought, thumb

*word medial*—ether, ethics, lethal, method, author, anthem, lengthy,

atheist, athletic, deathly, worthless

*word final*—heath, smith, breath, path, cloth, earth, fourth, oath

*in word initial clusters*—three, throw, thew, thwart

*in word final clusters*<sup>1</sup>—/θt/ earthen, /θ(s)/ mouth('s), /pθ(s)/ depth(s),

/tθ(s)/ eighth(s), /fθ(s)/ fifth(s), /ksθ(s)/ sixth(s), /mθ/ warmth,

/nθ(s) month(s), /lθ(s)/ twelfth(s), /ŋkθ(s)/ length(s), /lθ(s)/

health('s), /θl(z)/ Ethel('s), /θn/ earthen

/ð/—*lenis* (spelt always *th*)

*word initial*—there, this, then, the, though, thy, they

*word medial*—breathing, leather, gather, father, mother, northerly,

southern, worthy, either, although

*word final*—scethe, with, soothe, lathe, clothe, writhe, mouth (v.)

*in word final<sup>1</sup> clusters*—/ðm(z)/ rhythm(s), /ðn(z)/ southern('s),

/ðl(z)/ betrothal(s), /ðz/ clothes, /ðð/ writhed, /dð/ width (if

pronounced /widð/)

<sup>1</sup> /ð/ does not occur in a word initial cluster.

## Alveolar Fricatives /s, z/

### (1) *Examples*

*/s/—fortis* (spelt *s, ss, c, sc, x* (= /ks/), e.g. 'so, pass, niece, science, axe')  
*word initial*—cease, sat, sample, soon, soap, sign, soil  
*word medial*—pieces, losses, essay, axes, concert, escape, pencil,  
whisper, wrestler, excite, useless  
*word final*—niece, farce, pass, puss, goose, famous, dose, ice, mouse,  
fierce, scarce  
*in word initial clusters*—/sp/ spare, /st/ stain, /sk/ scare, /sm/ smoke,  
/sn/ snake, /sl/ slow, /sf/ sphere, /sw/ swear, /sj/ suc, /spl/ splice,  
/spr/ spray, /spj/ spume, /str/ stray, /stj/ stew, /skr/ scream,  
/skj/ skewer, /skw/ square  
*in word final clusters*—/sp(s, t)/, gasp(s, ed), /st(s)/ rest(s), /sk(s, t)/  
ask(s, ed), /sm/ lissom, /sn(z)/ listen(s), /sns/ licence, /sl(z)/  
muscle(s), /ns(t)/ mince(d), /nsl(z)/ pencil(s), /lst/ whilst, /snt/  
decent, /ps(t)/ lapse(d), /mps(t)/ glimpse(d), /lps/ helps, /ts/ cats,  
/kts/ acts, /pts/ opts, /lts/ faults, /nts/ tents, /ls/ pulse, /fts/  
drafts, /ks(t)/ tax(ed), /ŋks/ thanks, /lks/ milks, /mfs/ nymphs

## Palato-alveolar Fricatives /ʃ, ʒ/

### (1) Examples

- /ʃ/**—*fortis* (spelt *sh, ch, sch, s* or *ss* before *u, -ti-, -si-, -sci-, -ci-, -ce-*, e.g. 'shoe, machine, schedule, sure, assure, nation, mansion, mission, conscience, special, ocean'; *note*: *x* in 'luxury' = /kʃ/)   
*word initial*—sheet, shed, shop, sugar, charade, shout   
*word medial*—Asia, bishop, ashore, mission, luscious, bushel, cushion, rashly, machine   
*word final*—dish, cash, wash, push, douche, rush, finish, ruche   
*in word initial clusters*<sup>1</sup>—/ʃr/ shrink   
*in word final clusters*—/ʃ(t)/ welsh(ed), /ʃn(z, d)/, fashion(s, ed), /ʃnt(s)/ patient(s), /nʃn(z, d)/ mention(s, ed), /ʃt/ pushed, /ʃl(z, d)/ marshal(s, led); were /n/ precedes final /ʃ/, e.g. in *bench, lunch*, some speakers use a final cluster /nʃ/, without the [t] stop.   
**/ʒ/**—*lenis* (spelt *-si-, s, z* before *u* and, in French loan words, final *-ge*, e.g. 'vision, measure, seizure, beige')

<sup>1</sup> /ʃ/, /dʒ/, having been treated as single complex phonemic entities, are not considered here as initial or final clusters.

- word initial*—(in French loan words) gigolo, gigue   
*word medial*—pleasure, leisure, usual, confusion, decision   
*word final* (only in French loan words; an alternative pronunciation with /dʒ/ is possible)—prestige, barrage, rouge, beige   
*in word initial clusters*<sup>1</sup>—does not occur   
*in word final clusters*—/ʒn(z)/ vision(s); in French words, when said with final /ʒ/, the cluster /ʒd/ is possible, e.g. in *camouflaged*. Moreover, for those who use final /ʒ/, rather than /dʒ/, after /n/, e.g. in *arrange(d)*, the clusters /nʒ(d)/ may occur.   
*Compare* /ʃ/, /tʃ/—sheep, cheap; shore, chore; shoes, choose; leash, leech; dish, ditch; wash, watch   
/ʒ/, /dʒ/—leisure, ledger; vision, pigeon   
/ʃ/, /ʒ/—Aleutian (when pronounced /ə'lju:ʃn/), allusion; Confucian (when pronounced /kən'fju:ʃn/, confusion

## Glottal Fricative /h/

### (1) *Examples*

/h/—*fortis* (spelt *h*, *wh*, e.g. 'how, hat, who, whom')

*word initial*—heat, hen, ham, hot, horse, who, hate, hoe, high, how, here, hair, halo

*word medial*—ahead, behave, perhaps, behind, spearhead, anyhow, manhood, abhor, adhere

*Compare* /h/ + vowel, initial vowel—heat, cat; hill, ill; hedge, edge; harbour, arbor; haul, all; hate, eight; hold, old; hear, ear

(*Note: h* is not pronounced initially in *hour, honest, honour, heir, heiress*; medially in such words as *exhaust, exhilarate, exhibit, vehicle, vehement*; and in some final suffixes, e.g. *shepherd, Durham, Clapham*, etc.)

## Bilabial Nasal /m/

(1) *Examples*

(regularly spelt with *m*, *mm*, e.g. 'meat, summer'; sometimes *mb*,  
*mn*, e.g. 'comb, autumn')

*word initial*—meal, mat, march, move, mirth, make, mouse

*following word initial /s/*—smack, smock, smite, smoke, smear

*word medial*—demon, glimmer, lemon, salmon, Thomas, among,

gloomy, summer, sermon, commit, omen; jumper, timber, empty,

comfort, hamlet, simple, symbol, dismal, camel, dimly, asthma

*word final*—seem, lamb, harm, warm, tomb, game; (in final clusters)

worms, harmed, film(s), warmth, glimpse, prompt(s), nymph(s);

(syllabic) rhythm(s), prism(s), lissom.

## Alveolar Nasal /n/

### (1) *Examples*

(regularly spelt with *n*, *m*, e.g. 'now, noon, funny'; or *kn*, *gn*, *pn*, e.g. 'know, gnaw, sign, pneumonia'; also /ɒn/ as a realization of French /ɑ̃/, e.g. 'rendez-vous')

*word initial*—neat, knit, net, gnat, knot, gnaw, none, nurse, name, know, near

*following word initial /s/*—sneeze, snatch, snore, snug, snake, snow, sneer

*word medial*—dinner, many, hornet, monitor, annoy; wonder, hunter, unless, unrest, answer, pansy, infant, invoice; chutney, madness, amnesty, walnut, fastener, evening

*word final*—mean, pen, gone, soon, learn, melon, down, coin; pint(s), pond(s), inch, hinge, final(s), pence, pens, month(s), kiln(s), rental(s), bundle(s), pencil(s), against

*syllabic /n/*—\*open, \*ribbon, \*sicken, \*organ (\*more commonly with /-ən/), cotton, sudden, often, oven, earthen, southern, listen, dozen, mission, vision; maddening (or with non-syllabic /n/), reasonable (or with non-syllabic /n/ or /ən/), ordinary (or with non-syllabic /n/ or /ən/ or /ɪn/), southerner (or with /ən/)

## Velar Nasal /ŋ/

### (1) *Examples*

(regularly spelt *ng*—or *n* followed by a letter indicating a velar consonant—e.g. 'sing, tongue, sink, anxious, uncle'; also /ɒŋ/ as a realization of French /ɑ̃/, e.g. 'restaurant'; /ŋ/ occurs usually after the short vowels /ɪ, æ, ɒ, ʌ/; rarely after /e/)

*word medial*—singer, hanger, longing, anxiety

*word medial* + /g/—finger, anger, angry, hunger, strongest, language, single, angle, England, bungle, nightingale

*word medial* + /k/—tinker, anchor, banquet, monkey, donkey, conquer, wrinkle, ankle, uncle, anxious

*word final*—sing(s), hang(s, ed), wrong(s, ed), tongue(s, ed), among

*word final* + /k/—sink(s), rank(s, ed), conch(sometimes /kɒŋk/), chunk(s), monk(s); distinct, amongst (or with /ŋst/), strength (with /ŋkθ/, /ŋθ/, or sometimes /nθ/)

*word final syllabic*—(occasionally) bacon, taken, thicken, blacken, organ

/ŋ/, or less commonly /n/, in such words as—income, conclude, encourage, concrete, bronchitis, engage, enquiry

*Compare* /ŋ/, /n/—sing, sin; rang, ran; hanged, hand; sung, sun; mounting, mountain; gong, gone; robbing, robin

/ŋ/, /ŋk/—thing, think; rang, rank; sung, sunk; singing, sinking; hanger, hanker



## Laterals /l, r/

### (1) *Examples*

(regularly spelt *l, ll*, e.g. 'light, fill'; *l*, in post-vocalic positions is, however, frequently silent, e.g. 'talk, should, half, calm, salmon, folk, Holborn')

#### (a) *Clear [l]*

*word initial*—leave, let, lock, look, late, loud, leer, lewd

*in word initial clusters*—blow, glad, splice, \*fly, \*slow

*word medial*—silly, yellow, alloy, collar, caller, pulley, foolish, sullen, sailor, island, oily, million, failure, allow, select; medley, ugly, nobly, gimlet, inlay, bachelor, specially (with [l] or [əl]), \*afflict, \*asleep, \*pamphlet

*word final, intervocalic in context*—feel it, fall out, all over, will you

(b) *Voiceless [l̥]*—play, clean; (less devoicing after a weakly accented fortis plosive) aptly, butler, hopeless, sprinkler, couplet, antler, simplest, ghastly

#### (c) *Dark [ɫ]*

*word final, after vowel*—feel, fill, fell, canal, snarl, doll, call, bull, pool, dull, pearl, pale, pole, pile, owl, oil, royal, real, cruel

*after vowel, before consonant*—help, bulb, salt, cold, milk, filch, bilge, film, kiln, self, solve, health, else, bills; alpine, elbow, halter, elder, alchemy, almost, illness, alphabet, silver, wealthy, although, ulcer, palsy, Welsh, always

*syllabic [l̥]*—\*apple, table, \*little, middle, \*buckle, eagle, \*satchel, cudgel, camel, final, quarrel (or with [əl]), awful, oval, Ethel, parcel, easel, special, usual, spaniel (or with [-jəl]), Oswald (or with [-wəɪd]), equal, \*simple, tumble, \*mantle, fondle, \*uncle, angle, sinful, pistol; doubled, tables, measles, finally (or with [-əl-]; cf. 'finely' with [l])

*variations in inflected forms of verbs having [l̥] in the uninflected form—*

[l̥], or [əl] (more rarely [l])—pommelling, tunnelling, cudgeling

[l] (more rarely [l̥] or [əl])—fondling, doubling, \*circling, wriggling, \*settling, \*coupling, whistling, puzzling, scuffling, shovelling

## Post-alveolar Frictionless Continuant (approximant) /r/

### (1) *Examples*

(regularly spelt *r*, *rr*, e.g. 'red, carry'; also *wr*, *rh*, e.g. 'write, rhythm')

*word initial*—reed, rag, raw, rude, rut, road, royal, rear

*word medial, intervocalic*—mirror, very, arrow, sorry, hurry, furry, arrive, diary, dowry, dairy, eery, fury

*word final* (/r/-link with following word beginning with a vowel)—far away, poor old man, once for all, here at last, there are two

*in consonantal clusters*

(following fortis accented plosive = [ɹ])—price, proud, tree, try, cream, crow; expression, surprise, attract, extremely, decree

(following fortis fricative, unaccented fortis plosive, or accented fortis plosive preceded by /s/ in the same syllable = somewhat devoiced [ɹ])—fry, afraid, throw, thrive, shrink, shrug; apron, nitrate, buckram, cockroach<sup>1</sup>; sprint, sprat, street, strain, scream, scrape

(following lenis consonant = [r])—fricative after /d/—brief, bright, dress, dry, grey, grow; umbrella, address, agree, hungry; comrade, sovereign, general, miserable

*words containing more than one /r/*—brewery, library, arrowroot, retrograde, rarer, treasury, gregarious, procrastinate

*Compare*—/r/, /l/—raft, laughed; rush, lush; red, led; right, light; pirate, pilot; sherry, Shelley; two rocks, two locks; crash, clash; pray, play; fry, fly; grew, glue; bright, blight