

4. The breath not made sonorous by vibration of the vocal chords, if allowed to escape unchecked, produces the aspirate *h*; "voice," or sonorous breath, unchecked but only moulded by the various shapes the mouth while open can take, according to the position of the tongue and lips, gives such sounds as *ah, eh, oh, ee*, which are called *vowels*. These are true musical sounds.

5. Either "breath" or "voice" can be squeezed through narrow passages formed by bringing two parts of the mouth (tongue, teeth, lips &c.) near each other, so as to produce such sounds as *s, sh, th* (of *thin*), *f*—all formed by "breath", or *z, zh, th* (of *the*), *v*—formed by voice. These are called "spirants."

6. Finally, by placing the tongue firmly against some part of the palate or by closing the lips, we can quite stop the breath—or voice—which, when allowed to break forth strongly, produces such sounds as *k, t, p, g, d, b, ng, n, m*, which are appropriately called "stops." "Stops" and "spirants" together make up the consonants, so called because it was once wrongly supposed that they can be *sounded* only *with* vowels, *i. e.* the sounds made by the voice unobstructed in any way.

7. As Orthoepey has in practice to take the written word as its starting-point, we shall now consider the various characters that make up the Alphabet, noting what sound, or sounds, each represents. We begin with the consonants, and with those that indicate "stops." These are *b, d, g*, formed by "voice" and therefore said to be "voiced" and *p, t, k*, formed by breath and therefore called "voiceless" or, by some, "whispers."

8. These are formed by the sudden breaking forth of voice—or breath; *b* and *p*, after it has been stopped by closing the lips; *d* and *t*, after a stoppage by the tip of the tongue and the hard palate; *g* and *k*, after a stoppage by the root of the tongue raised so as to touch the soft palate. *B* and *p* are therefore called *labials*, or lip-sounds; *d* and *t*, *linguals* or tongue-sounds; *g*, and *k*, (not so appropriately) *gutturals*, literally throat-sounds.

9. We must notice that *g* sometimes, as in *gem*, is sounded like *d-zh*, which sound is often indicated by *j*, and will always be so in this book when words are re-spelled. The corresponding voiceless group (really *t-sh*) is usually represented by *ch*. Further, *ti* before a vowel indicate the sound usually indicated