

Vowels and Consonants

Speech—communication by meaningful sounds, or the spoken language.

Writing—language in written form, or speech reduced to a system of symbols that are meaningful to a community using the language.

Sounds used to produce speech are called **vowels** and **consonants**.

Vowel is the basic sound in speech made by vibrating the vocal cords.

Consonant is an interruption or a restriction of that sound or passage of breath.

The resulting component parts are called **syllables**—a vowel or a diphthong set apart by a consonant or consonants from preceding or following vowels or diphthongs.

One or more syllables forming a unit that conveys an idea is a **word**.

We do not speak just words, however, but **sentences**, which are formed of one or more words to convey a thought.