

Let's Make Some Noise!

Your Voice, and how it is made:

Have you ever recorded yourself and listened to the sound of your own voice? What did you discover? Did you sound the way you thought you sound?

In many ways, the voice we have is a result of our genetics. However, we do have methods and techniques that will allow us to change the quality of our voice, according to the needs of a character. But even if we are going to use "our own voice" for the character, we want to be able to speak with clarity, good volume, and a pleasing sound.

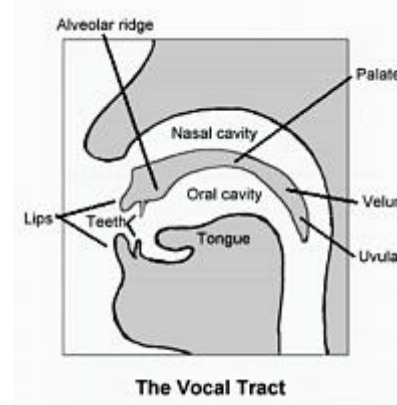
Vocal Warm-ups not only promote healthy vocal production, but warming up daily increases our ability to use our voices to their fullest potential. At first, when we perform the tongue twisters, for instance, you may find them difficult. But like all warm-ups, it is important to go slowly until you get the hang of it.

The voice is comprised of several different parts. They are:

Articulators

Resonators

Vocabulary and Diagrams



Words to Know:

Articulators
Resonators
Nasal Cavity
Oral Cavity
Palate
Lungs
Diaphragm
Consonant
Vowel

Articulators:

These are the parts of your mouth that are responsible for forming the **consonant** sounds ('b', 'ch', 't', 'la', 'ma',

Breath Support

Look to the next column for more details!

Good Warm-up Activities:

Articulators

Tongue Twisters

Resonators

Roller-coaster

Sing "Apples and Bananas"

Breath Support

Hissing

Vocally count as high as you can without taking a breath

'na', 'ga', etc.) by stopping or modifying your air flow. They include your teeth, lips, tongue, and **palate**.

Resonators:

These are the parts of your mouth, chest, head, and throat that are responsible for the quality of your **vowel** sounds ('a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u'). If you hum, you can feel with your hand the parts of your body that vibrate. Those are your resonators. Some, like your **nasal cavity**, are difficult, if not impossible, to change, while changing your **oral cavity** is easy and can greatly affect the quality of your voice. Also, you will notice that as you get older, your **vocal cords** (an extremely important resonator) thicken, changing the quality of your voice. (But don't worry! It just means you are getting your 'adult voice'. The great news about that is there are lots and lots more characters written for adults than there are for kids!)

Breath Support:

Without air, we can't...well....live. But having no air to push across your vocal cords also makes speech very difficult!

So, what provides the air you need to produce your voice? You guessed it: your **lungs**! But what is that muscle responsible for pushing that air out of your

lungs? That's right! Your **diaphragm** (DIE-uh-fram).

Here is a diagram of the diaphragm. (We should use that phrase as one of our tongue twisters!!)

