# Phonetics and Human Physiology

Phonetics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

**1. Which organ is primarily responsible for the vibration that creates the source sound for voiced phonemes?**

A) The epiglottis
**B) The vocal folds**
C) The pharynx
D) The soft palate

**2. During the production of nasal consonants like /m/ and /n/, where is the velum positioned?**

A) Raised against the pharyngeal wall
**B) Lowered to allow air into the nasal cavity**
C) Tightly compressed against the teeth
D) Retracted toward the tongue base

**3. Which cranial nerve provides the primary motor innervation to the muscles of the larynx for speech production?**

A) Trigeminal nerve
B) Facial nerve
**C) Vagus nerve**
D) Hypoglossal nerve

**4. What is the primary function of the diaphragm during the respiratory phase of speech production?**

A) To filter saliva from the airway
B) To modulate the pitch of the voice
**C) To control the subglottal air pressure**
D) To resonate the oral cavity

**5. The articulation of dental consonants requires the tongue to make physical contact with which anatomical structure?**

A) The alveolar ridge
B) The hard palate
C) The posterior pharyngeal wall
**D) The upper incisors**

**6. Which anatomical structure acts as a valve to protect the airway from aspiration during swallowing, distinct from its role in phonation?**

**A) The epiglottis**
B) The uvula
C) The thyroid cartilage
D) The arytenoid cartilages

**7. In clinical phonetics, which condition describes the structural inability to produce speech sounds due to weakness or paralysis of the speech muscles?**

**A) Dysarthria**
B) Aphasia
C) Tinnitus
D) Dysphagia

**8. Which part of the vocal tract is known as the 'resonator' that significantly alters sound quality through changes in volume and shape?**

A) The trachea
**B) The oral and pharyngeal cavities**
C) The bronchi
D) The esophagus