

## 3.2. ARTICULATION OF ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN CONSONANTS IN DETAIL

### 3.2.1. ENGLISH LABIAL CONSONANTS IN COMPARISON WITH UKRAINIAN LABIAL CONSONANTS

#### The English Consonants [p], [b], [m]

In pronouncing the English [p], [b] a complete obstruction is formed by the lips. The lips are pressed together and immediately after that the tension of the lip muscles becomes weaker and the air compressed in the mouth cavity breaks through this obstruction with plosion.

The soft palate is raised and the air passes through the mouth cavity.

The vocal chords are not in vibration when [p] is pronounced. When [b] is pronounced the vocal chords are made to vibrate.

X-ray photography shows that in pronouncing English labial consonants, as in that of the corresponding Ukrainian ones, the tongue is not in its neutral position. It is retracted, the front of the tongue is lowered (fig. 3.4-3.5).



Fig. 3.4.

Tongue-position:

English [p]        \_\_\_\_\_  
Neutral position    - - - - -

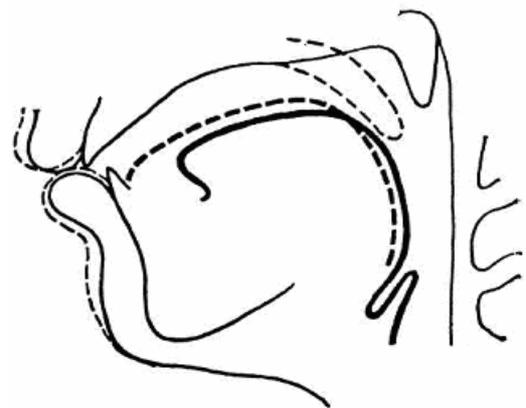


Fig. 3.5.

Tongue-position:

Ukrainian [II]     \_\_\_\_\_  
Neutral position    - - - - -

In pronouncing the English [m] the tongue is also retracted, the front part being lowered. But the tongue occupies a somewhat higher position than for the English [p], [b]. The soft palate is lowered and the air exhaled from the lungs, passes through the nasal cavity (fig. 3.6).

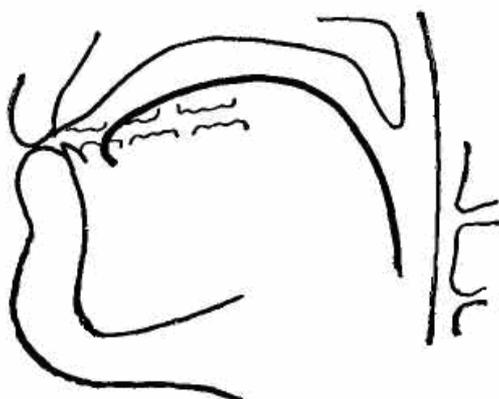


Fig. 3.6.

Tongue-position of English [m]



Fig. 3.7.

Tongue-position of Ukrainian [M]

The English [p] is a bilabial plosive voiceless consonant phoneme.

The English [b] is a bilabial plosive voiced consonant phoneme.

The English [m] is a bilabial occlusive (nasal) sonant.

The English [p], [b], [m] differ from the corresponding Ukrainian consonants.

In pronouncing the English [p], [b], [m] the lips are more tense and spread. In forming the Ukrainian [П], [Б], [М] the lips are not so tense as in the case of the English [p], [b], [m] and slightly protruded (fig. 3.8, 3.9).



Fig. 3.8.

Lip-position of English [p]



Fig. 3.9.

Lip-position of Ukrainian [П]

In forming the English [p], [b], [m] the tongue occupies a more forward position, the tip of the tongue is nearer to the lower teeth.

The English [p] is aspirated, especially before stressed vowels, while the Ukrainian [П] is not.

To acquire the correct pronunciation of the English labial consonants [p], [b], [m] one may start from the corresponding Ukrainian consonants. The lips should be more tense.

Many students whose native language is Ukrainian have a tendency:

1. to mispronounce the English [p], [m] by not making them energetic enough, and what is more this applies especially to the English [p] at the end of words;
2. to protrude the lips while pronouncing the English [p], [b], [m], but such

mistakes can be corrected by observing the energetic articulation of the English [p], [m] and the flat and tense position of the lips pronouncing [p], [b], [m];

3. to pronounce the English [p] without any aspiration before stressed vowels.

To acquire aspiration one must increase the force of exhalation.

Sometimes, the students run to extremes and make the aspiration too strong, pronouncing a [h]-sound after it.

In order to avoid this mistake one should pay attention not to raise the back of the tongue.