

## The English Consonants [T], [D]

In pronouncing the English [T] the tip of the tongue is flattened and raised to the upper front teeth. The whole body of the tongue is comparatively flat too (fig. 3.25). The air passes through the flat narrowing – formed between the tip of the tongue and the teeth. The soft palate is raised, the vocal chords are not made to vibrate.

English [T], [D] may also be pronounced as inter-dental consonants. In this case the tip of the tongue moves forward and occupies a position between the upper and lower teeth. The air passes through the narrowing of the air-passage formed between the upper teeth and the tip of the tongue (fig. 3.25, 3.26).

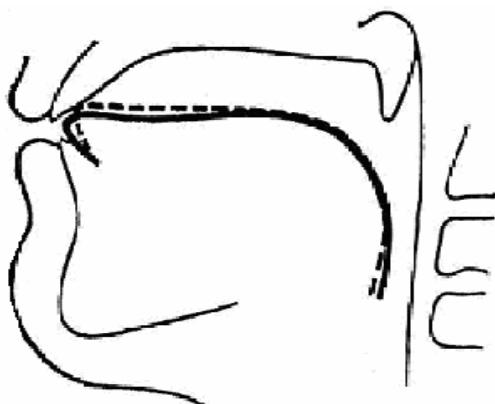


Fig. 3.26.  
Lip-position of English [T]

Fig. 3.25.

Tongue-position:

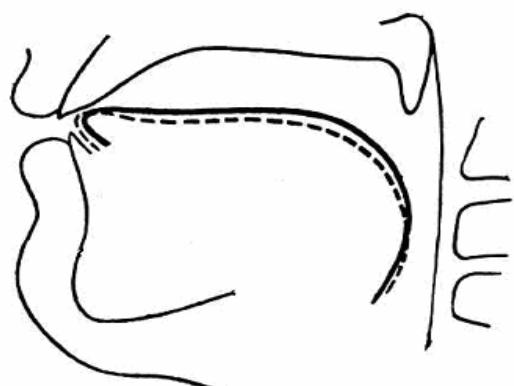
English [T] (inter-dental) \_\_\_\_\_

English [T] (dental) - - - - -

The English [T] is a forelingual inter-dental (or dental) apical fricative (with a flat narrowing) voiceless consonant phoneme.

The English [D] is formed like the English [T] except that the vocal chords are in vibration, the tongue is less tense and occupies a rather lower position (fig. 3.27).

Fig. 3.27.  
Tongue-position:  
English [T] \_\_\_\_\_  
English [D] - - - - -



The English [D] is a forelingual inter-dental (or dental) apical fricative (with a flat narrowing) voiced consonant phoneme.

Students whose native language is Ukrainian are not recommended to start from any Ukrainian sound as there are no similar consonants in the Ukrainian language.

Those who have a tendency to replace the English [T], [D] by the Ukrainian [T], [Д], [C], [З] should study carefully the difference between them.

The English [T], [D] differ from the Ukrainian [T], [Д] in the manner of the production of noise. The English [T], [D] are fricatives, the Ukrainian [T], [Д] are plosives.

The trace of the tongue forming a narrowing for the English [T], [D] and complete obstruction for the Ukrainian [T], [Д] are shown by the palatograms (fig. 3.29).

The shape of the tongue in pronouncing the English [T], [D] differs from that for the Ukrainian [T], [Д] (fig. 3.28).

The trace of a more front articulation of the English [T] is shown by the palatograms (fig. 3.29).

Fig. 3.28.  
Tongue-position:  
English [T] —————  
Ukrainian [T] - - - - -

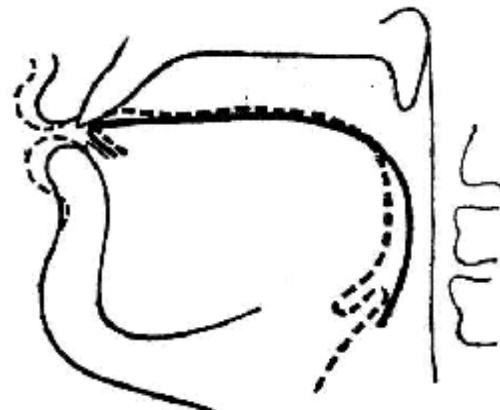
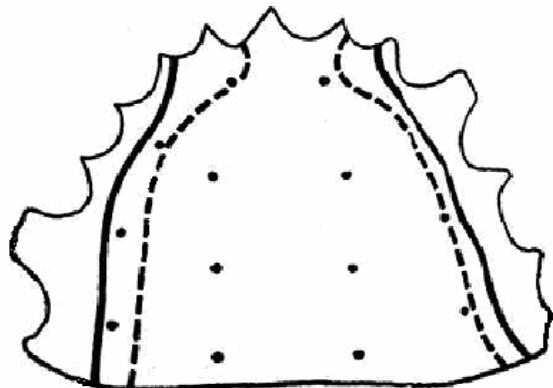


Fig. 3.29.  
Palatograms:  
English [T] —————  
Ukrainian [T] - - - -



Sometimes students whose native language is Ukrainian replace the English [T], [D] by the Ukrainian labio-dental fricatives [f] [v]. But this mistake is rare.

It is useful to start by practising inter-dental articulation of the English [T], [D]. Dental articulation will be acquired without any difficulty when the students master the inter-dental varieties.

Many students whose native language is Ukrainian pronounce the English [T], [D] as occlusive consonants, the tip of the tongue forming a complete obstruction with the teeth. The correct pronunciation can be acquired by lengthening the articulation of [T], [D] so as to be sure that a narrowing is formed between the tip of the tongue and the upper teeth.

Most students experience difficulty in pronouncing the sound combinations [sT], [zT], [sD], [zD], [Ts], [Tz], [Ds], [Dz] where [s], [z] become dental under the influence of [T], [D].

To correct this mistake students must practise gradual movement of the tongue from the position for [s], [z] to the position of [T], [D] and vice versa.