

## Veda Vijaanaa Vishtaram - Sanskrit Class Basic

### 1. Preface

Humans regard themselves as the finest creation of the Universe. Reasons for the finesse include Intelligence and ability of speech. Even though, other species have some ability to think and convey their feelings, the ability to convey their thoughts thru speech is the salient features, that distinguishes homosapiens from others. We call this feature as an important gift to Humanity by the God.

### 2. Production of Speech: Let us observe, the stages involved in the production of speech.

- Pre-productive stages: Paraa, Pashyantee, Madhyamaa (Anuditaa Vaak)
- Productive Stage: Vaikharee (Uditaa Vaak)

While the former, have some abstract form, the definitive natures of the latter (Vaikharee) assumes the form in sentences. These sentences are dependent on the words. In turn, the words depend on the Syllables (Varna/ Akshara). Therefore, all the expressions in the forms of books, sentences, phrases, words are based on the primary constituent category called Varna or Akshara.

### 3. Source Texts: Thus, let us examine the production of Varna, because it is the reason for perfection of the pronunciation. The method of that production is very well detailed in several Vedanga texts called Shikshaa Grantha. Taittireeya Praatishaakhya and Paanineeya Shikshaa are important among those texts.

### 4. Features of Syllables: Each syllable has 8 Essential features.

- a. Dhvani (Similarity of Frequency) = 7 Types
- b. Sthaanam (Region of Production) = 8 Regions
- c. Karanam (Instruments of Production) = Parts of mouth
- d. Prayatna (Effort of production) = Two Types (total 15 efforts)
- e. Kaala (Duration of the Syllable) = 4 Tenures
- f. Swara (Frequency of a syllable) = 7 Frequencies (22 in Classical music)
- g. Devataa (Deity) = 5 Deities
- h. Jaati (Class) = 4 Classes

## 5. Process of Speech Production:

- a. First the Antah Karana gets activated.
- b. Antah Karana means - Antah = Inner, Karana = Instrument. The parts of mind, which is creating this universe is named as Innate Instrument. Four Compartments are identified here as under:
  - i. **Chitta** = Pre-loaded experience, that we carry from parental gene-pool, to earlier births and training in this birth.
  - ii. **Manah** = Presentation of all the options (including pros and cons)
  - iii. **Buddhi** = Decision maker, by considering the best options with sufficient reason.
  - iv. **Ahankaara** = The identity of the Self, that is experienced by all. (In this context, it does not refer to arrogance or pride.
- c. At the outset, the Self (Aatma) supported by Buddhi (decisive part of the intellect) activates the Manas.
- d. Manas, in turn kindles the fire (Vaishwaanara energy in the body).
- e. This fire (Vaishwanara) awakens the Vaayu to exhaust.
- f. Vaayu (air from the lungs) hits, resonates, passes thru Eight places (Sthaana); Important among them Uras (Heart), Kantha (Throat), Shiras (Palate) and (Naasikaa) Nose.
- g. Since this process is super-fast (in terms of milli-seconds), it is very difficult to identify the stages of production.
- h. After the expression is finalised, Manas determines right sequence of the words to form a sentence. Further, it decides appropriate words to be deployed and instructs the Vaayu to pass thru those parts to produce the sound, to give the effect of a Syllable.
- i. In essence, all our speech is nothing but warm air. Is it not?

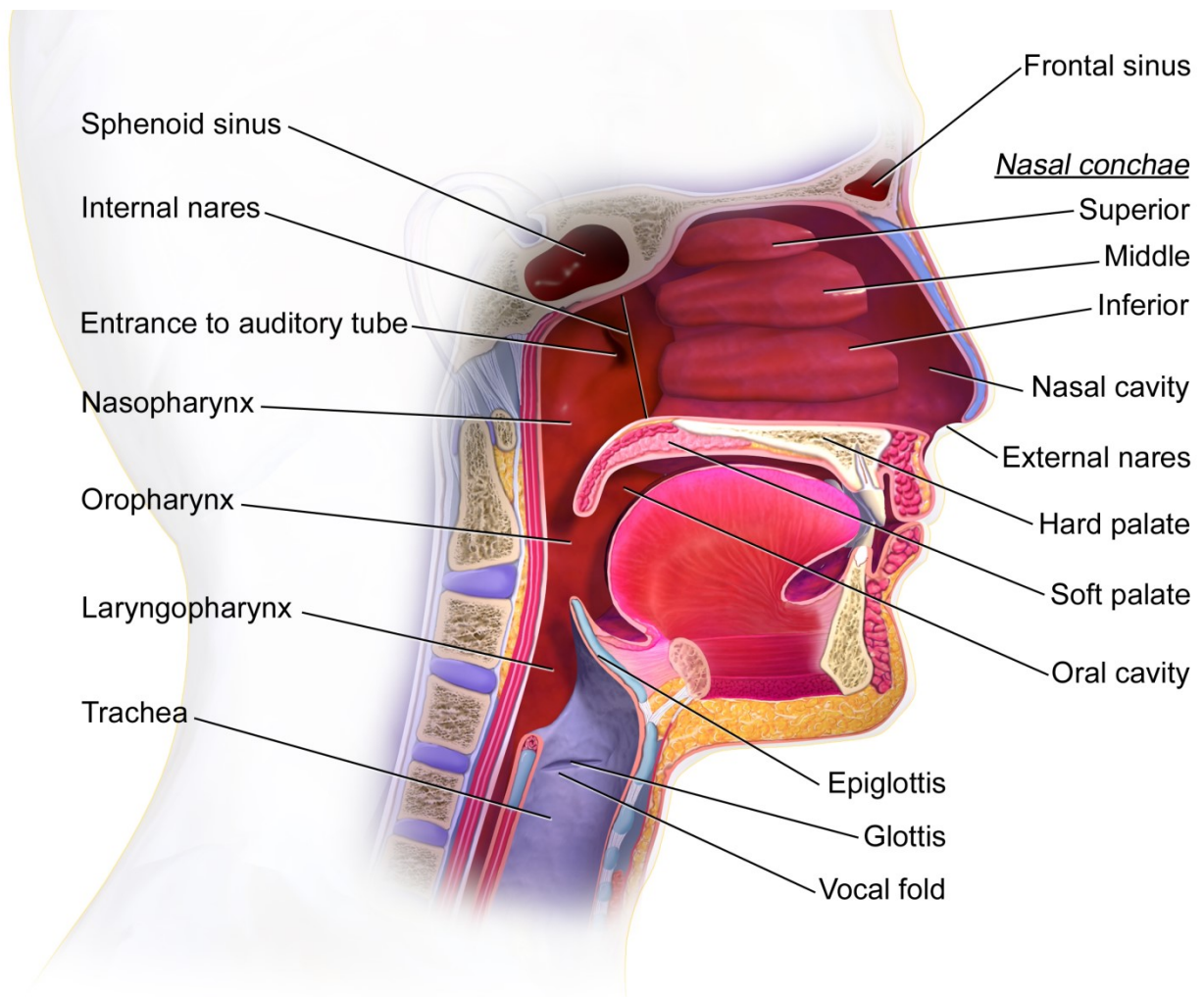
## 6. Swara (Ach) and Vyanjana (Hal):

- a. Swara means, a syllable which does not require any instrument in its production. (*Swayam Raajate = Swarah*). In the production of Swara (Vowels), we do not require the contact. Swara is also called as **Ach** = an abbreviation formed by Grammatical syntax.

- b. Vyanjana means conveyed thru contact. Vyanjana (Consonant) requires contact of the Karana (instrument) with the Sthaana (Part).

### 7. Sthaana & Karana

- a. The parts in the head, thru which the air passes are called as **Sthaana**.
- b. Uras (Heart), Kantha (Throat), Shiras (Palate), Jihwaa Mulam (Larynx or Laryngopharynx or Root of the Tongue), Danta (Denture), Naasika (Nose) and Taalu (Floor of the mouth)



## The Upper Respiratory System

8.