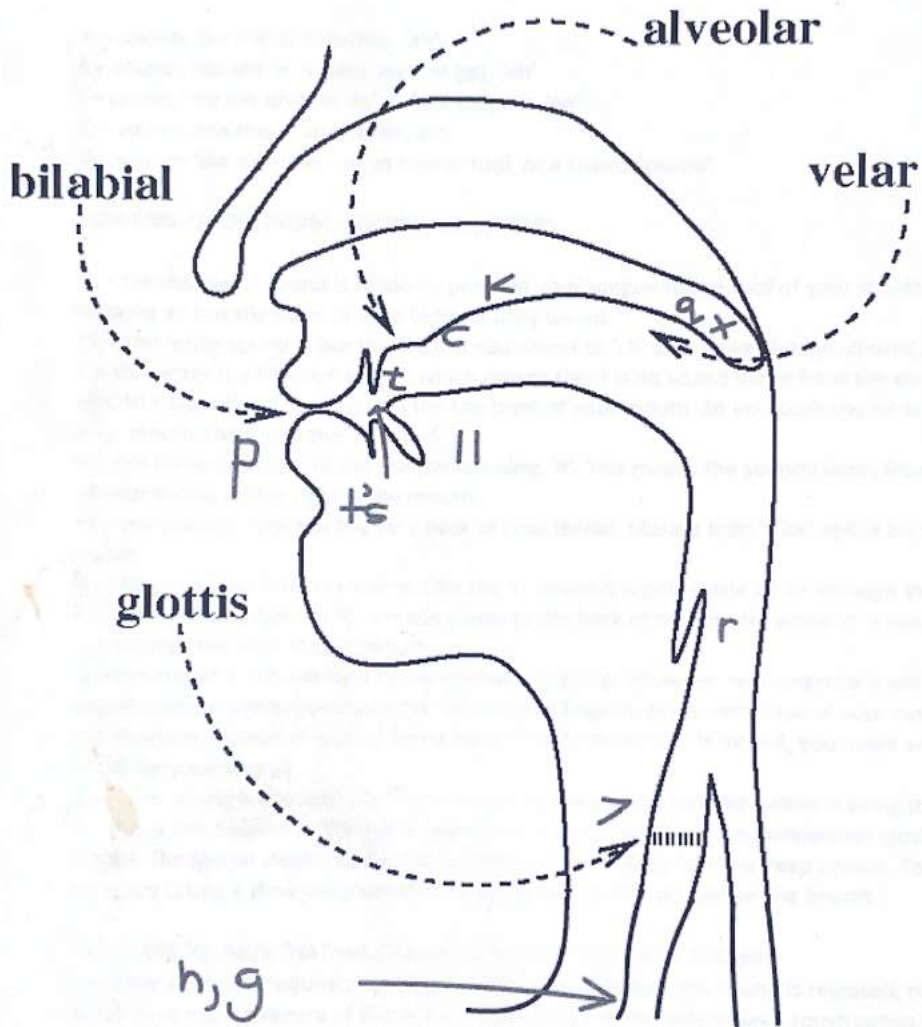


Secwepemc Sound Locations



VOWELS:

A – sounds like the ‘a’ in father, ‘ah’

E – sounds like the ‘e’ in bed, wet, or get, ‘eh’

I – sounds like the double ‘ee’ in feel, eel, etc. ‘ee’

O – sounds like the ‘o’ in got, lot, etc.

U – sounds like a double ‘oo’ in fool or tool, or a crowd ‘ooooo’

NON-ENGLISH SOUNDING SOUNDS OR LETTERS

LL – the double ‘L’ sound is made by pressing your tongue to the roof of your mouth and blowing air out the sides of your teeth. A lispy sound.

TS – this letter sound is like the English equivalent to ‘ch’ sound like change, church, etc.

C – this letter is a fricative sound, which means there is no sound made from the vocal cord but by ONLY blowing air out through the top front of your mouth. So you push the air to the roof of your mouth and this is the ‘c’ sound.

R – this letter is similar to the French sounding ‘R’. This means the sound comes from the base of your throat rather than in the mouth.

Q – this sound is made at the very back of your throat. Make a light ‘click’ at the back of your throat.

X – this is another fricative sound. Like the ‘c’ sound it is only made by air through the mouth. The difference is that the ‘x’ is made closer to the back of the mouth, while ‘c’ is made at the top front of the roof of your mouth.

G – this sound is difficult for English speakers to grasp. However, with practice it will come. This sound is made where you make the ‘H’ sound in English, at the very base of your neck or top of the sternum. Instead of just air being pushed up to make the ‘H’ sound, you make an ‘ah’ sound at the very same spot.

Gw – this sound is the same as the ‘g’ sound but you round your lips while making the ‘g’ sound.

7 – this is not a sound in the literal sense. It is a glottal pause. It is a momentary closing of the glottal. The glottal stops you from breathing out or in while taking a deep breath. To get a feel for it, try taking a slow deep breath and using your glottal too pause the breath.

THESE ARE SOUNDS THAT WE CALL INJECTIVE OR EXPLOSIVE SOUNDS.

All of these sounds require a bit of pressure build up before the sound is released, hence the injective or explosiveness of the letters. To be clear, these letters have apostrophes above them. You can call these glottal letters (glottal ‘p’, glottal ‘ts’, etc)

P - This sound is a regular ‘p’ with built up pressure. Another way is to think of trying to flick something off the tip of your lips with your lips only.

Ts - This sound is made the way it is spelled. You are trying to create both English sounds together at the same time. It can be explained by making a cymbal sound. The same sound is at the end of ‘hats’ or ‘fats’ or ‘bats’. That is the same sound but with a bit of built up pressure before the sound is released.

T - This sound is made like a regular 't' but you build up some pressure before you release the 't' sound.

K - This sound is made by building up light pressure in the mouth and then making the 'k' sound. You can hear a click while making this sound. You can make a click sound at the roof of your mouth and this will give you the glottal 'k' sound.

K̥w - This sound is made exactly like the glottal 'k' but since you have the 'w' after it you just round your lips and make the glottal 'k' sound.

Q - This sound is made the similar to the glottal 'k' but this time you make the sound at the very back of your throat. You know you're making the right sound when you feel a click at the back of your mouth instead of the top of your mouth.

Q̥w - Make the glottal 'q' while rounding your lips.

THESE SOUNDS ARE CALLED GLOTTAL STOP LETTERS.

These are made with a glottal pause in the middle of making the sound of each letter. You can also imagine the letter '7' before or after each letter.

M - this sound is by making the 'mmmm' sound but by putting an abrupt glottal stop during the sound.

N - like the glottal 'm' you make the 'nnnn' sound. You abruptly put a glottal stop while making the 'n' sound.

L - make the 'lllll' sound and make a short abrupt glottal stop while making the sound.

Y - make the 'y' sound and do a glottal stop during the sound.

R - make the 'r' sound and do a glottal stop during the sound.

W - make the 'w' sound and do a glottal stop during the sound.

G̥w - make the 'gw' sound and make a glottal stop during the sound.

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THE ALPHABET

The Secwépemc alphabet has 33 letters:

a c e g ḡ h i k l l' m n ḥ o p Ṗ q ḏ r ṛ s s' t t u w w' x y ý 7

The letter 's' occurs only in the combination in 'ts'.

** Today, Secwépemc speakers have agreed that there are 44 complete sounds in Secwépemc. To add to the letters used in the alphabet above are:

cw gw ḡw kw k'w ll qw ḏw ts t.s xw